

[Shrimati Kailasho Devi]

also not moving my Motion which is shown at item no. 14 of today's List of Business.

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : That is all right. There are so many identical Motions.

So, I am now calling upon Shri Sharad Pawar to move the Motion standing in his name.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : I beg to move :

"That Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (Tenali) : I second the Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The question is :

"That Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The motions which are listed at serial number 2 to 14, 16 and 18 are identical. Therefore, since the motion at serial number 2 has been negatived, the motions listed at serial number 3 to 14, 16 and 18 are not being put to the vote of the House. The motion at serial number 15 is not being moved. That means we are left with the motion at serial number 17 only which is standing in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. So, I am now calling upon Shri Vajpayee to move his motion.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : I beg to move :

"That Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I second the Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The question is :

\* "That Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi, a member

of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The Motion is carried and Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi is declared elected as the Speaker of this House. I invite him to occupy the Chair.

*Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar.*

[MR. SPEAKER (SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI) in the Chair]

16.09 hrs.

#### FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly congratulate and felicitate you on your election to the post of Speaker of the Lok Sabha. You are not new to Lok Sabha. We are well aware of your abilities and contributions made by you as a Member of Tenth Lok Sabha. You took Special interest in rural development and agriculture and we heard your speeches on these subjects during tenth Lok Sabha. Before being elected to the Lok Sabha, you had been serving your constituency and the society through Zila Parishad.

You have been a student of Law. You have also been helping poor and dalits as an advocate. Today when the country is celebrating 50th anniversary of independence, it is a matter of great pride that an hon. Member of the Lok Sabha belonging to Scheduled Caste has occupied the office of the Speaker, It is symbolic of the changing era and times.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the responsibility which you have assumed today is arduous one and its timing too is crucial. People of this country have given their verdict. The situation that has emerged after the constitution of this House makes your work even more difficult. This seat was earlier occupied by the dignified personalities like Sardar Vitthal Bhai Patel and Shri Mavalankar. Two former speakers of Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Sangma are present in this House. . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chair of the Speaker has a quality that. . .(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : If you start misusing the chair. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati, please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The person elected to this office is supposed to discharge his duty properly. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you may please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Please listen to a dalit woman who wants to say something. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : All our old conventions. . .(Interruptions) While occupying the throne of Vikramaditya. . .(Interruptions) had shown capability . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Atalji, you are proclaiming to be a well-wisher of dalits, please listen to what a dalit woman wants to say . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This House can help in making the arduous task easy if its proceedings are conducted according to the rules. We proclaim to be the largest democracy in the World and it is correct also, but. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please take you seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Behraich) : The hon. Prime Minister is well aware of the conventions of this House, yet he is not giving a chance to speak even for a minute. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Please

be seated. You will be permitted to speak

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be considered as an attempt to gag the voice of a dalit women. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I should be allowed to continue.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is speaking, please take your seat. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given permission to speak

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am standing here to offer my felicitations. It is not an occasion to heckle. They will get several opportunities to do so. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may be allowed to continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Please take your seats. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, he is not only the Prime Minister but also an experienced Parliamentarian . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may be allowed to continue. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be give a chance to speak. Please be seated.

[English]

You will be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I am on a point of propriety.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Presently, Hon. Prime Minister is speaking. You will also be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be allowed to complete. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Is he delivering a speech here ? . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, let the Prime Minister be gracious enough to allow the Leader of the BSP to have her say as she also belongs to a Scheduled Caste. Sir, we are in the 50th year of Independence. Can he not be gracious enough to allow the Leader of the BSP who also belongs to a Scheduled Caste to make her observations? Let him show some grace. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good on your part because the Prime Minister is on his legs. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs now. Please be seated. This is not good to interrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Silence please. The Prime Minister is on his legs now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, Please be seated. This is not good. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, let him kindly yield to a dalit lady Member.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is speaking. Please take your seats. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Please listen to her. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Will not a dalit woman who is trying to speak on behalf of the poor be allowed to speak ? . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, they claim to be the well wishers of dalits but they are not giving a chance to a dalit Member to putforth her point. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are saying that a dalit woman should be given a chance to speak. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are they making a noise. Such things are not uttered on such a solemn occasions. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. All of you will be given a chance to speak. Right Now, the hon. Prime Minister is speaking. . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member should be aware of the convention that she should not be intervening on such a solemn occasion. She is the leader of her party and can make her point at the time allotted to her party. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : The Leader of the Opposition is present in the House. I request him to control the Member. If they continue to stop the hon. Prime Minister from speaking, an

[English]

We will not allow others to speak. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Hon'ble Prime

Minister is speaking. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to listen to a dalit woman. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to interrupt in between. Please be seated.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is talking about conventions. He must know that he should not speak at this time. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : While the Prime Minister is speaking, it is not good to interrupt. Please be seated. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the Hon. Prime Minister may please sit down for a minute and listen to the dalit woman. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, I have not permitted you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if congratulating the speaker is a crime, I am a criminal. . . *(Interruptions)*

16.29 hrs.

*Kumari Mayawati and some other hon. Members then left the House*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have assembled here for the first time after the Parliamentary elections. I wanted to thank the Opposition, specially Mr. Sharad Pawar for helping in taking a consensual decision about your election. . . *(Interruptions)* Governments will keep on changing in a democratic set up. Yesterday, I was in the Opposition. Except for a very short period in 40 years. I served the country and contributed in the House from the Opposition. The verdict of the people should be honoured. . . *(Interruptions)* A very few Members should not have the right to disturb the entire business of the House. They should not be permitted to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that if the business of the House is conducted according to the rules and if the Members maintain dignity in their conduct and speeches, the difficulties being faced today can be reduced. . . *(Interruptions)* Today, the whole world is looking towards this House. The countries which have got independence recently and have adopted democracy, come here to learn from our democracy. I do not know what we are going to teach them. If they follow the things which have taken place here today, then the future of democracy is going to be dark. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again congratulate you and assure you that you will be getting our fullest co-operation in protecting the rights of all the Members of the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to felicitate you. This is the highest temple of the Parliamentary democracy and today responsibility of its leadership has fallen on your shoulders. All Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of this country are guided by this House and in this respect, you have a greater responsibility. The Office of the Speaker is the most important office in the Indian Parliamentary democracy. The country respects this office. The whole world looks towards India, being the largest democratic country of the world. Among the various Parliamentary Institutions of the world, be it Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or any other Parliamentary Institution, the speaker of Lok Sabha of India has a distinguished place in that. Now, the responsibility lies with you to uphold this important position. I agree with the Leader of the House that this office has been held by many distinguished personalities like Shri Mavalankar and Shri Iyengar, who made great contribution towards building a strong Parliamentary democracy for this country. Shri P.A. Sangma shouldered this responsibility till now. I feel proud in mentioning his name. Today, the situation is quite different. In my opinion, the mandate given by the people of the country and consequent composition of the House, has added to our responsibility. It is our biggest responsibility to maintain the dignity of the House and guide other Parliamentary Institutions. This House is not new to you as you have been a Member of the tenth Lok Sabha. You started your social career from Panchayati Raj and also shouldered the responsibility in Zila Parishad. Thereafter, you became a Member of Parliament and for the last few years you have been a member of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, you served as a Minister of Andhra Pradesh Government. You belong to the backward

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

class of the society and as such, you are well aware of their condition. You are a legal expert and I am sure your experience of last many years in social life will guide you in conducting the business of this House.

