

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri B. Gopala Reddi): Sir, I second the motion.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रश्न यह है :

“कि इस सभा के सदस्य, सरदार हुकम सिंह को इस सभा का अध्यक्ष चुना जाये।”

The question is:

“That Sardar Hukam Singh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

जो इस प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में हों वे “हां” कहें और जो विपक्ष में हों वे “ना” कहें।

Those in favour of the motion will say 'Aye' and those against will say 'No'.

Several Hon. Members: Aye.

Mr. Speaker: All are 'ayes'; there are no 'noes'.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West): Sir, there being no other proposal, he may be declared elected unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: Last time also, the hon. Member raised this question but according to the Constitution, a motion is made in this respect and the Speaker is elected after the motion is adopted. I shall again put it to the vote of the House.

मैं फिर बोट लेता हूँ। प्रश्न यह है :

“कि इस सभा के सदस्य, सरदार हुकम सिंह को इस सभा का अध्यक्ष चुना जाये।”

“That Sardar Hukam Singh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

The motion was adopted.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं घोषित करता हूँ कि सरदार हुकम सिंह विधिवत् इस सभा के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित हुए। अब मैं बड़े हर्ष

से सरदार हुकम सिंह को अपना स्थान ग्रहण करने के लिये आमंत्रित करता हूँ।

I declare that Sardar Hukam Singh has been duly chosen as the Speaker of this House. I have now much pleasure in inviting Sardar Hukam Singh to occupy the Chair.

[Sardar Hukam Singh was conducted to the Chair by the Prime Minister and Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) and Shri A. K. Gopalan].

16.47 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[MR. SPEAKER (SARDAR HUKAM SINGH) in the Chair]

The Prime Minister and Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I, on my own behalf and on behalf of this House, offer you our respectful congratulations and felicitations on your occupying this high Chair? In congratulating you, I am not quite sure whether it will not be more fitting for us to congratulate ourselves on this occasion because this is an occasion which is a particularly happy one for all of us who are Members of this House and who have therefore chosen you unanimously to this high post. As a matter of fact, you have not come to this Chair unknown to us or little known; we have seen you functioning in that Chair for a considerable time past and so it is with the assurance of past knowledge that we welcome your election today.

It is not merely a question of choosing a good and worthy person for this high office; it is something more than that, because you represent, more than any of us here in this House, the dignity of this House, the combined wisdom of this House and so much else. This House represents a very great deal in this country; it represents the people of India. It is indeed the House of the People and behind it lie not only fifteen years or so of history, of concentrated history of

India during which much has been done but also the long traditions, some even of this country and some of other countries representing parliamentary Government. During that history the representatives of the people have fought privilege, have fought kingly power and have fought all kinds of other attempts to curb the people's sovereignty till at last sovereignty was established fully.

So, we meet here in that long tradition, representing the final and ultimate sovereignty of the people of India, and you, Sir, are the custodian not only of the dignity of this House but also of the sovereignty of the people of India.

India is a country of manifold variety, a great country with great traditions in the past, which is setting out into new fields. It has people who differ in their religions and their customs and there are people who are called minorities and the like. This House has a great task, if I may use the word, of moulding them into a single entity, that is India, that is the people of India, maintaining at the same time their own special features, and this House gives them every opportunity to protect them and to cherish those features, yet finally preserving the unity of India.

So, we have had, in our general life and more especially in this House, to face this great question of the people of India maintaining their rich diversity and, at the same time, their essential unity by which alone they can progress and maintain the real sovereignty of the people, because sovereignty comes not merely from each person asserting his right but from each person recognising the right of others and thereby maintaining the common rights of all.

So, at this moment when you have taken this Chair as the guardian of the rights of this House and therefore the guardian of the rights of the millions of our people, not only do I welcome you, on behalf of this House, to this Chair but I welcome

the very institution of which you are the head today. It is an institution which requires a certain maturity in the people when it is adopted. Ultimately, every institution flourishes because the people who are concerned with it are mature enough and use it to the best advantage. Ultimately, it is the quality of the people that counts. It is for history to show how we have functioned during the last years since we became an independent nation, how this House, this Parliament has functioned during these years. It may be that history already, during this relatively brief period of 15 years or a little less, has passed its judgment on this path or our national career. But, anyhow, we meet here in this new Parliament after the elections on a colossal scale which have drawn the attention and the admiration of other parts of the world.

