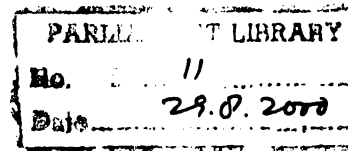


# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

First Session  
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 8)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*Price : Rs. 50.00*

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**G.C. Malhotra**  
**Secretary-General**  
**Lok Sabha**

**Dr. A.K. Pandey**  
**Additional Secretary**

**Harnam Singh**  
**Joint Secretary**

**P.C. Bhatt**  
**Chief Editor**

**A.P. Chakravarti**  
**Senior Editor**

**V.K. Chhabra**  
**Editor**

---

**(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.)**

## CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol-I, First Session 1999/1921 (Saka)]

No. 3, Friday, October 22, 1999/Asvina 30, 1921 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MEMBERS SWORN . . . .	1, 24
LECTION OF SPEAKER . . . .	1-4
ELICITATIONS TO SPEAKER . . . .	4-24
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee . . . .	5-6
Smt. Sonia Gandhi . . . .	6-7
Shri Somnath Chatterjee . . . .	7-8
Shri K. Yerrannaidu . . . .	8
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav . . . .	8-10
Kumari Mayawati . . . .	10-11
Shri P.H. Pandiyan . . . .	12-13
Shri Indrajit Gupta . . . .	13-15
Shri Sharad Pawar . . . .	15
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh . . . .	15-17
Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal . . . .	17
Shri Chandra Shekhar . . . .	17-18
Shri G.M. Banatwalla . . . .	18
Shri Ali Mohammad Naik . . . .	19
Shri Amar Roy Pradhan . . . .	19-20
Shri P.C. Thomas . . . .	20-21
Shri K. Francis George . . . .	21-22
Mr. Speaker . . . .	22-24
RODUCTION OF MINISTERS . . . .	25-26

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, October 22, 1999/Asvina, 30 1921 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER PRO TEM (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) in the Chair]

### MEMBERS SWORN

MR. SPEAKER : The Secretary-General will please call out names of those hon. Members who have not yet taken the oath or made the affirmation.

Shri Rajendrasinh Rana (Bhavnagar)

Shri Basangouda Ramangouda Patil (Bijapur)

Shri Gajendra Singh Rajukhedi (Dhar)

Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar (Akola)

Shri Prabhat Kumar Samantray (Kendrapara)

Shrimati Sheela Gautam (Aligarh)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K.E. Krishna Murthy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (KARAD) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (KESARGANJ) : Sir, I second the motion.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Sir, I beg to move.

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Sir, I second the motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Sir, I beg to move.

11.07 hrs.

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now I call upon Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to move the Motion standing in his name.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move "that Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Sir, I second the motion moved by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERRELL) : Sir, I second the motion.

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Next, Shri Indrajit Gupta *i.e.* myself.

I, not in my capacity as the Speaker *pro tem*, but as a Member of this House, am moving the motion.

I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Sir, I second the Motion with the confidence that he will facilitate piloting the Womens' Reservation Bill....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : I fully support what Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has said.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I support what Geetaji has said. I support Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee fully and hope that our Speaker-elect will be able to give us a full democratic strength in this House. Thank you very much....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : At the moment, you are just required to move the Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Yes, I move the motion.

Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Sir, I second the Motion moved by our Leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee with the additional words.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Sir, I second the Motion.

*[English]*

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM) : Sir, I second the Motion moved by Shri P.H. Pandiyan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PUNNUSWAMY) : Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the motions which were tabled have been moved and seconded. The motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and seconded by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is before the House for consideration and I am putting this motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The motion is carried. I declare that Shri G.M.C. Balayogi has been chosen as the Speaker of this House.

*Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.*

11.17 hrs.

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

11.18 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO SPEAKER

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this day will be marked as a memorable day in the history of the Parliament. The election to the office of the Speaker is an important event in itself. When we assemble here after the election and resolve to run the House, the election to the office of the Speaker forms a part of our agenda. However, the present election is remarkable in the sense that you have been elected to grace the office of the Speaker for the second time. Everybody does not get such an opportunity. More than that, it is a matter of great pleasure and pride that you have been elected to the office of the Speaker unanimously. The entire House welcomes your assumption of the office of the Speaker. Last time you were elected unopposed. However, the atmosphere in the House is quite different this time.

Democracy functions on the basis of traditions and conventions. Though lifeless, rules and directions have their own significance but unless these are animated by the spirit of solidarity and good intentions, democracy remains an ineffective system. A convention was laid some time back that Hon'ble Speaker belonged to the ruling party and Deputy Speaker was chosen from the main Opposition party. That convention is being revived which gives me great pleasure. I am not informing you about any forthcoming decision. If this convention is followed and it flourishes, it will be a good sign and a healthy tradition for democracy.

After the hectic activities of the elections, it is now time for us to work under your guidance. You are not new to this House, though you may be so for the new members. You have been associated with the public service all your life. You have the experience of being a member of all the representative bodies from Panchayat to Parliament. Born in a poor dalit family in a small village of Andhra Pradesh, you have risen to hold such a high position today which not only reflects your qualities but also enhances the prestige of the nation.