The post poll scenario has made it clear that a coalition Government has to be formed in the country. A situation has arisen where different parties have to work together and it is our duty to follow the consensus policy. I would have been happy if we could have started the process of taking unanimous decision. But I do not want to go in detail on this issue. I am confident that you will be successful in maintaining the dignity of the House and strengthening the democracy of the country.

I, on behalf of my party and other colleagues assure you that we will give our full support in conducting the business of the House. You must ensure that the rights and privileges of the Members, be they in the Opposition or in the treasury benches, and also, whatever their number be are protected. We will give our full support in this regard.

With these words, I felicitate you once again.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I offer hearty felicitations to you on your election to one of the highest offices in our great Republic. It is significant, as the Leader of the House has mentioned, that today a *dalit* is adorning this high seat. We firmly believe that with your experience in different organisations including the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, you will be able to discharge your very onerous duties with distinction. On our behalf, we offer you full cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from now on you do not belong to any party but you belong to this House. You are now the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House and the Members. This is the House which the country is looking to for solving many of the problems that are besetting it, the task which the people have given to us. Sir, I am sure that you will maintain the equidistance which was promised by our good friend the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

I cannot conclude by paying my respect to you without expressing our deepest sense of appreciation of the manner in which your predecessor discharged his duties and functions. He showed exemplary conduct as Speaker. I must pay my tributes to Shri P.A. Sangma. I hope he is present here ! He should be known as one of the ablest Speakers this House has ever had... (Interruptions) I have

some humble experience of this House and so I can say this with confidence. The way the Special Session was organised by Shri Sangma as the Speaker speaks volumes of his commitment to the basic fundamentals of our Republic and our Constitution. We cannot but express our commitment once more to the Resolution which was adopted unanimously at the end of that Session. As to how far that is being maintained, we will have to see in the days to come.

We are happy that you are here. But I only wish, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, there was a consensus. But that was not to be. That Merit has been sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. Even then, Sir, you have our fullest support. We offer you our fullest cooperation. I wish you a brilliant tenure as the Speaker of this great institution.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is only in a democracy in the truest sense of the term that the leader of leaders could emerge from totally unexpected quarters. Your election to lead and guide this House is proof that we are a democracy in its every sense.

My heartiest congratulations to you. I have always believed that if the future of our country is to be made safe for domestic peace, democracy and peoples' welfare, we should hold out hope for our youth. You are young, Sir, and I hope that your election would send the right signals to the youth of our country.

The Chair to which you have been chosen by this House calls for enormous wisdom.

The term 'Bala Yogi', literally translated, means the Young Sage. Sages are persons of great wisdom. For the aged, wisdom comes from experience. For the young, wisdom flows from their instinct, an alert mind and heart. I hope that you will be immensely guided by your youthful instinct and mindful and hearty wisdom. By your name, you are also 'Mohana Chandra', which literally translated again, means the 'lovely moon'. Let the coolness of the moon temper your reflexes and environment in the House.

You have found your elevation to the exalted Chair of this popular Chamber virtually straight from the din and dust of grassroot politics. I am hopeful that your reflexes and decision would be impacted by the wisdom flowing from this grassroot experience as well.

This House has had the delightful experience of being guided from the Chair you have come to occupy during the later half of 1950s and early 1960s by the enlightenment of a great son of Telugu world, Late M.A.

Iyengar, who represented the Tirupati constituency of erstwhile State of Madras. Let the spirit of the late Iyengar and the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, the presiding deity of Tirupati, guide you in your management of this House.

Let me also take this occasion to place on record my very deep appreciation of the immense and unreserved cooperation extended to me by all sections of the Eleventh Lok Sabha in my sincere efforts to maintain the dignity of the institution of the Speaker. I also extend my welcome and best wishes to all the Members of this House, oldtimers as well as freshers.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of Trinamul Congress. I would also like to congratulate Shri Sharad Pawarji. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed your name and started his speech, the atmosphere here at that time was not appropriate and in consonance with the conventions of the House. After the election of Speaker, there is a decorum in the House, our convention is. . . (Interruptions) Let me make my point.

[English]

This is most unfortunate. First please listen to what I am saying. I am congratulating not only the Leader of the House but also the Leader of the Opposition of this House, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Sangma. . . (Interruptions)

Now that we are taking part in a debate, we must maintain decorum. After the election of the hon. Speaker, everybody must congratulate him. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, and Shri Sangma congratulated him. Today we must all congratulate him. I have been seen from my own eyes when Dr. Balram Jakhar was elected as the Speaker of this House, everybody congratulated him. I have seen Shri Shivraj Patil being elected as the Speaker of this House. I have seen Shri Sangma being elected as the Speaker of this House. We must also convey our gratitude to all our former Speakers. They worked a lot to uphold the democratic system in this country. We are grateful to all of them. At the same time, from the Government side, may I appeal to all of you to please not only listen to the Leaders but also listen to us who are grassroot-level workers ?

On behalf of my Party, Trinamul Congress, we assure you all cooperation and follow whatever guidance you will be giving us. The need of the hour today is that we must have a stable Government. Then people do not want

elections every year. The people do not want that their money should be spent on holding elections. So, they want to have a stable Government. Sir, the alhabet 'A' is very lucky now. The Prime Minister's name also starts from 'A', and the hon. Speaker who belongs to Andhra Pradesh, and the name of his State also starts from 'A'. We all congratulate him.

[Translation]

I would like to mention one couplet :-

"Badal Jaye Agar Maali, Chaman Hota Nahin Khaali,  
Baharen Phir Bhi Aati Hai, Baharen Phir Bhi Aanyegi".

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of Janata Dal on being elected to the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and as the Leader of the House and Leader of Opposition alongwith other leaders have said that this House is the Supreme Institution of democracy and you have been elected the Speaker of this House. Now, this is not of much importance as to whether you have been elected unanimously or by majority but now you are the Speaker of the House and I hope that you will safeguard the dignity of the House. Today Shri Sangma is present here not as a Speaker but as a member and Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Balram Jakhar are also present among us and we will receive guidance from all of them. I am very much thank full to Shri Sangma that he maintained the dignity and tradition of this House. Today, whether he is a Speaker or not but the whole country has appreciated him and I think that exemplary role played by him will serve as a guiding force for all of us. It will also guide the House in its working.

Mr. Speaker Sir, you have been our colleague in the tenth Lok Sabha and you know us from very close Quarters. You are soft spoken, friendly and simple and I think with this quality of yours, you will be able to maintain the dignity of the office of the Speaker. With these words, I once again congratulate you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I now call upon Shri R. Muthiah to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The slip is already with me. I will give chance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI R. MUTHIAH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely happy and proud in congratulating you for having been elected to the precious post of Speaker of Lok Sabha in this parliamentary democracy.

As I come from the South, with all gratefulness I really appreciate and thank the Members of this Lok Sabha for having elected one of our colleagues from our brethren State to the Post of the Speakership of this House.

Sir, again it has been proved, by your election, that in this country and in our democracy, a *dalit* is capable of handling any task assigned to him. You had been a Member of this House earlier for a term from 1991 to 1996 and had been a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly for quite a number of terms. With all such experiences, I am sure that you are fully thorough with the parliamentary practice and rules. You had also been a Minister and the Chairman of a Zila Parishad in Andhra Pradesh and so, you are quite familiar with the administrative system in the country. Hence, I hope and I am sure that you will succeed in this 'risk' too. Sir, why I am quoting the word 'risk' in this job is due to my vast experience in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu as the Speaker for a full term of five years.

I hope and trust that you will succeed in this endeavour too as you were successful in all the assignments given to you in the past.

