

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : We may pledge that we will never explode a bomb.

14.48½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

14.49 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the second Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha which commenced on 27th May, 1998 is coming to a close today. In all, as many as 38 sitting lasting for about 280 hours were held. The House had a break from 13th June, 1998 to 2nd July, 1998 to enable to Departmentally Related Standing Committees to consider the Demands for Grants of Union Ministries and Departments and submit their reports to the House. The Standing Committees of Lok Sabha submitted 31 Reports on Demands for Grants.

During the Session, the House transacted many important items of financial, legislative and other business.

The General Budget and the Railway Budget were debated for 54 hours and passed with full cooperation of the entire House.

The House passed 22 Bills including the Prasar Bharati (Amendment) Bill, 1998. The hon. Prime Minister introduced the historic Lok Pal Bill in this session.

The House had long and fruitful debates lasting 78 hours on ten important matters of urgent public importance under rule 193. These debates, which were very well participated, were on recent nuclear tests in Pokhran, suicides committed by farmers in various parts of the country, rise in prices of essential commodities, Maruti Udyog Limited, floods in various parts of the country, increasing atrocities on women, situation in North-Eastern Region due to insurgency, recent development affecting India's foreign policy, problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and deportation of certain people by Government of Maharashtra. A discussion on the Government motion regarding final Report of the Jain Commission, which has just been concluded, was held for nearly 16 hours.

Four important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. In addition, as many as 36 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

As regards Private Members' Business, as many as 57 Private Members' Bills were introduced. One Bill seeking to amend the Constitution to provide that political parties and candidates should not seek votes in the name of religion or by inciting religious feelings during elections was discussed and later on withdrawn with leave of the House while discussion on another Bill seeking to amend the Constitution remained inconclusive.

A Private Member's Resolution urging the Government to formulate a national housing policy received unanimous support from all sections of the House before it was withdrawn. Later on, the national housing policy was laid on the Table of the House.

During the session, 621 starred questions were listed, out of which only 97 questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, just about three questions could be answered per day. In addition, two Half-an-Hour discussions were raised and written replies to 6,229 unstarred questions were given.

Hon. Members raised 355 matters under rule 377. Besides, nearly 576 Members raised matters of urgent public importance during the 'Zero Hour'.

I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members for the kind cooperation extended to me and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips and Whips for their unstinted cooperation and courtesy extended to me. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, the Press and the Media who extended utmost cooperation and sat with us though late hours. I also thank the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, CPWD and other allied agencies for their assistance.

Now, I request the hon. Prime Minister to speak.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this session of the Parliament is going to conclude. Though it was a difficult session but under your leadership we successfully overcome those difficulties and accomplished many important tasks. However, some work is still left which is to be done in future. Efforts would have to be made in future to run the proceedings of the House smoothly, without any untoward incident. It has been the special feature of this session that even after the happening of such an incident, normalcy was immediately restored. It indicates the strength of Indian democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the credit of all this goes to you. You are 'Yogi' by name. The way you remain neutral and even ignore certain things while occupying the Chair, requires a lot of patience and Yogic Sadhna is essential for it.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

I am also grateful to all the Members who have contributed in making this session successful. We also express our gratitude to the staff and officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat who work hard and helped in successful completion of the session.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have reached yet another milestone in our Parliamentary career. The first Session of the Twelfth Lok Sabha which is ending today has, no doubt, been presenting certain commotions and problems. But our culture had been such that notwithstanding the differences that we had; notwithstanding the commotions that we faced and the problems that confronted in running this House, we have the intrinsic worth and capacity. Our dynamism is such that at a given time we have always been able to pull together. This had been our unique quality and I would not be far wrong to say that it had been our unique distinction also. This had been our national legacy which we have, I would say, successfully carried even in the conduct of the business of the House in this Session.

Quite a bit of work has come to a fruition. It had been successful notwithstanding some difficulties that the Opposition and the Treasury Benches faced from time to time. But the fact remains that we have practically discussed all the important subjects, which you were so kind to enumerate, which were necessary to be discussed.

I am particularly grateful to the entire House that on an issue which is highly touching and emotional to us, we have discussed the same rising above Party lines, notwithstanding slight differences here and there, we have been able to discuss it rising above Party lines. This is a reflection on our representation and in my view this is what we have inherited not only in the last couple of years but also in our parliamentary career and I would not be far wrong to say that it has matured itself.

Sir, above all, in fact to be frank, when you took over that seat we were slightly worried, particularly the people from Andhra Pradesh were very much worried, but I may tell you without any exaggeration and modest in expression of this type that you have acquitted yourself so wonderfully well that we people, particularly from Andhra Pradesh raise our heads aloft.

15.00 hrs.

The nation is proud of you and I am sure you will go down in the history as one of the best Speakers of this House.

Sir, I must compliment the Prime Minister and his team that notwithstanding the little bit of problems that we faced with them, I should say that they have

always tried to rise above the ordinary levels. They have helped us and the House in seeing through the business being carried out in a normal fashion. I must particularly compliment the Home Minister for this. On certain issues where we were finding some difficulty, he had been coming to our rescue. Whenever we wanted to get over the Home Minister, we always approached the Prime Minister. He was so kind to help us out. This shows that we have become nature in our Parliamentary career, notwithstanding what others would say.

Of course, my friends remind me about the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He is as dynamic as ever. Equally, he is as vocal as ever and he has dealt the conduct of the House in the best of traditions for which he deserves our compliments.

I must say that notwithstanding a few skirmishes that we had, the entire catena of hon. Members has by and large acquitted themselves very well. I have often seen the British Parliament and shall I say, Sir, that on most occasions I found that House to be much worse than what we are. That is a Parliament which claims that it has prestige glory. This shows that this is inherent in our very blood. This is what we have received by way of legacy from our forefathers. It is this culture which I hope will permeate throughout the nation in due course of time.

While complimenting all the Members for seeing that the Business of the House is carried out in the best manner, Sir, we could not have discharged our duties so efficiently unless the Secretariat staff had day-in-and-day-out worked and helped us out to see that we do our work in an efficient manner. They came to our rescue whenever we demanded. In fact, when we — either from this side or that side — sometimes wanted to quote some rules, they guided us. This shows that they have without any favour fearlessly carried out their job and they deserve all our compliments.

Once again I thank you and the Treasury Benches, equally all the Members sitting here who have been able to see that we command respect, that respect which is our rightful place in the comity of nations.

15.03 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played)

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

15.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned *sine die*.