India is the largest democracy in the world. Apprehensions, this time, were being expressed prior to the elections, that people being fed up with the elections taking place every year, will not cast their votes and will remain detached from the whole exercise but the awakened voters of our country have proved it wrong. Despite the bad weather, people came forth in large numbers to exercise their franchise. All the voters do not have the access to education. We have been unable to provide them such an opportunity and other facilities lack as well but the voter of the Republic of India is aware of his duties as a voter and he is also aware of the importance of casting his vote. Even where a call was given to boycott the elections, the voters did not join the boycott. They lent their hand in strengthening the democracy. The

voters of our country also deserve to be congratulated for their contribution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have the experience of running the House earlier also. You have been entrusted with this great responsibility once again. I am sure that this House will discharge its responsibilities under your able guidance. Democracy demands co-operation and co-ordination. While expressing the difference of opinion forcefully, it is essential to keep in mind the decorum of the House and I am not saying so just because I am speaking from the treasury benches. Even when I was in the opposition, I used to emphasise that the world is watching the largest democracy of the world attentively. The countries which have gained independence recently and have embraced democracy are surprised as well as pleased to watch our progress. We have to ensure that their hopes are not shattered. This House has to set an example before our own people also for other democratic institutions to follow.

Though all of us are concerned about the blow dealt to democracy in our neighbouring country, we are inspired also to strengthen our resolve to protect our own democracy, develop it, make it meaningful and bring economic and social changes in the country through it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully confident that this task will be accomplished by this House under your guidance. Once again, I congratulate you on my own behalf and also on behalf of the entire House.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Hon. Speaker Sir, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf to offer my congratulations and felicitations on your unanimous election to the high office of Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Sir, the present task is not new to you having presided over the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Despite your sudden elevation to the high office in 1998, in a short period of time, you found your way through the maze of rules and regulations and conventions and you dealt fairly and impartially towards each section of the House.

Just as it is the hon. Speaker's task to be the custodian of the traditions of this House, so it is the task of us all to set examples of dignified debate and productive discussion. This Chapter resonates with history, the voices of many Indians. Many great men and women have spoken here eloquently and passionately on great issues of the day.

Today, we embark on a new Session which will carry us to a new millennium.

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

Our deliberations are followed and watched by vast numbers of our people. It is, therefore, imperative that we adhere to the highest traditions of Parliamentary decorum and language. We, the Members of the Congress Party in this House, shall endeavour to do so at all times.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are the guarantor of the rights and privileges of the Lok Saha. We, on our part, offer you our fullest cooperation and we look forward to serving under your leadership.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Members of this House on their election.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, I beg to convey our heartiest felicitations, greetings and also best wishes on your re-assumption of the high Office of the Speaker.

Sir, I am sure the people of Amalapuram are also very happy and proud today. Your unanimous choice today does reflect not only the composition of the present House but also the respect, faith and confidence that you earned during your short tenure in the Twelfth Lok Sabha as the Presiding Officer. Last time, there were some lurking doubts because of the crude, inept and unprofessional manner in which the issue was handled by those in charge of it. But soon, they were dispelled because your ability and capacity to learn, because of your amiable disposition which was tempered with firmness, because of your holding the scale even, because of your commitment to the democratic principles and your desire to uphold the highest traditions of this House. Sir, you have proved yourself and we wish you well.

It is trite to say that this House belongs to all. More so, it belongs to the Opposition which has to work as the watchdog of the urges and aspirations of the people and over the functioning of the Government. I have no doubt that you will uphold the dignity and the decorum of this House and give fullest opportunities to the Members, specially those who are not sitting in the front Benches. I have no doubt that you will give fullest opportunities to them to participate in the deliberations of this House. But I apprehend this may not be a very tame affair to run this House. It may not be a routine matter. With the weird combination that is going as an alliance, you may have trouble more from your Right than the Left. The Ram Temple issue is now on the shelf. But Ramakrishna is sulking. Chautala is absent. Prabhunath and Jai Narain are waiting in the wings. Therefore, there may be trouble there. But, Sir, we assure you fullest cooperation and support so far as my Party is concerned.

I have no doubt that you will not allow the dignity and the decorum of the House to be compromised. Let there not

be mini speakers on the floor of the House that we had experienced last time.

Sir, we wish you well and you have our best wishes. We commit our party to fully cooperating with you in the discharge of your important functions.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party and on my own behalf, I heartily congratulate the hon. Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on his re-election to this august Office. I extend my warm felicitations to him on his unanimous election which is a rare honour. In this era of coalition politics, unanimous election reflects the spirit of consensus. I compliment the leaders of all the political parties for supporting the candidature of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

My party has been a strong supporter of federalism. The unanimous election of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi belonging to the Telugu Desam Party, as the Speaker of this august House, is an indication of federalism taking deep roots in our political system. It is a matter of great satisfaction for Telugu Desam Regional Party to have its candidate elected as the Speaker of this august House.

I have had the privilege of long association with Shri Balayogi which goes back to our University days. We have studied Law together. We have entered politics together. He hails from a tiny village, and belongs to a weaker section. He was selected for the post of First Class Magistrate. After six months, he resigned from the Magisterial post and entered politics. Firstly, the hon. Speaker was elected as the Chairman of the Zila Parishad in East Godavari District. After that, he became the Minister for Education in the Andhra Pradesh Government. He did a lot for backward areas, particularly fishermen community of the East Godavari district.