With these words, I once again congratulate you on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, AIADMK, headed by our leader, Puratchithalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my party I welcome and congratulate you on being elected to this highest post. I am sure that you would uphold the traditions of this august House. I have no complaint even if I have to send a slip to welcome you. On the very first day itself conventions have started shattering. Similarly, if we occupy the back benches, you will fail to notice us. Now we are sitting in the back benches, you will invite us to speak only when you wish to do so. Therefore, from the first day itself we should try to maintain the conventions and dignity of this House. We do not know your full Bio-data. It is true that we have been told about your experience. I believe that you would gain more experience while remaining in this post. We can only say this.

17.00 hrs.

We would certainly like to say that the grievances of the hon'ble Members sitting on the back benches should also be heard. You should set up ideal democratic traditions while holding this highest office. Today those who are in power are openly making mockery of the democracy. The whole country is witness to this. *(Interruptions)*. We can also create uproar.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there are some people who want to win either way. They do whatever they want to do. For this august office we wanted that there should be a consensus candidate. I do not know how far it is true or false but what ever we have come to know through newspapers and it is a fact that promise was made for someone and later on they elected someone else. We were kept in the dark. We were thinking on some other lines and were concentrating on some other candidate whereas Hon'ble Prime Minister chose someone else. Even then I on behalf of our party, assure you of our full co-operation. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, We are sure that you will take us in confidence and will repose faith in us. Everything is not yet over. We want our country to make progress on the basis of certain principles. On the one hand, country is facing problems like starvation and on the other hand, it is facing serious challenges. At such a crucial time, you have been elected to this highest post. We are sure that you will try to keep the whole House united in the same way in which we have united to deal with the challenges. It will be a great service to the country. Service can be rendered to democracy only when the country is survived. We are happy that you have been fortunate to occupy highest office but we are pained on the procedure adopted, otherwise, we would have accepted you earlier. *(Interruptions)* We speak the truth. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should always take care of member of the Opposition. If Opposition says that you are impartial only then you will be known as impartial person. I am confident that you will not allow the rights of Opposition to be breached. It is possible that tomorrow power may change hands but I would like to say that you should give an opportunity to the back benchers to raise the problems of the country and fruitful discussion should take place on those problems in view of the dangers lurking large over the country.

You should give special opportunity to the people like us. We once again welcome and congratulate you and assure you on behalf of our party that we will give full co-operation in conducting the business of the House.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am very happy. The confusion has been prevailing in country's politics till yesterday. Bhartiya Janta Party and their allies. . . (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a matter of joke; it is a serious question. Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is know for value based politics, had agreed on the name of Sangma Ji and his people congratulated Sangma Ji. . . (Interruptions) You please sit down. Do not provoke me. If I am provoked then. . . (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, I have heard that a secular leader of this country said that he would keep equal distance from the Congress as well as from the Bhartiya Janta Party. It means neutral gear. But no vehicle can run in neutral gear. But suddenly the vehicle has now jumped from neutral gear to top gear. So, to blame Vajpayee Ji for this drama is not fair. Today, the country's politics has become the politics of give and take. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can understand the difficulties of Vajpayeeji in this political game. I was in favour of a division, because we are in favour of value based politics, Principle based politics. But division did not take place. You have been chosen as Speaker. I felicitate you and you will get full support of my party. This House is the Supreme Panchayat of the poor of India and you are holding this esteemed office of the Panchayat. No doubt, you will get the full support of my party in maintaining the dignity of this esteemed position.

When the Hon'ble Prime Minister was addressing the House, we could not hear many things. You have the experience of the District Council. I don't want to go in that. This is not the District Council. This is the council where the views and questions of the poorest of the poor, helpless and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes get manifestation.

In this regard, we will render our full co-operation. How you seek our co-operation and how you use it, we will see it in future. Some Hon'ble Members were saying that a unanimity has been arrived at in this regard. What unanimity has been arrived at ? First of all, the Prime Minister will have to seek the vote of confidence but the whole system is out of order here, because no one has been allotted the division numbers so far. In such a situation, how the division will take place ? An excuse has been given that division numbers have not been allotted and the machine showing division numbers is out of order. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please address the Chair.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I do not want to take much of your time and only want to say that. . . (Interruptions) I know you. I am senior to you in politics. I am active in politics since 1977. I quit on the question of dual membership.

Vajpayeeji knows it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please address the Chair.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, you are being felicitated. I congratulate you on this occasion. You need not worry from this side. We want that a learned person should also be chosen as Deputy Speaker soon so that your burden is lessened. All of us will cooperate with you. With these words, I felicitate you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. I have called Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Shrikakulam) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I feel it a great honour to welcome you to this coveted post. I am personally all happy to see you in this esteemed position as a person known to me for the last twenty years. I feel proud to inform the House that I have known Shri G.M.C. Balayogi as a classmate and a good friend of mine from Andhra University as a law graduate. Shri Balayogi had shown his leadership qualities and dynamism during his tenure as a student of Law College of Andhra University.

I am also proud to share with the House the information that Shri G.M.C. Balayogi hails from a hilly village, born in a poor family, and is committed to the poorer section. As the Zila Parishad Chairman of the East Godavari district, he has made a lot of contribution for infrastructure development and also for basic minimum services. In the last five years, he has been appreciated by all people from the East Godavari district with fond memories. He is also being appreciated by one and all as a Minister of Higher Education of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. His rich experiences as a Cabinet Minister to the State Government and also as Chairman of Zila Parishad would certainly help him in discharging his duties as the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

I would like to share with the House that in a Parliamentary democracy the Speaker's position is very crucial. This post was held by great legal and political luminaries like Shri Anantasayanam Iyengar, Shri Mavalankar, Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Shri Shivraj Patil, Shri P.A. Sangma and other good persons. I call it as a very historic day because, for the first time, a person from the weaker sections is being elevated to this honour. The Telugu Desam Party which believes in social justice feels honoured in proposing Shri Balayogi for this coveted post and delighted to see him as the Speaker of Lok Sabha.



[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

I would like to congratulate and thank all the Members and all the political parties who have supported and elected Shri Balayogi as the Speaker of this House. In this regard, I would like to convey my deepest felicitations and congratulations to Shri Balayogi and offer him the unstinted cooperation from the Telugu Desam Party in the proper conduct of the House. Now that election of the Speaker is over, I appeal to all the Members and the political parties, to cooperate with the Speaker in conducting the proceedings of the House in a dignified manner as envisaged in the Constitution. You are aware of the fact that running this House is not an easy task but I am sure that with able qualities that Shri Balayogi possesses, he would come out with flying colours in running the House.

I pray to the Almighty to provide him all the strength and guidance to run the House in a dignified and impartial manner, and to the satisfaction of the Members of this august House.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Biju Janata Dal, I rise to felicitate you on your election to the office of hon. Speaker. If the destiny of the nation is vested in this august House, its destiny is vested in the hands of hon. Speaker. I am sure, Sir, in you this hon. House has found the most competent person to preside over it

It is also a great honour to the nation that a *dalit* has risen to the high office of Speaker. You entered politics in 1982 but in a short span of five years, you rose to become District Panchayat Council head. You were elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991. Till recently you were the Minister in charge of Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh Government. Now you have entered the Lok Sabha for the second time and are elevated to the high office of hon. Speaker.

On behalf of the Biju Janata Dal, I congratulate you once again and assure our full cooperation in the days to come.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I felicitate you on your election to the office of Speaker in this crucial period for India. During this 50th year of independence, I felicitate you, not only that you are an experienced person, but also on fulfillment of Gandhiji's dream that such high office of the country should be occupied by a person from down trodden class.