I think it may be said that this system of parliamentary government has eminently succeeded in this country and has not only succeeded in the particular way it has been functioning here, but is spreading out into the villages and the multitude of our people that live in this country. It has succeeded not merely by copying other methods. We have indeed adopted some methods of some other countries, their rules and regulations, but essentially we have tried to make them our own and we have varied them in our practice and functioning and we have adopted them with such variations as suited our own genius, thus making this system of parliamentary government our own, something fitting the genius of India and the long traditions of India. I hope that, in the future, we shall not only adhere to this basic system but not be afraid of varying it in minor matters to suit the genius of our people; essentially it means the sovereignty of the people.

The long traditions behind the parliamentary government, of struggles against the usurping power and the privilege and authority sitting on the

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

right of the people come up before me on this occasion. Fortunately, we have passed those struggles in this country and the only principle we recognise here is that of the sovereignty of the people, of the individual dignity of every Indian, not of caste, not of any other privilege which gives power and authority to the individual. Privileges exist in this country as in many others and sometimes privileges without the slightest justification. But we do not recognise, I hope, the rightness of those privileges and gradually they will fade away in this country even as the individual rises and gains what is his rightful due.

So, all this past history comes up before me, a history which is full of struggle and full of triumph for the individual in various countries and in our country too, a history which has established the right of national freedom and individual freedom. You, Sir, if I may say so, in your high office, are the protector of these freedoms and, as such, we look to you for this protection whenever privilege intrudes itself and tries to profit by some special position or special office that it may have.

I can assure you, on behalf of this House, that we shall loyally carry out your decisions and your directions to us and if ever we err we shall also loyally submit to any punishment that you may give us.

On behalf of this House, Sir, I welcome you to this high office.

डा० योषिन्ध बास (जबलपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन का सब से पुराना सदस्य होने के नाते मैं आप को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। मैंने यहां पर सन् १९२३ से ही उस सारे पुराने इतिहास को देखा है जिसका कि जिक्र अभी हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने किया। सन् १९२३ में सर फ्रेड्रिकक व्हाइट हमारे स्पीकर थे। वे हमारी पराधीनता के प्रतीक थे। उस के बाद बचापि हम स्वतंत्र नहीं हुये थे पर हम ने श्री बिठुसभाई पटेल को अपना अध्यक्ष

बना। एक विदेशी सरकार के रहते हुए भी उन्होंने जो मुठभेड़ें उस सरकार से लीं वे आज भी हमारे सामने घूम जाती हैं।

स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात् हम ने यहाँ पर श्री मावलंकर को देखा। उन की भयंता और वह जिस प्रकार से कार्य का संचालन करते थे वह प्रणाली भी हमारे सामने है। उस के बाद इस स्थान पर श्री अनन्तशयनम् भयंगार बैठे। उन में जो मुदुता थी, उनका जो व्यवहार यहां के प्रत्येक सदस्य के साथ था, वह हम कभी भी विस्मृत नहीं कर सकते। अब आज उस पर आप आसीन हैं।

जैसा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा यह कार्य, जो आप को सौंपा गया है, अत्यन्त महत्व का कार्य है। स्वतंत्रता के पहले मैंने इस सदन में पंडित मोतीलाल जी नेहरू का नेतृत्व देखा। उस के बाद आज उन के पुत्र पंडित जवाहरलाल जी नेहरू का नेतृत्व देख रहा हूँ। पराधीनता के समय मोतीलाल जी का नेतृत्व किस तरीके से चला और आज जवाहरलाल जी का नेतृत्व किस तरीके से चल रहा है वह मैं एक साहित्यकार के नाते मिलाया करता हूँ और मुझे देख कर हर्ष होता है कि जो बातें मोतीलाल जी ने स्थापित की थी पराधीन भारत में, उसे पंडित जी ने स्वतंत्र भारत में किस तरह से प्रागे बढ़ाया है।

कई लोग उस समय के सदन के स्तर की बात किया करते हैं। इस में कोई शक नहीं कि उस समय यहां पर पंडित मोतीलाल जी थे, पंडित मदन मोहन मालवीय जी थे, लाला लाजपतराम थे, कायदे बाबजम जिन्ना थे। बड़े बड़े आदमी यहां पर थे और यहां का स्तर ऊंचा था परन्तु उस समय उस ऊंचे स्तर के रहते हुए भी यह सब एक डिबेटिंग सोसाइटी के प्रतिरिक्त और कुछ नहीं था। आज का इस का स्तर उस प्रकार का है जैसे कि स्वाधीन भारत है और