I have known Shri Balayogi as a person with abiding faith and commitment to basic human values. He is an extremely sensitive person with a heart which feels for the poor, the weaker sections and the helpless. My sincere request to the senior Parliamentarians of this House that they should guide the newcomers about Parliamentary etiquette. In this respect, the hon. Members will look to him for proper guidance.

I do not want to take much of the valuable time of this august House. On behalf of my party, I assure the hon. Speaker of our fullest cooperation. I wish him all success in your endeavour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we welcome you and express our pleasure on

you being elected as the Speaker. You had occupied this post earlier also. Although you were new to this post at that time, your performance was excellent and impartial on many occasions and you were able to maintain the dignity of the House. Earlier you were elected by majority, but this time you have been elected unanimously. This is a matter of great pleasure. The responsibility of both, yours as well as ours has increased but the same time we expect that you will continue to protect the rights of the Hon'ble Members of the opposition parties. Many a times majority Government, on the basis of its majority takes such decisions which are not in public interest. It becomes essential for the opposition to oppose it. The opposition not only oppose it, but struggles also. In such a situation, sometime, Government says that there is no democracy in the country. If opposition protests for a right cause, it is publicised in the country that a handful of people are bent upon creating perilous circumstances for democracy. You are requested to address to this situation. We on behalf of our party, Samajwadi Party, shall extend full cooperation. We feel so and as Mr. Chatterjee has said special attention should be paid to independent Members and small parties. The new Members should also be given an opportunity to speak in the House as it will strengthen the roots of the democracy. We are sure that you will protect the rights of the opposition, but many developments may take place which are against the desire of the Government. In these circumstances the intention of government can be malafide and it is our duty and responsibility to oppose those intentions. We have some responsibility towards the people who have elected us. We will oppose hard decisions and in that hard opposition, many things come, and one should not get panicked by it. We shall perform our parliamentary duties, but if government acts arbitrarily taking benefit of the majority, it will also be our duty to prevent them from doing so.

I assure you that you will get full support and cooperation from the Samajwadi Party. We are sure that the manner in which this Government has been formed is bound to bring such legislations, on which confrontation is foreseen.

This Government will try to introduce all those bills and we too will try to prevent them in all possible ways from doing so, it is our responsibility. This should not be taken otherwise, you will excuse us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Have you given the notice?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Yes, notice will be given. You come from a small rural family. You also have bitter experience as to how certain issues, which are dangerous for democracy were raised and propagated during elections. On the basis of our previous experience, we will sometime ignore such issues and cooperate with you.

You may be displeased with us at times but we hope that we are able to catch your eye. We have no doubts with regard to your ability. We are happy that you have been elected again. Hon'ble Prime Minister has termed it historic Day. You are fortunate and it is our good fortune that our colleagues will be getting opportunity to consult you on various matters. You have been elected again to this high office. We will try to maintain dignity of the House but I am sure you will keep this thing in mind that ruling party has the maximum responsibility in this regard. With these words, I welcome and felicitate you.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, welcome you on your unanimous election as Speaker of this House. While concurring with the views expressed by leaders who spoke earlier to me, I would like to say that your unanimous and unopposed election is a matter of pleasure not only for us but for that community to which you belong, which has remained exploited by the Manuvadi System in all walks of life...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not interrupt.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : What I am saying may sound bitter but it is a fact that Manuvadi System has exploited crores of down-trodden people and exploited the community. It is not a secret...*(Interruptions)* I hope that while holding this high office, you will protect the interests of that community. As you know, crores of people belonging to down-trodden and exploited community have been provided with the facility of reservation in various fields due to untiring efforts of respected Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. But so far, no government belonging to any political party has been able to fulfill the quota of reservation, especially in government services. Not only that, now a days, even the Supreme Court and lower Courts have also started interfering in this matter. I hope that you will use your good offices to clear the backlog of reservation...*(Interruptions)* Besides, you would also take interest in getting a legislation enacted so that no court, be it a lower Court or the Supreme Court, is able to interfere in the matter of reservation being provided to people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes...*(Interruptions)*

So far as Women's Reservation Bill is concerned, I would like to say that we are not against it but a provision should be made in it to provide reservation for women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minority communities and I hope that you will pay attention towards it also.

When the issue of Women's Bill is raised and discussion on it is held, the women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are told that Women Reservation Bill itself has got the provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to tell that, of course, pro-



[Kumari Mayawati]

vision is there but is out of quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and Legislative assembly 33% is given to women then you can well imagine that the quota of our male members will automatically be reduced or will get reduced to about half. That is why I do not want that women should be adjusted in our quota. I am not in favour of this. We should get quota reserved for us, and Women Reservation Bill should have separate provision for the Women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority community. You will pay attention in this regard also.

In the end, not taking much time, I would like to request again that whenever the issue of suppressed section of the society is raised in the House, you will give adequate time to it. You will especially listen to the Members belonging to the weaker sections of society. While playing important role in minimising their problems, you will also request hon'ble Prime Minister not to overlook their welfare.

With these words not taking much time, I would like to say that I am proud that the person belonging to the suppressed section of the society has been appointed unopposed for this important position. For this, once again Bahujan Samaj Party welcomes you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri P.H. Pandiyan.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Due to Manuvadi system, the suppressed section of the society have become more backward....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : They get angry on people who utter the name of Manu ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called your name. Please sit down.