This House has been a witness to several things. The

members of the House have witnessed 50 years of independence of the people of India. This country feels proud on getting a Speaker of your stature on the occasion of 50th year of independence. I am happy that the entire House has felicitated you and with this felicitation, I wish that this Parliament of India, which is a symbol of desires of one hundred crore people of the country, may fulfil hopes, with your co-operation, of those people for which 12th Lok Sabha has been constituted. On behalf of my party, I assure you that full cooperation will be extended to you in performing your duties as Speaker.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Will any Member from the CPI party speak ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not keeping very good health. So, I will just speak a few words, mainly to offer to you on behalf of the CPI group our sincere congratulations on your elevation to this august Chair and to assure you that you will receive our fullest cooperation in conducting this House according to the rules of procedure and the traditions of Parliament. I am personally, and my group also, is delighted that after 50 years of Independence, we have today – I do not know whether wittingly or unwittingly – rectified an omission, which I think was a blot on the history of our country, namely, to elevate a member of your community, the Dalit community to this Chair. It should have been done long long ago, many years ago, but we failed to do it.

The last time we elected the Speaker, Sir, this House chose a leader and representative of the tribal people of the North-East, Shri Purno A. Sangma. It was one deliberately in order to send out a signal to those people who are inhabiting one of the most troubled regions of our country and I think that was a very wise step that we took and today by electing you, Sir, another message will go out to crores of Dalits and other deprived, exploited and down-trodden masses of our country that this House has not forgotten them and has given the highest honour in the Parliament to one of its representatives.

Sir, you are a fortunate man, if you will allow me to say so. In almost an overnight, you have acquired fame, fame not only in this country, I should say, fame abroad also because the speakership of the Indian Parliament is not a very small matter and people who had never heard your name – Sir, no offence meant to you – perhaps 24 hours ago will now and every day recognise, salute and respect a member of the Dalit community who has become the Speaker of this House. That is a matter of great satisfaction and pride to all of us.

We remember, Sir, that 50 years ago on the eve of

Independence, the Prime Minister of a country which had kept us enslaved for 250 years – I am referring to Sir Winston Churchill – speaking in the House of Commons in London had warned that once the British left India, the country would fall to pieces, it could not survive as a single entity, these Indians would fight each other, there would be riots, there would be fighting and the country would be ruined. That was Winston Churchill's dream perhaps and what he was wanting to foretell. Now, after 50 years everybody can see that India is one of the foremost republics in this world. We are proud to be citizens of this republic which is standing with its head held high in the international comity of nations.

I would just remind you that on the eve of this election through which we have just passed, millions of people of this country were having apprehension as to whether there would be a stable Government or were we in for another hung Parliament? These questions were there everywhere. Hung Parliament, perhaps, is not properly understood, but anyway, will there be a stable Government or will we again go in for an election within a year or two? This is a big challenge to all of us, because the credibility of this institution, the credibility of this Parliament itself is being questioned by the people throughout the country.

Who is responsible for that? We are responsible. The way we conduct ourselves, the way we behave, whether we are able to respond to the desires of the common man or not or whether we spend a lot of time here on matters which are really of no consequence. All these matters have to be seriously considered by all of us. When you are sitting there, Sir, I would request you to pay special attention to this question. The credibility of this House must be restored in the eyes of the people. The credibility has gone down. Why has it gone down? We all need to consider that in a self-critical way. I am sure that if we all seriously make an attempt, the House will be restored to its former pride and glory and you will have played very vital role in that.

Sir, I do not want to add anything more. I assure you of our cooperation and wish you well.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely happy on your election to the office of Speaker and I congratulate you for the same on behalf of Shiromani Akali Dal in the Parliament.

I am happy that you belong to Dalit community and

for the first time, you have got an opportunity to render service as Speaker in Parliament. I also feel immense pleasure that you are from a regional party. Importance of regional parties has been increasing for some time now. Earlier no attention was paid towards regional parties, but slowly and slowly, importance of regional parties has risen. You are from an important regional party and have been elected Speaker for the first time. I, therefore, congratulate you.

I assure you that our party will extend all kind of co-operation to you in Parliament and maintain the decorum in Parliament. I congratulate you once again.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the D.M.K. Party and on my own behalf, I offer my hearty congratulations on your election as the Speaker of this House.

Sir, before continuing to offer my encomiums to you I would like to share the views of Somnath Babu and Paswanji regarding the services rendered by your predecessor Thiru Sangma. He was so famous for his fairness and independence; above all we appreciate his courage. He roared like a lion whenever somebody committed any mistake, in righteous anger. Therefore, I would pay my tribute to Thiru Sangma and call him the 'Lion of North Eastern India'.

Sir, in a lighter vein, if I say something you should pardon me. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my leader has not said anything unparliamentary. .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What is wrong in it ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, he has every right to say what he is saying. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I am continuing. Sir, if I say something in a lighter vein you should pardon me. Yesterday, three minutes before the deadline of filing nominations that is by 11.57 a.m., you filed your nomination papers. One newspaper titled it like this :

"It was three minutes to stardom for Bala Yogi."

Sir, if somebody attains a position, people used to say, 'thank the stars'. Regarding yourselves, we should say,

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

'thank the Indian Airlines'. Otherwise somebody else would have been there. . .(Interruptions)

I share the views of hon. Thiru Barnala. As he has put it, you belong to a regional party and most importantly you belong to the oppressed section of the society. Therefore, we are doubly happy.

Sir, there is a feeling that to conduct the House one requires to have extraordinary genius. But I do not think so. In the House of Commons they used to say that to run the House you need what they call, "House of Commons' Tact". I would say to run this House you would require the 'Lok Sabha Tact'. You may like to ask how one could get it. When I entered this House in 1967 as a Member of the Lok Sabha, at that time hon. Thiru Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the great son of Andhra Pradesh and the great son of India was adorning the Chair of the hon. Speaker. At that time the giants like Thiru Nath Pai, Thiru Madhu Limaye, Thiru A.K. Gopalan, Thiru Dange, Prof. N.G. Ranga, Thiru P. Ramamurthy, Thiru M.R. Masani, Thiru N.C. Chatterjee, the father of Thiru Somnath Chatterjee and a number of giants were there. They used to raise so many questions, so many points of order and so many other Interruptions. Thiru Neelam Sanjiva Reddy sitting there as the Speaker never used to touch the rule book. He used to run the House by tact and a sense of humour. Therefore, I would request you that if there is any problem you should follow the footsteps of that great son of Andhra Pradesh, Thiru Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

Sir, the need to do business in this House is the paramount need of the hour. The danger of legislative paralysis is looming large because people has given a fractured mandate. It is a fractured verdict. They could have given 20 more there or 20 more here. But it did not happen. So, the members are equally poised. Therefore, the "political engineering", if I may use this word of euphemism, has to be adopted more often. I used to say "political engineering". This is what has happened today. In other words, the number game has to be played very correctly every day, every time and in every voting in this House. It is because Indian politics is bogged down in a morass of internal contradictions and conflicting political interests and seem to be drifting apart.

So, consensus becomes the key word, and that is what the hon. Prime Minister also stated in his television speech. But what is consensus? Consensus cannot be of the type which we have seen over the Speaker's election. We want a real and genuine consensus. I think, we can get it from the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, the Speaker has to play a critical role in a

parliamentary democracy. He has to play the role of a school teacher, interpreter and the role of a person who cajoles with a carrot and controls and disciplines with a stick without exhibiting it. Most importantly, the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has given a new dimension to the Office of the Speaker. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is more powerful than the Speaker of the House of Commons. So, you have to play the role of a judge also— an impartial judge. In some States, this power has been misused. The Speaker's post is the third highest constitutional office in our land, and we should not diminish the stature of the Office of the Speaker.