जिस तरह के व्यक्ति स्वाधीन भारत में रहते हैं। बालिग प्रताधिकार से व्यक्ति यहाँ पर चुन कर भाते हैं और हमें इस का गर्व है कि संसार का सब से बड़ा प्रजातंत्र हम में स्थापित किया है। इस प्रजातंत्र की सब से प्रमुख सभा यह लोक-सभा है और इस लोक-सभा के अध्यक्ष के रूप में आप उस प्रजातंत्र के प्रतीक हैं। आप को यहाँ पर केवल जो सब दल हैं उन्हीं की रक्षा नहीं करनी है अपितु आप को यहाँ पर प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की रक्षा करनी है और प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के साथ आप को अपनी भी रक्षा करनी है। बात यह है कि आप की कोई अपील नहीं। आप के सम्बन्ध में यदि कोई ऐसे विचार उठें जो उचित नहीं हैं तो उन बातों को हम कहीं दूसरी जगह नहीं ले जा सकेंगे। इसलिये न्याय की दृष्टि से आप को अपनी रक्षा का जो गुह्रतर भाग दिया गया है वह महत्वपूर्ण है, अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है, यह मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ। आप को अपनी रक्षा जो करनी है वह दूसरे दलों के सदस्यों की रक्षा से भी अधिक करनी है यह मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ।

इस में स्वभाव की मनुता जो कि श्री अग्र्यंगार साहब ने यहाँ पर दिखाई उस की सब से अधिक आवश्यकता है।

अन्त में मैं आप से एक बात और कहूँगा। मनुष्य की श्रेष्ठता उस की ज्ञान की शक्ति के कारण है। मनुष्य सृष्टि का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्राणी ज्ञान शक्ति के कारण है। इसीलिये मनुष्य जिस प्रकार की भाषा बोलता है उस प्रकार की भाषा अन्य कोई नहीं बोलता। पराधीनता के समय यहाँ पर जो अंग्रेजी का राज्य छाया हुआ था मावलकर जी ने उस को हटाने का प्रयत्न किया। श्री अनन्तशयनम् अग्र्यंगार जो कि ब्रिज से भाते थे उन्होंने भी उस को हटाने का प्रयत्न किया। इसलिये आप को मनुष्य की अक्षी, मनुष्य की भाषा हिन्दी की जिसको

कि हमने संविधान में सुराष्ट्र भाषा और राज भाषा के पद का स्थान दिया है, उत्तरोत्तर उन्नति करनी है। इस की भाषा में आप से रखना हूँ। अन्त में मैं आप को फिर हृदय से बधाई देता हूँ।

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this happy occasion of your being elected as the Speaker of this House, I, on behalf of the communist bloc and on my personal behalf, may be allowed to congratulate you. We are not strangers to each other. Many of us are known to you for the last ten years and we also very well know you as the Deputy-Speaker of the last Lok Sabha. We are sure that as the Speaker, you will always vigorously uphold the rights of the House and the rights and privileges of the opposition and also strive to maintain and heighten the role of this House as a key instrument for strengthening the democracy in this country.

But I think you would excuse me; it is with deep regret that I want to point out one thing. The ruling party did not think it fit to consult the opposition before the nomination of the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker. It would have been fit and it would have been good if that had been done. I want to say that we, the Members of this bloc, have nothing personally against you. But it would have enhanced the prestige of the office of the Speaker if only the ruling party had cared to consult the opposition before the nomination.

I want to point out that in order to strengthen the democracy in this country, we have to build new traditions. Your role in that matter is very crucial. The ruling party has shown and will show certain tendencies sometimes by which they ignore the opposition. So, we look upon you as the protector of the rights and privileges of the opposition, especially when the country's electoral verdict had not been reflected between us on this side and the ruling party.

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

I once again congratulate you and promise you all support and co-operation from our bloc.

Shri Surendra Nath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome you to this high office. I feel rather the House should congratulate itself for selecting the right person for the right place. If I may be permitted to say so, you, as a person, represent all that is noble and decent. As a Member of the opposition, you know the difficulties and inconveniences of the opposition, specially in this Parliament, where we have no recognised opposition party.

We are confident that you, as the Speaker, would carry the best traditions of this House and uphold the prestige and dignity of this House, especially the traditions and conventions, which will go a long way in building the democratic tradition in our country.