Now, Shri P.H. Pandiyan.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUVELVELI) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the All India Anna DMK Parliamentary Party and on my own behalf we offer the warmest felicitations to you and welcome your unanimous choice as the Speaker of the 13th Lok Sabha.

I just now saw that the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister conducted you to the Chair to occupy the Speaker's seat. I want to trace back to the history of the Speakership to the 17th Century; how it happened and why you have been conducted to the Chair. During King Charles regime, the Speakers suffered at his hands; nobody came forward to accept the seat. That is why, the Speaker, after his election, is being conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister.

Now, Sir, for the second time you have been conducted to the Chair. During the regime of King Charles, the Speaker, Lenthall, in the House of Commons maintained the highest traditions and independence of the Office of the Speaker. Well, King Charles I entered the Parliament and asked the Speaker, Lenthall, to produce the five MPs before him, to deal with them. The Speaker Lenthall, said : 'I have neither eyes to see nor ears to hear'. That is why, the Office of Speaker is now in an elevated position in the warrant of precedents. During the British regime, in the House of Commons, everybody wanted to become a Minister, not a Speaker, only to escape the gallows. Two Speakers were executed for non furnishing of information to the King. When I visited the House of Commons, I saw the photographs of the two Speakers who were executed. So, the history dates back to the 17th Century. Now, we are moving towards the 21st Century.

Now, Hon. Speaker, Sir, you have occupied this highest seat in our Constitution. Sir, you have a parliamentary control over the Executive...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA) : One King was also executed by the House of Commons...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Yes, it was King Charles.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are going to exercise your constitutional power to control the Executive, that is the Parliamentary Executive.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now you have a crucial role to play in the present context of the chemistry of mixture of political alignment and coalition after the recent elections. The BJP, which is the single largest party with the chemistry of mixture, is leading the Government. So, I would like to say that the Parliament shall control, through the Speaker, the Government in whatever decision they take. It may be a collective decision but it is a curious mixture of different

political ideologies, different political parties and regional parties which have taken part in the Ministry.

Sir, I would like to add one thing more at the present juncture that as a Speaker you have a constitutional authority to decide the constitutionality of any Bill being placed in Parliament. If you say that it is unconstitutional, it cannot be placed before the House for deliberation, for debate. Then, to adjudicate the constitutional questions under the Anti-Defection Law, is the power conferred onerously on the Speaker by the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and more so, under that Schedule, Sir, you have a judicial power to perform independently. Apart from that, police martial powers are conferred on you under the Rules of Procedure. So, as a Member of a regional party, you have been elevated to the position of Speaker. I would appeal to you, Sir, that, like the Scandinavian countries, the Speaker may have a parliamentary control over the Government. Minority Government was in vogue for the last 17 years—I had been in Denmark—till 1986. The Speaker has to approve the name of the Prime Minister. Once the Speaker says 'no', the Prime Minister's name cannot be moved in the House constitutionally.

So, in the present context, Sir, as a Speaker you have to perform constitutional duties, exercise constitutional powers. For that, I would like to quote what Pandit Nehru had said when Mavalankar was elected as the Speaker: He said: "The Speaker represents the House; the House represents the nation; and as such a person of impartiality and independence is elected to the Office of the Speaker". I hope, Hon. Speaker, Sir, you will maintain that tradition—Independent of thinking, independent of action, independent of conduct in this House.

We, on behalf of the AIADMK Party assure you, Sir, our fullest cooperation to you and we offer our felicitations to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Father of the House, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Speaker, I cannot express the intense pleasure which I am feeling today at the unanimous election of your goodself to this high Office. Since you were here last time for a short period, I had the opportunity and the occasion to come to know you rather intimately and we had discussed together a number of important issues affecting the parliamentary conduct and I must say that my respect for you as a person of great independence of judgment, impartiality and fairness had gone up considerably during that period.

12.00 hrs.

Therefore, your elevation to this Chair is a matter of great satisfaction to us.

Sir, here many hon. Members and leaders have spoken about the great responsibilities which devolve upon you, more so, because you have been elected by the entire House. It means the entire House has got confidence and faith in your capacity to run this House. Similarly, I would say that a great responsibility has come upon the Members of this House who have decided in their wisdom to elect you unanimously and you have been elected; and, then it is up to the Parties and Members in this House to do everything possible to respect your directions, to respect your observations and to see to it that the House is conducted in a manner befitting the traditions of this Parliament.

Sir, in the recent past, I think you will admit that one of the main casualties has been that of the decorum and dignity of this House. I am not blaming anybody for that but it is a fact. There have been adverse comments about it widely in various quarters in the Press and abroad also. Adverse comments have been made about the alleged lack of dignity and decorum in this House. Sir, under your stewardship now, I sincerely hope that that chapter will be closed and everybody will conduct themselves here. Of course, I agree with Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and others that the responsibility for this lies equally with the Opposition as with the Government. No parliamentary democracy can flourish unless there is an effective and vigilant Opposition. Parliamentary democracy has no meaning without an Opposition. Therefore, while the Opposition must observe certain norms and rules in its functioning, the Government, however big a majority they may have, must also respect the views of the Opposition as it is their duty and to do everything possible to take the Opposition into confidence and to consult them as widely as possible before deciding on their policy matters. I hope, the present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in whom I also have confidence, will certainly see to it that the widest possible consensus is obtained before taking decisions. Very difficult decisions have got to be taken. I have no doubt about it.