Sir, as the former Speaker has stated, "Bala" means "a child or a young person" and "Yogi" means "a sage". So, your name suggests that you are a young *yogi*. Now, this "*Balayogi*" should become a "*Karmayogi*". As the word "*Karma*" means "*duty*", you should do your duty in an impartial manner so that you get the appreciation from one and all and you become another Sangmaji and are able to conduct the House in a proper manner. As he very rightly said, we should not paralyse the House. There should not be a legislative paralysis just because everyone of us is an expert in paralysing the proceedings of the House. That is why, consensus is necessary and, I think, it will be offered and taken.

Sir, with this belief, on behalf of the DMK Party, I offer you our congratulations, felicitations and our promise of fullest cooperation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, the Leader of the Congress Party has already spoken. I am standing here to speak as a former Speaker of this House. I know the ecstasy and the agony of the person who occupies that exalted position in this House. I would say that you may have more agony and less of ecstasy. I know that the situation in the House is such that unless every Member of this House and every leader of different political parties cooperate with the Chair, the task of the Chair is going to be quite difficult and onerous. I am sure that the experienced leaders who have occupied the positions of high office on that side and this side — the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of different parties — have always cooperated with the Chair, and I have no doubt that the present Prime Minister, the present Leader of the Opposition and other leaders of different parties will cooperate with you.

Once I was asked: "What are the qualities that a Presiding Officer needs? I had said that "it is good if the Presiding Officer understands the law, but it is not enough and that he should understand the political situation also because the decisions which have to be taken from

that Chair are not only legal decisions – they are certainly legal decisions – but they have a political element also." So, it is not enough if the hon. Speaker or the Deputy-Speaker or the Chairperson understands the law and the political situation. What would be needed is the understanding of the psychology, that is, why a Member is standing up, why a Member is asking a question and why a Member is feeling agitated. If the Presiding Officer has full sympathy for the Member, I am sure that he would get full cooperation from the Member also. You are a person, I am sure, who has a lot of sympathy for those who need the support and help. I am sure, from that Chair, you will be giving that kind of sympathy to all the Members.

Over and above all, the final point which I want to make and which is very important according to me is that the last quality that is required is the quality to control oneself. You are a *yogi* and a *yogi* has the quality to control oneself. If the Presiding Officer controls himself, then the House is controlled.

If the Presiding Officer feels ruffled, disturbed and confused, I am sure that is reflected in the House also. I have no doubt that in your name and in your personality, that quality of *Yogi* is there and that will help you. May God help you.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that one of the representatives of the backward society has become the Speaker, head of the House, this time.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel proud that 50th anniversary of independence is being celebrated and on this occasion, a Dalit has been elected to this Supreme office to maintain the dignity of the House. I find in this House that three of the former Speakers before you, who maintained the dignity of the House, are present here. They are Jakharji, Shiv Raj Patilji and P.A. Sangmaji.

Not only this, four former Prime Ministers are also sitting here, who have been re-elected in this House and they will be sitting daily before you. Several problems will be coming up in this large House of which you have just seen a glimpse. When Mr. Prime Minister stood up to speak, then you also saw what happened here at that time. I have only this to say that if a Dalit has been elected to this supreme office, why such reaction was made here in this House at that time? I saw again and again and also heard several voices, of 'shame shame.. Who were those Members? I do not know. This is not proper.

I do not expect that the members who have come to this House. . . (Interruptions) I tell you, the great grand son of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who has been conferred Bharat Ratna, is sitting in this House for the first time. When the work of enhancing the dignity and prestige of Dalits is going on in this country, then everybody should co-operate in such kind of act. I feel, only then this work can be done easily.

I am very happy to know that you have worked in the area of sports activities, you are aware of the problems of the farmers and labourers also. These are the three categories for whom nobody is bothered in the country. You do know about the condition of sports in this country. Definitely you will take some interest in this field. I think that whatever decision you take here, will be taken very sportingly. You know the problems of farmers better because you have led them. You know the condition of labourers in this country because you have been a trade union leader.

Not only that, you have also worked as Education Minister in Andhra Pradesh which is your home state. If all these things are seen collectively, we find that you are a very knowledgeable person. The whole country, and especially the new members of this House, should benefit from your knowledge with your assuming this high office. I have seen for the last 1-1/2-2 years that veteran Parliamentarians are given more importance here, but the new member do not get sufficient opportunity to speak. I will request that if they too should be given an opportunity to say a few words. What happens if it is not done? I have found that about 200 members of the last Lok Sabha have not been re-elected to this House. The reason is that they were not given opportunity to speak in this House. Today the proceedings of the House are watched by the whole country—poor, labourers and farmers, all of them watch the proceedings with their family members. They desire that their MPs whom they have elected, should raise their voice about their problems in this House. If they do not get the opportunity to speak, that also affects the people of their constituency. I hope that you will be careful about this.

I am very happy about the responsibilities which you are going to bear. This is a matter of great pleasure for us. Our party as well as our Members of Parliament will give you full cooperation. Not only that, I am also sure that whatever has happened earlier, which could be avoided to maintain the dignity of the House, will not be repeated. We will also have to be careful about this so that we do not have to go again in next one and a half year to our constituencies for the elections. Some of the earlier Members have been defeated, but those who have been re-elected, should not face this problem again. This

[Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar]

responsibility is to be borne by the entire House, by you and also by the presiding officers who preside the House. I hope that the people of our country do not expect elections after 1 1/2 or 2 years; this should not happen. I hope that the decisions taken by you to maintain the dignity of the House will be received well by all. There might be some minor issues, but we hope that you will perform your duties in a balanced manner and maintain your affection towards backward communities. I hope that you will surely take this opportunity to take the country on the path of progress. I convey my best wishes on behalf of all my colleagues.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the RSP, I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your election as the Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. I assure you of all the necessary cooperation regarding the conduct of business of the House. I request you to do justice to the small-party Members in the highest forum of democracy of the country.

I also appeal to you to act impartially and judiciously in the extraordinary political scenario that is presently prevailing in the House in order to hold the high democratic values and the essence of the Constitution.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress Party, I would like to extend our cooperation to you in the conduct of this House. I am sure, you, with your general behaviour, with your common sense and awareness, will be able to do well in presiding over this august assembly.

We all know that it is not that easy to be a presiding officer of the House of this nature. Though we all say that this House has got its own prestige yet the Members have to rise up to the level. We know that on each occasion which this House had faced, there had been too much of trouble, there had been too much of disturbance and there had been problems which the presiding officer had to face during the conduct of the House.

I would like to say that we have found one quality in many of the presiding officers that we have seen. After I had come to this House, I have seen the presiding officers behaving with a lot of common sense. They had their own way in dealing with the problems. But they were all doing it in a manner which was acceptable to all the sections of the House.

I would like to say that there are small sections as

well as large sections of this House. This trend is going to continue as far as this House is concerned. As a Member of the Telegu Desam Party, I feel that you will be able to understand the feelings of the smaller segments as well as the regional factions who would like to bring forth their feelings, the feelings of the region before this House. I think that you will be a success in the conduct of the House.