On behalf of the Praja-Socialist Party, I offer you full support and co-operation in building up healthy traditions.

श्री राम लक्ष्मण यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस अवसर पर मैं समाजवादी पार्टी की ओर से और अपनी ओर से आप को इस क लिये बधाई देना हूँ कि आप अध्यक्ष पद पर निर्वाचित हुए हैं। साथ ही अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस अवसर पर यह कहना चाहूँगा कि परम्पराओं की रक्षा करना और नई परम्पराओं का बनाना आपका काम है और मैं आशा करूँगा कि आप इस सदन में नई परम्पराएं कायम करेंगे और जैसे कि श्री म०श्री० अय्यंगर से पहले स्वर्गीय मावलकर जी ने इस सदन के कार्य के संचालन के लिये समय का बंटन किया था अर्थात् आधा समय सरकारी पक्ष की ओर आधा गैर-सरकारी अर्थात् विरोधी दलों को मिलता था उस प्रक्रिया को आप अपनायेंगे। आप इस तरह से कार्य का संचालन करेंगे जिस से कि

विरोधी दल जो इस सदन में उपस्थित हैं उन को अपने विचार प्रकट करने का पर्याप्त अवसर आप के द्वारा मिले ताकि वह अपने दलों की नीतियों और अपने विचारों को ठीक से रख सकें।

चूंकि आप ने इस सदन में उपाध्यक्ष के पद पर कार्य किया है, इसलिये सदस्यों को यह आशा और विश्वास है कि आप उन लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में इस सदन को आगे बढ़ावेंगे। इस कार्य में समाजवादी पार्टी और मेरी तरफ से आप को पूरा-पूरा सहयोग मिलता रहेगा।

मैं पुनः इस अवसर पर आप को बधाई देता हूँ।

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartily congratulate you on behalf of my party, Jan Sangh. It is not enough for me to only congratulate you on behalf of my party, and in congratulating you I offer, on behalf of my party, the fullest co-operation to you. We are personally gratified. I am particularly gratified because you have been with me and with us in the first Parliament here, and I cannot forget the days when you have been a guide to me and a guide to all those who were here with you. I hope, Sir, that the traditions of this high office to which you have been elevated will be maintained by you most efficiently, which you have always been doing as Deputy-Speaker also.

With these few words, Sir, I again congratulate you.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I do not yet know whether the hon. Member there represents any particular party.

Shri Narasimha Reddy (Rajampet): I belong to the Swatantra Party.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the members of the Swatantra Party of

the Lok Sabha, I offer you my respectful felicitations. Sir, very few people in the world are privileged to occupy this high seat, that is the Speakership of the country which is the biggest democracy in the world. I am confident, Sir, that you will faithfully discharge the duties of this high office as your illustrious predecessors have done.

Sir, any legislature which has not got an effective and proper Opposition is like an embellished corpse. We hope that you will give true, free, full, justifiable freedom to the Opposition to express itself and see that the voices from this side of the House are not unnecessarily stifled.

Sir, many of us are new to legislatures, especially the Lok Sabha, and we might stumble here and there on account of ignorance of procedure. We request you, Sir, to overlook our faults and lead us aright with wisdom and understanding.

We are conscious of the fact that you have, in the course of your brilliant life, occupied many high positions with distinction and honour and we hope that, in the discharge of the functions of this high office, you will worthily display all those qualities of mind and heart which have made you the distinguished citizen you are today.

Sir, I wish you sound health and heavenly guidance in the discharge of your duties.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Not more than one speaker from each party should try to rise. I do not think there are many speeches needed now.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that you have too much experience to be bewildered by the multiplicity of groups on this side of the House, but on behalf of the Independent Parliamentary Group may I add

my meed of congratulations and good wishes. You may be inclined, Sir, to be a little embarrassed if this resolves to those of us who have known you, who have worked with you, sincerely welcome your election to this high office.

We have known you for several years as the Deputy-Speaker. Your unflinching courtesy; your readiness to self into some kind of competition in flattery, but I venture to say that help any and every Member have already created ties not only of respect but of affection. May I venture to say that as a lawyer I have been particularly appreciative of your dignity and your quasi-judicial objectivity garnished with a welcome sense of humour.

I am confident that the privileges of the House as a whole and indeed of every Member will be your constant and anxious concern.

May I, in conclusion, venture to express the hope that while you will necessarily be even-handed in your treatment of all sections of the House, you will sometimes be inclined to have a little bias in favour of the members on this side because we lack the necessary numerical strength? I wish you, Sir, a happy and distinguished tenure of office.

