

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

20.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, this appears to be the last day of this Session and appears to be the last day of the Tenth Lok Sabha working in this House. In the period of Tenth Lok Sabha, we have put Questions, got replies; we have discussed Bills, passed them; we have discussed Budgets, passed them and we have discussed other important issues also.

A booklet in a chart form giving the statistics of the performance of the Tenth Lok Sabha has been prepared and I think it is being given to the hon. Members. That booklet compares the performance of the Tenth Lok Sabha with the performance of other Lok Sabhas. We shall have a clear idea as to what we have done in this period. My feeling is that we have done well. If we compare the statistics we have reason to feel happy in certain areas and in certain areas we would have liked to do better. There is scope for doing better and improving upon our performance in Parliament.

What we have done in the Lok Sabha has been possible because of the cooperation of the Leader of the House, hon. Prime Minister, his colleagues and the Council of Ministers and the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches belonging to the Ruling Party, Leaders of the Opposition - the present and former and other Leaders of the political parties and the Members belonging to different parties.

It has been possible to work as we have done because of the unstinted cooperation that is extended to me and to all of us by hon. Deputy Speaker. He has shared the burden of presiding over in this Chair with other Presiding Officers and we would like to express special thanks to the hon. Deputy Speaker.

The Members who have been Presiding over in this Chair as Chairpersons have also helped all of us in a very excellent manner and we would like to thank them also.

The officers of the Secretariat of the Legislature have worked behind the curtain. For how many hours they have worked is not really realised by all of us. It is only some of us, who have been working in the Secretariat, know for how many hours they have been working and we would like to thank them very much.

The persons belonging to the different media who have reported the activities in the Parliament and I think they have tried to report to people in a very authentic manner. In all areas there is scope for improvement but most of the items have been very authentically reported and we would like to thank them also.

I think within a period of few months we would be going back to the people seeking their verdict, and I would like to say that we would like to see you all here

this House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, we always think.

[Translation]

Ham Rahen Na Rahen Tum Rahen Tumahari Shan Rahe.

The dignity of this House as well as of all of you and of the democracy remain high. The dignity and unity of our country should last long.

[English]

I am very very sincerely thanking the Prime Minister, his colleagues all the Leaders of all the Parties and all the hon. Members and all other friends who have given cooperation to me in performing the duties.

Thank you very much.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO)

: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I completely endorse the sentiments expressed by you and I would like, first of all, to place on record our very deep appreciation and admiration for the manner in which you, as the Speaker, the Deputy-Speaker and others who happen to be the members of Panel of Presiding Officers have conducted this House, not merely conducted this House, but have actually brought some sheen, some new sheen to democracy in this country.

Sir, the Committee System which you introduced - I am saying this because many of us were rather sceptical about the success of that system - has worked extremely well and it augurs well that it will give the necessary depth to the deliberations and what has been said in the deliberations. This is what the Committees are for. They go into greater details, they go into nitty-gritty and come back with reports which are very insightful which we would have never had in our hands otherwise.

Sir, in more than one sense, I must say that, the Tenth Lok Sabha has been very different from any other Lok Sabha. In the first place, it was considered to be short-lived. Everybody made a prognosis that this was not going to last very long and the people would have to be approached once again within a few months. I was myself called a stop-gap Prime Minister. Therefore, the House also was called, considered a stop-gap House. It so happens that the gap is full five years wide now. It redounds to the credit of everyone, the Leaders of Parties, the Members, who have made this possible. I have no doubt that in making this Lok Sabha, the Tenth Lok Sabha run its full course, the contribution is not from one party alone, but from many, in fact all other parties also. I remember, we had as many as three No-Confidence Motions. I cannot explain the victory of a minority party by 60 votes and 40 votes except by saying that we have had many invisible friends on the other side. It will always be good, Sir, for the future of democracy, for the strengthening of democracy and, I think, this is how it should be. I hope that in the years to come, in the terms to come, the Lok

Sabha, the representation which we have in the Lok Sabha will really complete its duty of making democracy strike deeper roots in the country so that no power on earth - whether a party losses or wins, whether a party comes into power or does not come into power - can shake these roots of democracy in this country.

I am also aware of the fact that the staff of the Secretariat of the Lok Sabha have been functioning very efficiently. They have worked overtime to make our deliberations a success and we all thank all those who are concerned with making this Lok Sabha a success for what they have done. In particular, your own approach helped the Members in overcoming the difficulties and in always having a useful debate. In fact, we have learnt a thing or two from you in the exercise of patience and firmness, both combined in such a way that we did not know when you were exercising indulgence and when you were really enforcing firmness. Both have been blended so beautifully. It is not to praise you that we are saying this. I sincerely feel that this perhaps is one of the five year periods of running a turbulent House with all kinds of uncertainties. To you Sir, I say hats off. I am, of course, very conscious of the fact that the press and the media have helped us in many ways. They have highlighted what we have said from time to time, particularly things which needed to be highlighted from the point of view of Press and sometimes they have given us copious coverage and I must say I can say without any fear of contradiction that during this term, the reporting of

the Press has, on the whole, been objective and conforming to the standards of an objectivity. I thank them once again.

With these words, I wish the best of luck to all the Members of the House, to you, and to the country because we are now crossing one milestone and going to the next in the long march, in the unending march of democracy.

MR. SPEAKER : One point which I would like to be a matter of record is that the concept of having the Standing Committees was originally floated by the Prime Minister and supported by the Members and it is appreciated by one and all and we are very happy about it.

We will now stand up for Vande Mataram.

20.22 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

20.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.