As many of the hon. Members have already said, I would also like to congratulate the former Speaker Shri P.A. Sangma as also other former Speakers like Shri Balram Jhakar and Shri Shivraj Patil who had all been a success in this House by getting the cooperation of each and every section of the House. But to be neutral is rather going to be a very difficult thing. The term 'neutral' has also assumed a new meaning in the recent days. I would say that it may be better not to be neutral but it may be better to be impartial. So, I do not urge upon you to be neutral but I would really urge upon you to be impartial and fair to all sections of the House.

I come from a small State. I am sorry to say that there may not be anybody from our State in the Treasury Benches. I think, our grievances must be more heard in this House and we would come to your aid to bring forth the serious problems being faced by the farmers of Kerala, especially the farmers of the rubber plantations and the peasants of Kerala. There are very many sections of people who are facing lot of problems. So we would like to have more of your time and more of your consideration for the small State of Kerala.

-I once again congratulate you on this occasion and offer you all cooperation from my Party. Thank you.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I congratulate you for occupying the high office of this House, as you are an educated person belonging to my community.

I also want to clarify that after your election, when the Prime Minister, while felicitating you, was speaking about Dalits and about the dignity of this office, I interfered in his speech as I wanted to ask about the dignity of this office keeping in view the position of Uttar Pradesh. But I am sorry to say that when I stood up, I was not given an opportunity to speak. The Hon. Prime Minister remained on his legs. It has been the convention of this House that during hon. Prime Minister's speech when any member wants any clarification, hon. Prime Minister takes his seat and it is also the responsibility of the Hon. Speaker that the views of members are heard. . . (Interruptions) I

have not come here for the first time as a Member of Parliament. I have been a Member of Parliament for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. I have been the Chief Minister of the largest state, namely, Uttar Pradesh twice and I was also the Leader of the House there. . . (Interruptions) I know as to what sort of responsibilities are to be fulfilled by the leader of this House. I am aware of this fact. Hon. Speaker, we staged a walkout not because you were occupying this highest office but because, the Hon. Prime Minister was speaking about the dignity of the high office of the Speaker, and when I wanted to speak on this matter and about the double standards adopted by the Bharatiya Janata Party over the office of the Speaker, I was not given any answer. That is why Bahujan Samaj Party staged a walkout.. . . (Interruptions)\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, she cannot discuss the conduct of the Speaker of the U.P. Legislative Assembly in this House and such remarks should not go on record. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, those remarks will not go on record.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the House that the Hon. Prime Minister has stated that he is the well wisher of Dalits. This is not true. . . (Interruptions) Excesses are being committed on the Harijans and the Dalits in Uttar Pradesh. My submission is that if he is of the opinion that by get elected a person from the Dalit community on the highest office his party would be able to win the votes of the entire Dalit community, then he is mistaken. They wouldn't win their sympathy anywhere in the country, including Uttar Pradesh. . . (Interruptions) They have been responsible for the defection in the party of Dalits in U.P.. . . (Interruptions) The country would not forgive them. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you please speak about the felicitation to the speaker.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Sir, When the Hon'ble Prime Minister stood up and spoke about the Dalits, we staged a walk out. However, we do welcome you. . . (Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling Shrimati Kailasho Devi and not Kumari Mayawati.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. This will not go into the record. Please be seated. I have given the chance to Shrimati Kailasho Devi and not to you.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is the largest democratic country of the world and the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha in Indian democracy is very important. I extend my heartiest congratulations and welcome you on assuming such a prestigious office of this great country. Our Haryana Lok Dal Rashtriya Party has given support to you for this office. One of the reasons for extending this support by our Party to you has been that you belong to the Dalit section. Some of the Hon. Members pointed out that Sangma ji conducted the proceedings of the House successfully. There is no doubt about that. However, I have complete confidence and firm faith that keeping the dignity of the House in mind, you would not lag behind in protecting the democracy in India at all costs. Democracy can never be demolished in India. You would prove that the democracy in India has a bright future. You have been the Chairman of the District Council of Panchayati Raj. You are well aware that 80 percent of the total population of India lives in villages. Babu ji dreamt of "Gram Swaraj". That is why he gave importance to Panchayati Raj and wanted it to be implemented. But today there are several states in India where Panchayati Raj institutions have not been given any financial and administrative powers. Therefore, you are kindly requested to take this matter into consideration on priority basis as soon as you assume your office and work with full devotion to provide financial and administrative powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions as per the provisions; otherwise the soul of Mahatma Gandhi would not rest in peace. You have assumed this office after the 50th anniversary of independence. But the motive for

[Shrimati Kailasho Devi]

which we got independence, the motive for which many freedom fighters were hanged, has still not been fulfilled. Even today, severe economic, social and political slavery prevails in India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly appeal to you to provide justice to the 80 percent poor population and work with devotion in order to keep the dignity of your office high. We should not confuse ourselves to our luxurious life style and forget the poor which constitute 80 percent of the total population, the people who have elected us as their representatives in this House with a confidence that we would do justice to them and protect their interests. With these words, I again extend my heartiest congratulations to you on assuming this office.

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Sir, on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I am here to extend my sincere congratulations on your elevation to this highest post.

Sir, India is the largest democracy in the world in the true sense. The various articles published regarding the future of democracy in India express the hope that we are shaping in the proper way. A day was there when the chief architect of the Constitution of India, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had offered 'one man, one vote and one value'. Many critics in India and outside including Mr. Churchill said : "Sorry, the formula adopted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 'one man, one vote and one value' - will it be successful as the essence of democracy or not ?" The reply given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to Mr. Churchill was, 'I am hopeful that democracy will develop in India. It will take ten years, twenty years or fifty years.' The forefather of the Constitution of India reposed faith in the *praja*, i.e. in the citizens of this country. Ultimately, through ups and downs we have proved that ours is the largest democracy.

You are a symbol of the largest democracy. A political thinker, regarding Parliament, has made an observation. He says, 'What is Parliament ? Parliament is nothing but a holy temple of democracy.' What is in Parliament ? It is *praja satta*.' The people of this country are the gods and goddesses. What does he say about us and about you ? We are supposed to be the devotees, the representatives of the people to serve the cause of the public at large.

You are the custodian of the whole House, not just the party and the Members who have proposed and seconded you. Kumari Mayawati, my sister has been

misunderstood. She means to say that merely according a high position to a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste will not serve the purpose. That is only an ornamental hypocrisy on the part of either the Ruling Party or the Opposition. The problem is that we are according position but dithering from the genuine problems of the weaker sections of the society, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Unfortunately, there is no social agenda on national programme after the tenure of Shri V.P. Singh.

Why do I respect you ? It is not just because you belong to a Scheduled Caste. But as the Leader of the Opposition Shri Sharad Pawar has correctly mentioned that you have a vast experience of dedicated service in the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samitis. You have served as a Minister thus not because of the fact that you belong to a Scheduled Caste but because you deserved it.

Do we mean to say that the elevation of His Excellency, Shri K.R. Narayanan - Was he elected as the President of India in the fiftieth anniversary of our Independence - was because he belonged to a Scheduled Caste ? No. It because he deserves it. He has proved his ability. So, do not be under the wrong impression that this post has been accorded to you only because you belong to a Scheduled Caste, but it is because of the inherent talent in you. You have to develop on it and prove that we are equally competent.

The one essence of political democracy is 'decision out of discussion.'

This is the essence of democracy. There is nothing wrong if you could allow Kumari Mayawati to speak instead of asking her, to sit down, This is the essence of democracy. So, there should be no bar on discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude .

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Sir, what for we are here ? We have rules and procedures. Various procedure like Calling Attention, Question Hour and Adjournment Motion are the *modus operandi* for discussing in the House to deal with the problems of the people of India. You are the custodian of not only of the House but also to give justice to the problems relating to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities. You have also to see that secularism and national integration are strengthened. You have now become a symbol of democracy. On behalf of my party, the Republican Party of India, I once again congratulate you and assure you for our full cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this august House of the people has elected you to the office of Speaker. On behalf of my party, the Muslim League and on my own behalf, I extend congratulations to you. This House has had a proud tradition, and this is no secret, that the Speaker. . . (Interruptions) hon. Speaker is the custodian of democracy and the protector of Parliamentary practices, decorum and dignity. We hope that you will uphold these parliamentary practices and maintain the dignity, decorum and the high traditions of this House and, thus, earn a name for yourself too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we may or may not like the advent of this Government but this House should be conducted with full dignity and decorum so that Indian democracy occupies a pivotal position in the democratic world. I assure you of my party's fullest co-operation so that India, which is the largest democracy of the world is able to bring pride and glory to be avowed democratic values and this House is conducted with full dignity, decorum and as per the established rich traditions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a cursory glance at the composition of this House will reveal that it is a very delicately balanced House. Such a composition burdens you with additional responsibilities. I think that keeping in view the composition of different Houses since the time of Shri Mavalankar, the composition of 12th Lok Sabha presents a very delicately balanced House and demands from you the dexterity of what is called the balancing act, making your task quite difficult. We wish you to successfully pass this ordeal and we extend our full co-operation in your endeavour.

I would like to elaborate one more point. At a time, when warm felicitations are being extended to you. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. We must have completed it by six O'clock. It is already 6.15 P.M. now. So please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will conclude by saying that you should keep in mind that the hon. Members of smaller parties are also present here, who hold the flag of our democracy high. Image of our democracy will be tarnished if these smaller parties are suppressed. I am sure that the image and the dignity of this House will not suffer a set-back under your leadership and full justice will be done to these smaller parties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the 12th Lok Sabha. Shri Sangma was our Speaker in 11th Lok Sabha. My speech will remain inconclusive if I miss to make a mention of his laudable performance. We are very grateful to him for upholding the dignity of democracy and conducting the House very efficiently, sagaciously, with full integrity, in an extremely sensitive and turbulent situation. For this we hold him in high esteem and take this opportunity to congratulate him. We shall also remember the day. . . (Interruptions)

I congratulate you and assure you of my own and my party's full co-operation in conducting this House with dignity and decorum.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, it gives me immense pleasure to extend heartiest congratulations and felicitations to you on behalf of the Marumalarchi DMK and on behalf of myself for having been elected to the high office.

Sir, half a century has passed away since the dawn of Independence. Today is a red letter day in your public life. You have been elected as the custodian of the august House, Speaker of the House of the People of the largest democracy of the world which would send a message of hope and confidence to crores and crores of people who have been oppressed for many a century, that would be a fitting tribute to the memory to the Father of the Nation.

Sir, I am sure and confident that with your experience as a Parliamentarian in the Tenth Lok Sabha, with your rich experience as the Chairman of the Zila Parishad of the State of Andhra Pradesh and with your experience as a Minister in your State, you would rise to any occasion to tackle any turbulent situation in the House.

Shri Yerrannaidu, when he was referring to your career, made a mention that you were a student leader of the Law College. So you would tackle any turbulent situation as the one which we witnessed some minutes ago.

Some people say that the people have given a fractured mandate. It is not so at all. The people have given a definite mandate for the BJP and its allied parties to form the Government. The people have given the mandate to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to lead the country.

I wish you to protect the dignity, the decorum and the rich traditions of the House and also the rights of the Members for a full term of five years having Shri Vajpayee, the Leader of this House, as the Prime Minister of this



[Shri Vaiko]

country. From our side, we would extend all our cooperation to you to conduct the House.

I appeal to our friends from that side to extend the same cooperation. I fully share with the views expressed by hon. Shri Indrajit Gupta that a hundred crore people are watching what is happening in the Lok Sabha today. The whole world is watching us. So, we have to have self-introspection.

With these words, I congratulate you once again. I wish you success in your endeavour.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you on this occasion that you have been elevated as the Speaker. When I am congratulating you, I cannot forget the Speaker of the Eleventh Lok Sabha who performed very well in the House.

It is not correct to say that you are an unanimous candidate or a consensus candidate. It is a question of the Speaker's election. When the election is there, naturally, you are from one side and we have another candidate from our side. We opposed you. But after all this, you are the custodian of this House. You are no more with a partisan spirit. You are now the impartial custodian of this House.

In this connection, I would like to request you to look to your right, to your left and to your front. You also please look to the back Benches and also look to the small groups like that of ours. Now, the party in power will have to keep in mind that their number in 1984 was only 'two'. It is a democracy. From this side only, they have now gone to that side. So, in a democracy, I think, Mr. Speaker, you have to perform that job. I hope, you will be able to keep the dignity of this House. I wish you good health.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the TMC, I rise to offer you my felicitations and congratulations. All Members of this House will immediately recognise that you have occupied this Chair to a rather unusual reception.

The reception has been unusual because you were, in many ways, an unusual candidate and the election was an unusual election. When your candidacy was announced you did not ask us for our support, yet we are happy to congratulate you.

Sir, all of us are limited by time and circumstances. Every Member of this Lok Sabha and indeed you, are

elected for a period not exceeding five years. It is not what we say today that will enter the pages of history but it is what we will say when each one of us lays down office that will enter history.

Sir, I am tempted to quote a Tamil couplet :

"Thakkar Thahavilar Enbadhu  
Avaravar Etchathal Kanappadam"

The great and the not so great will be determined by what they leave behind them. You have heard tributes paid to your predecessors. I sincerely hope that you will safeguard the rights of the Members of this House, you will uphold the great traditions of this House and that you will win not only our cooperation but also our esteem and gratitude.

Sir, on behalf of my party I wish you success, I wish you best of health and I wish you all that is necessary to conduct this House. My party offers your sincere congratulations.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, I join the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and many other Members who felicitated you when you occupied this august office.

In my scheme of things it would have been better if you had occupied that high office through a consensus. In fact, to the best of my knowledge, a consensus was growing the night before last but yesterday morning that was shattered. Now that you have occupied that high office, I can only join the hon. Members in offering you not only congratulations but also my party's whole-hearted cooperation in the days to come.

I do not agree with people who offer advice to personalities who occupy that high august Chair. I have seen and it is my experience that every person who sits there has his own style. I saw Dr. Balram Jakhar, Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Sangma in that Chair. All of them had their own styles. So, no word of advice is required for the hon. Speaker as to how to conduct the House.

Sir, I have a thought to share with you and the thought suggests as to how many are needed in this house. Shri Sangma reminded us that we were sometimes before a live telecast by Television. Now the world has become so small that before even the Doordarshan telecasts a thing in India it would be highlighted and telecast by the Star TV or the Zee TV.

We have to be responsible and we are responsible. Sometimes, hard and hot words bring a new colour to the

Lok Sabha. But some of us sometimes cross the *rekha*. What do we do on that occasion ?

I request you to kindly make an effort to evolve a system of self-discipline. I can assure you that my party, particularly myself and my colleagues here, shall contribute to that evolution of self-discipline. This is needed in this august House. When I was talking about the self-discipline, I remember a couplet in the realm of my mind and before I conclude I wish to quote that couplet.