So, as far as our group is concerned, it is greatly reduced in numbers this time. I regret to say that. But that is the verdict of the electorate and we have to abide by it. I assure you that as far as our Members are concerned, we will cooperate with you in every possible way and nobody will be able to accuse us of having done anything to damage the decorum or dignity of this Parliament.

I also join others in expressing my hope that you will give more opportunity to speak to some of the new members and those who are referred to as backbenchers. They always have a complaint; they always have a grievance that they are not given sufficient opportunities. You may kindly try to help them in this matter.

Secondly, Sir, I am also rather sorry that nobody in this

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

House seems to have a single word of praise for the *pro tem* Speaker for having discharged his duty as efficiently as he possibly could. Anyway I take it that generally the House has approved of the way things have been conducted.

I thank you also for all the cooperation that we have received from every quarter and I assure you that in future you will have no cause for complaint.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I feel very happy in welcoming you and extending my heartiest congratulations on your occupying the chair of the Speaker. I have the privilege of welcoming you for the second time.

Sir, parliamentary institutions of the whole country think differently of Lok Sabha. Lok Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha provides leadership to all parliamentary institutions of the country. Many a times some questions arise in the State Legislative Assemblies and for solving them, the conventions of the Lok Sabha are followed. Therefore, your decisions or directions not only prove fruitful for the Lok Sabha but pave the way for the parliamentary institutions of the whole country. Therefore you carry a big responsibility and it is utmost duty of all of us to provide you our full co-operation so that the decorum and dignity of the House could be enhanced. I assure you of the open hearted co-operation of my party and my colleagues. 15 months ago, all of us had welcomed you. You have been elected the Member of this House for the third time and the speaker for the second time. We only wish that next time when we welcome you, it will not be that soon.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country and this House is proud on your having been elected unopposed to the post of Speaker of Lok Sabha again, which is the highest panchayat of this largest democracy in the world. I congratulate you on behalf of my Party Rashtriya Janata Dal. Earlier also you competently conducted the business of the House in an impartial manner. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha must have at least two qualities, which are competence and an impartial way of working. Mr. Speaker Sir, you have both the qualities and have tolerance also. The poor, dalits, exploited, downtrodden, deprived and neglected people in the country are very happy on your being elected as the Speaker and you are sensitive to their cause. You listen to the problems of oppressed classes very patiently. This results in confidence building among crores of poor in the country. Their aspirations increase and with that, their faith in democracy and its supreme body Parliament also increases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes conducting the business of the Lok Sabha becomes a hard task. When Government

by virtue of its majority becomes rigid on certain issues and sometimes acquires the tendency of bulldozing. So keeping in view the larger interest of public, sometimes the opposition has to resort to extra constitutional methods. When you are in a difficult position, then question of constitutional propriety, democratic propriety, duty to save the high traditions of Parliament and Lok Sabha comes before you. Besides, you have to look after the interests of opposition and all our new hon'ble members. People have great expectations from the members, especially when we have to go to the people for seeking votes after every 13 or 18 months. They expect us to raise their problems in the House. For example, issue of increase in the prices of diesel is going to be raised in the House very soon. We were tied with members. The manner in which prices of diesel have been increased in deceitful manner after the conclusion of elections is definitely going to be raised in the House. The Government are adamant on this issue and are not prepared to reconsider it. The opposition is unitedly prepared to oppose this move and you are going to face a difficult situation. In such a situation of crisis, it will be your duty to uphold the prestige and dignity of the Lok Sabha. Today crores of people are disturbed over this price rise.

We cannot leave this question and the brute majority of Government cannot suppress us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are our guardian, custodian of the House and strong protector of democracy. Therefore, the question which is going to be raised this time in House will not be suppressed. This office will be like a crown of thorns for you. You have experience of running the House. This time many issues will be raised in Lok Sabha and on those issues Government will say that they are running the House with consensus. But if this does not happen and the Government runs the House arbitrarily, the whole opposition will fight against them and you will have to give us protection. You are our guardian and protector of small parties especially. You have protected the right of new members earlier also and have to protect this time also.

I have full faith and confidence that you will maintain the dignity of House, and of society from which you have come, their interests will be protected. Democratic propriety will be maintained and work of making democracy strong will be done under your direction. We accept your leadership and assure you that we will extend full co-operation in conducting the business of the House smoothly. I am also confident that you will run the House with great care. We will remain alert like a watchman here so that interests of the poor is protected and Government do not work against the interests of the poor and in this, we shall seek your protection. The way you were successful in conducting the business of the House earlier, I am confident that you would conduct the

business of 13th Lok Sabha also successfully and would maintain high ideals, traditions and dignity of the House.

With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, RSP, I warmly congratulate you on your election as the Speaker.

Sir, you know the composition of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. There are a number of smaller parties. I firmly believe that you will give them more time to air their issues on various burning problems. I hope that you will safeguard the rights of the Members and the dignity of the House.