Shri Manoharan (Madras South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, with extreme exhilaration and ecstasy, I congratulate you on the high office to which you have been unanimously elected.

Sir, in you we can find a judicial bent of mind which will, I feel and honestly believe, protect the rights of the oppressed and the neglected in this House. Sir, you know that in a democratic set-up a real, responsible Opposition is a *sine qua non*, without which the successful functioning of democracy will be an empty dream. We have come to know that you had been the presiding deity of the highest office of justice and, also, we know

[Shri Manoharan]

that your judgment was noted for its clarity, sobriety and moderation. Therefore, we can genuinely expect that you will protect the interests of the Opposition. Thereby, we can assure you, real democracy in this House will be in operation.

Though we have come from the extreme south, far away from this capital, Delhi, in this vast sub-continent, we have been watching the deliberations and your activities inside and outside this House. Therefore, we can firmly believe that you will definitely safeguard the interests of the Opposition.

Lastly, on behalf of the DMK Party to which I belong, I would like to assure you that in this House we will definitely maintain the decency and the decorum of the House.

Again, I congratulate you, Sir, because you are the sum total of, we believe, sagacity, probity, fair-play, justice and the spirit of toleration as well as accommodation. I congratulate you once again on your election to this high office and believe, again and again, that you will safeguard the interests of the Opposition.

Shri Maurya (Aligarh): Respected Speaker, Sir, I do feel proud in congratulating you, our beloved and undisputed leader, who has been successful in winning the confidence of the Opposition at this time. On this auspicious occasion, may I have the privilege to draw the attention of the House towards the position of the Speaker in the British Parliament. They are the persons who are famous for the ideal conventions followed by the British Parliament.

The very moment any hon. Member of Parliament is elected as Speaker he ceases to be a party-man and hence succeeds in achieving the confidence of the members of the Opposition groups in the House. Sir, the honourable and high chair of Speaker, which I may call a throne of justice

based upon the pillars of liberty, equality and fraternity, which stands for the sovereignty of Parliament, is the guardian of the rights and privileges of the Opposition parties, or, say, the weaker sections.

So far as the party in power is concerned, it has got the dominating position and powerful hands, to protect its rights and privileges, sometimes even at the cost of the rights of the Opposition, and hence it does not need any protection.

Therefore, Sir, I conclude with the request that your good office will cease to have any attachment or affiliation with the party to which you belonged some minutes before.

May I, in the end, on behalf of the Republican Party as well as my own, congratulate you again?

Shri Buta Singh (Moga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have risen to congratulate you on behalf of the Akali Party. I have known you, Sir, since I was a child, when as the leader of a minority community, you were fighting for our rights. You are in power now. You know, Sir, that it is a fact that a duly elected Member is still in jail in Punjab. As you, Sir, are the custodian of the Constitution, not only in the House but outside the House also, I expect that you, being in this Chair, will certainly protect the rights and the privileges of the hon. Members of this House and see that democracy is safe outside this House also. I once again congratulate you from the core of my heart.

Mr. Speaker: I feel overwhelmed with gratitude and when emotions over-power, thought, do not come to one's mind and one fails to express how one feels. Very nice sentiments have been expressed and feeling references made about me. I am

grateful to the House for having conferred this distinction on me. References have also been made about my work as Deputy-Speaker here.

When I just recall my career in this House, I am rather surprised that, as compared with those giants that are here, I feel I am a new member. I entered this House only in April 1948. Before that I have not had the benefit of being even a member of any local body. When I came here and found members like Seth Govind Das, those who have been here for more than a generation, I felt myself really very humble.

As for my work as Deputy-Speaker, I am grateful that hon. Members have referred to it in such nice terms. I was expected to be impartial and judicial. I tried to be so. But, I am sure, I must have made mistakes, I must have faltered. But, then too, I have the satisfaction that even when I failed I got the affection, generosity and indulgence of this House and that sustained me all through the work that I could do here.

The present moment is really a great occasion in my life. When I first read passages in the books that when a Speaker is elected he has to be led by the leaders in the House to the Chair, I could not exactly appreciate what it meant. But now I realise the significance of it. When this suggestion about my election was first made I felt nervous, for I knew how feeble I was and how great were the responsibilities attached to this high office, as has been mentioned here. I felt diffident whether I would be able to discharge all those obligations. But, then, there is one consolation. When the leaders of the groups, the Leader of the House as well as Leader of the Opposition lead the Speaker-elect to the Chair, there is the guarantee that they give that they pledge full support of the House, all sides of the House, to the Speaker. I take shelter under that.