Phool Ki patti se kat sakta hai heere ka jigar,  
Marde nadan par salame narm-o-nazuk beasar.

The Speaker's appeal may not always affect a Member who wants to say whatever he or she wants to. Hon. Speaker should lead all of us to the evolution of self-discipline. I quoted this couplet only for this reason.

Before I conclude, I must place on record that Shri Sangma while occupying that Chair proved his high level of emancipation and integrity. All this is going on record. It is no secret that many of us wanted Shri Sangma to be a consensus candidate for the post of Speaker. This is an open secret now. Now that you have occupied that exalted Chair, I have no doubt that you will prove your mettle and give the kind of leadership that this august House needs. I wish you well in your task for the future.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already 6.30 P.M. I have two more names. Shall I call these two names also ? I think, it will take another twenty minutes.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narasapur) : Sir, I am a few hours old baby of this House. I have just taken oath today only and you have given me an opportunity to offer my congratulations to you. We travelled together from Hyderabad to Delhi. You could reach here and file your nomination in the last minute. I only feel that you are blessed by the God. It is a miracle that you could make it and file your nomination in the last minute. I feel that the BJP and the TDP, your original Party, have become instrumental in your being elected as the Speaker.

I wish to share my thoughts here. I am two-decades old MLA of a State to which you also belong. I want to be very very cautious because I know my limitations. In my political career, I have never crossed my limitations. But today, in the political system that we have in our country, people feel disgusted. We give the least respect to this kind of honourable post to

which everyone of us should stand in ovation. We should see to it that we develop respect for the society and for everybody.

I wish to mention here about Shri Sangma. The shortest man of the Parliament has grown like an oak tree in his character. I was observing that Shri Sangma, the man who just lost an opportunity to become a consensus candidate for the post of Speaker, was offering his felicitations to you with a heart, with a smile. This is his quality. That gentleman was offering his best wishes to you with a smile on his face and I expected a smile on your face also. Please smile, Sir. Your smile will not cost you anything. It will rather help you.

MR. SPEAKER : A lot of time is there for that.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Finally, I do not want to make a long speech. I wish you all the best. God will help you. In politics, there are no murders and only suicides. It is left to you, how you wish to bring up the institution. You take the example of Shri Shivraj Patil, he is a gentleman.

Take the case of Dr. Balam Jakhar. He was a shrewd man. Our own man Shri Sanjiva Reddy, who passed only Tenth Standard, proved to be one of the best Speakers. Please keep them in mind and bring credit to the State, to the country and to the chair that you are occupying.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I express my heartiest felicitations to you on your election to the office of Speaker. It is customary as well as a Parliamentary practice that we greet the newly elected and praise the outgoing person. But, there are some persons who are always remembered for their good deeds. Mr. Sangma is one of them. I do not want to take more time of the House but I cannot restrain myself from expressing my views that after the formation of the new government, the Muslims the biggest religious minority, are feeling insecure and I hope that you would provide enough opportunities for the solution of their problems. There should not be anything which gives an impression that their problems cannot be solved in a democratic way.

I hope that you would realise it and I once again congratulate you.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar-South)\* : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party Lok Shakti, I rise to felicitate and Congratulate you on this auspicious

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

occasion. Sir, I am very glad that you have been elevated to this prestigious post of this August House. Our party shall extend full cooperation to you in conducting the business of the House. You hail from Andhra Pradesh, a neighbour of Karnataka. This fact has made me to feel supremely happy about your elevation to the post of Honourable Speaker.

While congratulating you, many honourable colleagues have already mentioned about poverty that is prevailing in our country even after fifty years of Independence. I, therefore, urge upon you Sir, to enthuse the Members of this house to work hard and root out poverty from this country. There is an urgent need to provide medical facilities particularly to the poor people living in remote villages.

Finally Sir, we have to maintain the dignity and decorum of this House. I hope you would guide us properly and help us to keep up the prestige of the House. I pray God to bless you with courage and confidence. I am sure that you would be a successful Honourable Speaker.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on behalf of my party Lok Shakti and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate all of you who are elected to the Twelfth Lok Sabha. I particularly compliment you for furthering the cause of democracy by participating in the election in the true spirit of democracy.

I also compliment all those who have contested in the elections but could not make it to this august House, for their contribution is no less. It is time for all of us to leave behind the memories of the electoral contest and strive collectively to live up to the expectations of the people who have given us the mandate.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and humility that I assume the Office of the Speaker of the 12th Lok Sabha. I sincerely thank the hon. Members for this honour. I am hopeful that the demands of the duty will be made lighter by the active cooperation of all the hon. Members.

I need not remind the hon. Members of the socio-political transformation that our country is undergoing. Over the years, the composition of this august House is also changing, reflecting the socio-political transformation. This august House has always endeavoured sincerely to fulfil the mandate given to it through the hon. Members. I am particularly conscious of the composition of the 12th Lok

Sabha and the expectations that flow out of it. Our democracy has successfully faced several challenges. This august House has withstood the test of the time and emerged as a pioneering institution upholding the democratic and social values and the philosophy enshrined in the Constitution.

Dear Members, the 12th Lok Sabha has got the people's mandate to launch our country into the next millennium. This is a unique responsibility bestowed on this august House. As a constituent of the Legislature for the Union and as its distinguished Members, we have an important responsibility to shoulder at this crucial time. Since Independence, our country has made impressive gains and still there is much to be done. The Legislature is an effective vehicle of change. Hon. Members have an important role to perform in pioneering the process of change and guiding the destiny of our nation. We have a solemn responsibility of ensuring that the constructive energies of our people and the Government are effectively channelised towards fulfilling the aspirations of our nation.

Hon. Members, I am conscious of the responsibility bestowed on me as the Presiding Officer of this august House. I have always believed in the concept of 'collective wisdom'. I shall always be guided by this faith in discharging my duties. The institution of 'Speaker' has acquired great character and strength over the years due to the significant contributions of my worthy predecessors. This institution has moved from strength to strength on the force of the conventions and the highest traditions, while at the same time addressing itself to the new challenges based on the collective wisdom of hon. Members. I particularly recall the contributions of my worthy immediate predecessor, Shri P.A. Sangma in this regard. His goodwill and council shall be a source of great strength to me.

In my view, the Presiding Officer is as important as the first and the last Member of this House. This august House has the benefit of drawing upon the vast experience of its senior Members in moulding and guiding the new. The spirit of cooperation for collective good is the essence of democracy. I shall endeavour to ensure that this spirit prevails all through. I shall do my best to uphold the true democratic traditions and defend the privileges of this august House and its hon. Members. Parliament is the conscience keeper of our nation and reflects the sovereign will of the people of India. As a constituent of Parliament, the responsibilities of this august House and its hon. Members are manifold. It shall be my utmost effort to ensure that these responsibilities are discharged in the best possible manner. The Presiding Officer is always guided by a sense of justice

and fair play.

I am grateful to the hon. Members for their warm expressions about me and for assuring me their cooperation. I particularly seek the cooperation of the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar and all the Members in the direction of this august House making a durable contribution to realise the ideals and goals enshrined in the Golden Jubilee Resolution which was adopted by the Parliament.

Any institution is as good as its Members choose to make it. We shall collectively endeavour to set new standards and reach higher levels of consciousness so

that we will be able to live upto the expectations. Let us all join hands in heralding a new era into the new millennium.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 25th March, 1998, half an hour after the President's Address.

18.46 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till half-an-hour after the Address by the President on Wednesday, 25 March, 1998/4Chaitra, 1920 (Saka)*

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