I once again assure you my party's fullest cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House in an orderly and impartial manner and I wish you a very very successful tenure.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA U.P.) : Mr. Speaker Sir, you have been elected the Speaker of this House. On this occasion I greet you and wish you all the best. Today, there is turmoil in the entire society. The people are facing hardships which has been reflected in the speech of the previous speaker, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. This very issue will be raised again in the House and then it will be a tough time more for hon. Members than for you.

I am pained to say that every time we greet you, we assure you of establishing high ideals and lofty traditions in the House but during the course of the business of the House such a situation is created in the House, not from one side but from all sides, that it becomes difficult for the Chair to take any decision. Our friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has given a small hint that there is a big responsibility on us. I hope we will act according to the assurance we are giving to you. You have your own limitations.

Just now we were listening to the speech of an honorable Member. The Speaker of the House or the person in the chair cannot take arbitrary decisions. Some conventions and rules are there in this regard. If all the Members do not co-operate, howsoever able and tolerant the Speaker may be, he will not be able to run the House. As our friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has said during the previous Lok Sabha not once but on several occasions such situation was created as a result of which fingers were raised on the decorum of this House. I think the coming days will be more turbulent. No party or the Govt. is responsible for this. The pace with which the world is changing and the difficulties through which our subcontinent is passing are surely going to affect us whether

these difficulties are economic, political, social or cultural. All the difficulties are coming simultaneously. It is imperative to make a mention of those difficulties in this House. As such it is necessary for all of us to try to understand viewpoints of each other. Problems are there, but it will be better not to add to them. However it seems that we are anxious to create new problems from the very beginning and only the time will tell as to who is trying to create such problems but it will be better to create such problems. Last year you led the House successfully during tough time and I am confident that you will be able to overcome all the difficulties with the co-operation of all of us and we will be able to keep the dignity of this House intact rather on the basis of our past experience we shall be able to add to it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party Muslim League I extend hearty congratulations to you on your being elected as Speaker of this House. You had been the Speaker in the last Lok Sabha also and you discharged your responsibilities with ample success. Now your re-election to the post of Speaker and that too unanimously shows that you have full support and co-operation of every section of this House. You are the guardian of secular democracy. We have to keep intact the dignity and rules and regulations as well as conventions of this House and I assure you that my party will extend full co-operation to you in this endeavour. I would like to emphasise on one thing that this House is a great House. This is so because it represents the entire nation, entire society. This House has representation of different points of view of our society.

Sir, you will agree, and it is necessary also, that this representation should also be reflected in discussions and debates of this House and for that it is necessary that views of smaller parties and independent Members should also be included in the debates of the Lok Sabha. I request you to ensure all this and God willing we all will maintain the dignity of this House.

Our pro-tem Speaker seemed to be little impatient. We would have expressed our thanks to him if his name had been called earlier. Any way, we thank him a lot. He administered oath to us, allowed us to sit in the House and made announcement about your being elected Speaker. Many-many thanks for that. May he live long. We wish that he may complete his term and administer oath to others in future also.

Sir, let us join hands and move ahead under the protection of secular democracy so that full justice is done to every section of the society. Having taken pledge of establishing a just society. I would like to assure you that we will extend full co-operation to you in this regard. Congratulations to you, Sir.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I congratulate you on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference and the people of the Jammu and Kashmir on your being elected the Speaker of the House of the great democracy of the world. This is the speciality of the democracy of our country that whereas on one hand big parties, with more than hundred members are represented in the House, on the other, there are parties whose strength is even below a dozen. The State of Jammu and Kashmir could be a small State of India in terms of population but our problems, be they political, economic, developmental or relating to rehabilitation, are much greater and I am sure that you will give chance to this small State, whose problems are so large, to present its case before the House. I would like to plead on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir that all parties big or small should extend co-operation to us towards resolving our problems by considering the issue of Jammu and Kashmir as a national issue.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned here and rightly so that Speaker should maintain the decorum of this House. But Speaker alone cannot do so

[English]

unless leaders of various political parties, whether they are big parties or small parties co-operate

[Translation]

with the Speaker. Until the Speaker gets their co-operation, it will be difficult to maintain the decorum and dignity of the House. Therefore we have chosen you our Speaker through consensus. This also brings to us the responsibility of providing co-operation to the Speaker irrespective of the status and ideology of the parties and while doing so we shall have to maintain the discipline and decorum of the House. That can only happen when you get full co-operation from all of us.

I want to assure you on behalf of my party and its M.Ps that you will get full co-operation from our side in running the House smoothly. I am hopeful of getting the support of all Members of this House and your guidance in finding the solution to the problems being faced by our State. I once again congratulate you on your being elected as the Speaker of the House unanimously.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCH BEHAR) : Sir, you have been unanimously elected as the hon. Speaker of this august House. On behalf of my Party, the Forward Bloc, I would like to congratulate you on this occasion. I assure

you that you will get the fullest cooperation from my Party in upholding the position of this august House.

Now-a-days, a new political culture has developed in India, that is, the formation of a coalition ministry and being partners in that. The party in power believes that the only alternative is to have a coalition ministry. Some people who do not believe it today, I hope, would believe it tomorrow. In a coalition, there are big as well as small Parties. One cannot neglect the small Parties. Though they are small or tiny, they are very much beautiful. If you go through the list of parties, then you will find some hints of regional imbalances created in the last 52 years of our Independence. You will also find that they have some national aspirations too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, I appeal to you to take care of these small Parties and Groups.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress (M), I would like to congratulate you on this occasion when you have again been elevated to the office of the hon. Speaker.