When I compare myself with those mighty giants that have come before

and occupied this Chair, there is really trepidation in my heart. When I find Shri Vithalbhai Patel before me and the traditions that he established and compare myself with him or with others that have come after him, certainly I feel nervous. But during the last six years that I have worked here as Deputy-Speaker, as presiding officer, in this House, I have happily found that there has always been indulgence shown to the presiding officer and every section of the House had extended to me its unstinted support. I at least have been lucky in that respect, and I cannot recall even one occasion when that generosity and broad-heartedness was denied to me. Today a great responsibility has been thrown upon me. Of course, it is one of the highest offices of the land that has been conferred on me. When I think of the dignity of this office, certainly I feel elated that destiny has brought this to my shoulder. But when I recall the obligations that are attached to it, then, again I have to fall back upon the indulgence and the generosity of the House.

(References have been made by some of the members on my left that I should safeguard the weaker interests—weaker in numbers, not in physical strength, I suppose—that I should safeguard the interests of the weaker sections, of the minorities. Of course, that would be my job. I would take it upon myself to see that they do not feel that they have not had a fair deal on that account. Of course, in a democracy decisions have to be taken by the majority; otherwise, the work would not move. The majority must have its way ultimately, but it is deliberation, persuasion and then decision that should be the ordinary course by which we should proceed.) I am sure that we will be able to uphold the traditions that have been established, the conventions that have been made by eminent Speakers who have occupied this Chair; rather we will try to carry further the torch that has been handed over to us by destiny at this moment.

[Mr. Speaker]

Democracy has taken roots here. Foundations have been laid well. A great edifice is being built on it. Ours is a great responsibility at this moment. We have to carry forward all those burdens. Certainly, we might differ in our viewpoints but the goal is the same.

Yesterday and today we have taken the oath, have sworn to abide by the Constitution. There we have pledged to secure to all citizens of this great country justice, social, economic and political, and to afford to them equal opportunities. I am convinced that everyone of you has come here enthused with vigour, keenness and anxiety to achieve that goal.

Our ways might differ, but when the goal is the same we will have many occasions to work together and to work in harmony. But, in economic, political and others matters, differences must arise. They are a concomitant of democracy and of free thinking. We may have that difference of opinion. We may have those deliberations and conflicts as well. But my only request would be that when those occasions arise, as sportsmen, if victory comes we should take it with humility and if defeat is the lot that should be accepted without bitterness. There ought not to enter any rancour in our deliberations and discussions.

I am expected to be impartial and judicious. I assure you that to the best of my ability I will try to do that and if ever I fail in that attempt it should not be construed that there was any deliberate attempt on my part to go astray from the right track that I have put before myself, but that it might be due purely to my natural limitations.

So far as this opinion that I should belong to no party is concerned—one or two hon. Members have expressed that—of course, I assure you that so long as I occupy the Chair you

would not get the impression that I belong to any party or to any group at all. It would be my endeavour that justice is even-handed and balanced and is given to everyone on its merits. But to err is human. If I make mistakes sometimes and it is believed that the decision is not correct, of course, as I have assured you, it would not be out of any dishonesty or any wilful act to go astray. I hope that you will also take a broader view of it and show me the indulgence that I have been getting so far.

With these objectives that we have placed before us, namely, to raise the status of the common man and to bring relief to our millions, as has been expressed just now on the floor of this House, we take our pledge now to move forward. The one pledge that I can take in the end is that I will always try to be a servant of this House. This service would give me pleasure and even pride. I will be striving for that continuously. I hope that when I get the cooperation and assistance in that respect, we will be able to march forward and be able to build on the foundations of democracy, that we have laid, more and more sound structures, so that this greatest democracy in the world might be a model for others as well.

I thank all hon. Members of all sections. [I assure you that I will try to protect the rights and privileges of hon. Members individually as well as of the House collectively, as is expected of me.] I take up this job in a prayerful mood. May God give me strength to rise to the occasion.

The House now stands adjourned to meet again half an hour after the conclusion of the President's Address tomorrow, the 18th April, 1962.

17.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till half an hour after the conclusion of the President's Address on Wednesday, April 18, 1962/Chaitra 28, 1884 (Saka).