

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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*Monday, November 23, 1970 | Agrahana 2,  
1892 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of  
the Clock.*

[ MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair* ]

#### WELCOME TO ASTRONAUTS ARMSTRONG AND CONRAD

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have pleasure in announcing to the House the presence in the President's Box of two of the astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Charles Conrad, who have ushered in the inter-stellar age. We extend to them a hearty welcome to our country. Through them we have the first touch of the moon in this Parliament. They belong to all humanity. We all differ, discuss and sometimes quarrel over earth's matters in this Parliament, which I propose we shall not do today. Parliament is itself at the moment feeling like the moon. They had come here to receive the space awards at the Sixty-third general conference of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. Astronaut Armstrong as you know was the first human being to set foot on the moon so far considered as distant and unattainable. Capt. Conrad soon followed him in the next moon probe. We hope they will have a nice sojourn in our country, though it may not be as exciting as theirs on the moon. I propose we give them a standing ovation.

*The Hon. Members gave a standing ovation.*

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) :  
Salutations of the nation also go to them.

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SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :  
Could we have a sample of the moon rock laid on the Table ?

MR. SPEAKER: I would not mind if they take you to the moon next time.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : May I, Mr. Speaker, share the sentiments which you have expressed regarding our distinguished guests, the astronauts. We have spoken on this matter earlier in this House and of our great admiration for their achievement and the achievements of American science in the exploration of space, especially of the moon landings. We give them our good wishes.

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : After this pleasant interlude, I have a sorrowful duty to perform. As the House knows, the country, the House and every one of us mourn the death of Dr. C V Raman. He was the greatest scientist of Modern India and one of the finest intellects our country has produced in its long history. His mind was like the diamond, which he studied and explained. His life's work consisted in throwing light upon the nature of light, and the world honoured him in many ways, for the new knowledge which he won for science.

Dr Raman was a dedicated teacher, who believed that learning is not for hoarding but to be shared with all. He had an unsurpassed enthusiasm for explaining the phenomena of Nature in a manner that the most uninitiated could understand. I have personal experience of this, for, in