Sir, with your experience as the Speaker of the last Lok Sabha, with your long experience as a public man, with your experience as a political person and also with your experience in your long struggle for the down-trodden, I am sure, you will be able to do justice to the diversities in this House as well as in our nation.

Above all, Sir, I find a good quality in you, that is, you are a gentleman to the core, which is lacking in many of us.

MR. SPEAKER : You are also a gentleman.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Thank you very much, Sir.

Col. Newman has defined a 'gentleman' as "A person who inflicts no pain on others." I do not know whether you can rise to that extent when you are sitting in that Chair because you will have to be rash or rude at times.

We have already found that some senior leaders like Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have already taken an anticipatory bail by saying that, sometimes, they may have to go a little astray. I am sure, Sir, with your experience, you will be able to control the House.

I remember, two years ago, we had a long debate for about six long days and nights regarding the decorum to be kept in the House. We had come together, we had put our heads together and came to a unanimous decision that we would abide by some ethos and ethics and that we would abide by the rule of law. I am sorry that we have not been able to succeed in that endeavour. So, we all know that it is not your effort alone which is necessary in that regard, but it should be an effort of one and all of us. We assure you, Sir,

that we will all try to rise above partisan levels to uphold the great traditions of this House.

Sir, as many of the senior friends have already said, the backbenchers have to be taken into account. This point has been made in many of the speeches, but it has not been adhered to by many of those Members. The more time they take or the largest share they take, it results in lesser and lesser time being allotted to those who are sitting at the back. I am sure, as a custodian of democracy, you will look at the backbenchers and your arms are strong and long enough to reach the smaller parties and groups in this House. I am sure, with your tolerance and with your experience, you will be able to give ample opportunities for all sections of this House to speak about the rural poor, the down-trodden, the Scheduled Castes, women and students of this country, who are facing a lot of problems, especially the agriculturists. The Government of India have already said that they will pay due heed to them. But the poor farmers in this country, especially in your State, have committed suicide because of the low prices of cotton.

My State, for example, is known for rubber. The farmers growing rubber are in doldrums. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you were supporting that cause. We would like to bring to the notice of this House about the plight of coconut farmers and other farmers. We would like to get proper response from the Treasury Benches. Many Members including the Prime Minister and other leaders sitting on the Treasury Benches know that a Member is put to great inconvenience if no response comes from that side. So, at the outset, we would like to get some response with regard to the problems which we may bring before this House.

I, once again, congratulate you and felicitate you on behalf of my Party and the people of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER : The last speaker is Shri Francis George.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI) : Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress Party, I join all Members of this House in congratulating you on your assuming the Speakership of this Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

You have been elected unanimously and I hope that it is a very good sign because this House will have to address itself to many of the issues facing the country in a unanimous manner, as the nation is at a very critical juncture in its forward march. Sir, our country has almost gone to war with our neighbour and we are also facing many problems about which the Members who spoke before me have mentioned.

The hon. Prime Minister mentioned about the good traditions of this House. I would like to say that the country has also got very good traditions; a tradition of tolerance, a tradi-

tion of protecting the minorities — a secular tradition which I am very sad to say is being flouted day in and day out by various outfits, who claim to be patriots and who claim in various ways that they are speaking for the country and for the people. It is unfortunate that after 50 years of our Independence, these kinds of happenings are taking place in this country.

We will have to address many issues, many of the economic policies being pursued by the Central Government, which are adversely affecting the States, especially States like Kerala. The policies of the Government, the globalisation and the liberalisation policies of the Government, the export and import policies of the previous Governments have very badly affected the economy of our Kerala State. The policy of free import of agricultural products, cash crops, has very seriously affected the farm sector of my State.

We have to think of those policies and the rights of the minorities. Also we will have to think about a total revamp of the Centre-State relations. All these issues will have to be addressed by the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on the basis of a consensus.

Sir, with your long experience in public life and experience as the Speaker of this House for the last thirteen months, I am sure you will be able to give leadership to this Thirteenth Lok Sabha to discuss all these issues with mutual respect on the basis of a consensus, and to arrive at proper decisions which will be of help to the nation as a whole and to all the States of this great country.

Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate you once again. Also, I wish you all success in your tenure as the Speaker of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and I pray for God's blessings to you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me also the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : Not today, later on.

[English]

Today you have no chance.

Hon. Members, I congratulate all of you individually and collectively on your election to this House, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, in having respectively proposed and seconded my candidature for election to the office of the Speaker. I have great pleasure

[Mr. Speaker]

too in placing on record my sincere gratitude to the Leaders of all Parties and Groups in facilitating my unanimous election as Speaker. Unanimity in the election of the Presiding Officer, as I see it, is the first step that would lead to the cordial and smooth functioning of the House. My special thanks to the father of the House Shri Indrajit Gupta for his graceful presence in the Chair and his dignified conduct of the proceedings of the House as *pro tem* Speaker over the last two days.

The Thirteenth General Election is behind us. It has been generally peaceful apart from being free and fair. We have once again proved that we are a democracy in its widest sense and that in our region, our democracy is of a durable brand as well. No doubt we have gone through an unusually long spell of election campaign of which, I am sure, all of us—and more importantly, the people of our country—are tired. Let us sincerely hope that this House will complete its full term. While democracy stands ingrained in our people, they want political stability too.

The election has been massive mandate for the forces of federalism. This is reflected in the composition of this House; in the structure of the Government. I would consider that in our country of a billion people and strong regional identities, this liberal mandate for federalism is a welcome development. I hope that this House would see in this mandate a golden opportunity to strengthen the Union of India that we are by harmonising the competing, and sometimes conflicting, regional interests and by forging the highest common measure of agreement amongst these interests.

A vital lesson of the election has been that the only ideology the people understand and appreciate is the ideology of development. Removal of poverty, removal of regional disparities, equity and social justice are the subjects that our people want to be placed high on the national agenda. I hope that this message informs and guides the hon. Members in the performance of their duties and their functions in the House.

I am advised that more than 40 per cent of the Members of this House are newcomers. It is necessary that they learn and play by the rules of procedure and conduct of the business of the House. Failure in this regard may render time management in the House a very difficult task for all of us. The newcomers could learn from senior parliamentarians, who in turn, can guide them. It is needless for me to point out that the parliamentary parties themselves have significant role to play in the education of the newcomers.

It has been my experience as the Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha that the junior Members of the House, particularly, the youth amongst them, cutting across political parties, feel aggrieved that they do not get adequate opportunities to articulate themselves due to non-assignment of time for the purpose. Assignment of party time in the House is the responsibility of the parties themselves. Parliamentary parties may like to find a solution to this problem.

Politicians all over the world have been debating the

case of the missing women in position of power including in legislative bodies. In our country also, we have not lagged behind in debates. In this House too, we do miss women Members significantly. They are 46 in number accounting for 8.6 per cent of the total strength of the House. I hope that the limited number of women Members in the House would make up for their missing numbers by the quality of their performance. This, again, would be dependent upon the pro-active interest of the parliamentary parties in the encouragement they give to their women Members.

It is a tradition in parliamentary democracies for the Treasury Benches to be tolerant to criticism by the Opposition and for the Opposition to be constructive and responsible in holding the Government accountable. It is the mindless breach of this tradition which disrupts dignity and decorum in the House. I would call upon the Treasury Benches and the Opposition to help me to run the House in an environment of mutual cooperation and consensus among the Members, particularly as there are as many as 38 political parties which have their presence in this House, apart from independents.

Hon. Members, in the present day world of expanding media, legislatures all over the world are coming under close scrutiny. Particularly, with the growth in electronic media and live coverage of the proceedings of the House, every movement of yours is being closely watched by the people. It calls for sobriety and restraint on our part. People are very rational in their judgement of what is genuine and what is not. Playing to gallery will really not help. We are being watched for the genuineness.

Media is an important pillar of democracy. It provides us an effective interface with the people. I am confident that the media will continue to perform its duties with high degree of responsibility in their coverage of the proceedings of the House.

It is the fundamental duty of the Presiding Officer to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution in a non-partisan way. I shall perform my duty accordingly. In this endeavour, I seek the understanding, cooperation and support of all the Members.

I am beholden to all the felicitations showered on me in the House today.

I thank you all most heartily.

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may call out the names of the Members who have not yet taken the Oath or made the Affirmation.

12.46 hrs.

MEMBERS SWORN- *contd.*

Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy (Kanakpura)

[English]

12.47 hrs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the august House, the members of the Council of Ministers:

Shri L.K. Advani	Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Ananth Kumar	Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
Shri T.R. Baalu	Minister of Environment and Forests
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	Minister of Railways
Shri George Fernandes	Minister of Defence
Shri Jag Mohan	Minister of Urban Development
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya	Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
Shri Ram Jethmalani	Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs
Shri Manohar Joshi	Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi	Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Science and Technology
Shri P.R. Kumaramanglam	Minister of Power
Shri Pramod Mahajan	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Water Resources
Shri Murasoli Maran	Minister of Commerce and Industry
Shri Ram Naik	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shri Nitish Kumar	Minister of Surface Transport
Shri Jual Oraon	Minister of Tribal Affairs
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	Minister of Communications
Shri Naveen Patnaik	Minister of Mines and Mineral
Shri Sunder Lal Patwa	Minister of Rural Development

Shri Suresh Prabhu	Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers
Shri Kashiram Rana	Minister of Textiles
Shri Shanta Kumar	Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
Shri Jaswant Singh	Minister of External Affairs
Shri Yashwant Sinha	Minister of Finance
Shri Sharad Yadav	Minister of Civil Aviation

#### Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Arun Jaitley	Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Shri M. Kannappan	Minister of State of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
Shri Dilip Ray	Minister of State of the Ministry of Steel
	In addition, he will assist the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.
Shrimati Vasudhara Raje	Minister of State of the Ministry of Small-scale Industries and Agro-and Rural Industries; and
	Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space
Shri N.T. Shanmugam	Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Kumari Uma Bharati	Minister of State of the Ministry of Tourism

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 25th October, 1999 half-an-hour after the President's Address.

12.52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till half-an-hour after the Address by the President on Monday, October 25, 1999/Kartika 3, 1921 (Saka)*