

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session

(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



3 June 2009

Gazettes & Debates Section
Parliamentary Library & Bldg
Rajbh. No. 50 025
Block 'C'

Acc. No. 26
Dated 4 March 2011

(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 7)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

R.K. Chadha
Joint Secretary

Harnam Dass Takker
Director

Vandna Trivedi
Additional Director

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director

Nalin Kumar
Assistant Editor

©2009 Lok Sabha Secretariat

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished, downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

Original English proceedings included in English Version will be treated as authoritative and not the English translation of the speeches made in Hindi and other languages included in it. For complete authoritative version please see Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.

CONTENTS

Fifteenth Series, Vol. I, First Session, 2009/1931 (Saka)
No. 3, Wednesday, June 3, 2009/Jyaishta 13, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MEMBERS SWORN	1-2
ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER	1-6
FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER	6-36
Dr. Manmohan Singh	6
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	7
Shri L.K. Advani	8
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	9
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	11
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	12
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi	12
Shri T.R. Baalu	14
Shri Chandrakant Khaire	15
Shri M. Thambidurai	16
Shri Sharad Pawar	17
Shri Sharad Yadav	18
Shri Nama Nageswara Rao	20
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	20
Shri Lalu Prasad	21
Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala	24
Shri E. Ahamed	24
Shri S.D. Shariq	25
Shri H.D. Devegowda	26
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	27
Shri Inder Singh Namdhari	28

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Dr. Bali Ram.....	29
Madam Speaker	30
INTRODUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE.....	36
INTRODUCTION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	36
INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS	37-44

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER*

Shrimati Meira Kumar

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Shri Karia Munda

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN***

Shri Basu Deb Acharia

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Biren Singh Engti

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

* Elected on 03-06-2009.

** Elected on 08-06-2009.

*** Nominated on 29-05-2009.

The following two separate orders were issued by the President of India on 29-05-2009 :

1. Whereas the office of the Speaker will become vacant immediately before the commencement of the first sitting of the House of the People on June 1, 2009 and the office of the Deputy Speaker is also vacant.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Clause (1) of Article 95 of the Constitution of India, I hereby appoint **Shri Manikrao Hodiya Gavit**, a Member of the House of the People to perform the duties of the office of the Speaker from the commencement of the sitting of the House of the People on June 1, 2009 till the election of the Speaker by the said House.

Pratibha Devisingh Patil
PRESIDENT OF INDIA

2. I hereby appoint **Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Shri Biren Singh Engti and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan** to be the persons before any of whom Members of the House of the People may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation in accordance with the provisions of Article 99 of the Constitution of India.

Pratibha Devisingh Patil
PRESIDENT OF INDIA

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Secretary General, please call the names of those Members who have not taken oath or affirmation.

Wednesday, June 3, 2009/Jyaistha 13, 1931 (Saka)

(Interruptions)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Shri Baliram Kashyap.

MR. SPEAKER: The health of Shri Baliram Kashyap is not good so he is taking oath from his seat.

[MR. SPEAKER PRO-TEM (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)
in the Chair]

11.01 hrs.

MEMBERS SWORN—Contd.

CHHATTISGARH

[English]

Shri Baliram Kashyap (Bastar)

Oath

Hindi

HARYANA

Shri Naveen Jindal (Kurukshetra)

Oath

Hindi

MAHARASHTRA

Shri Bhaskarrao Bapurao
Khatgaonkar Patil (Nanded)

Oath

Hindi

Shri Raju Shetti (Hatkanangle)

Oath

Marathi

ORISSA

Shri Mohan Jena (Jajpur)

Oath

Oriya

TAMIL NADU

Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid (Theni)

Affirmation

Tamil

WEST BENGAL

Shri Jaswant Singh (Darjeeling)

Oath

Hindi

11.08 hrs.

Sonia Gandhi to move the motion.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Raebareli): Sir, I beg to move: "That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of the House."

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I take up the motion for the election of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. I call Shrimati

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will second the motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I second the motion moved by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House".

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

DR. RATNA DE (Hooghly): Sir, I second the motion moved by Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.K.S. Vijayan—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): I second the motion.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalgani): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): I second the motion.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh—not present.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRIMATI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): I second the motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (Anantnag): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (Ponnani): Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (Chidambaram): Sir, I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Sundar Das—Not present.

[Translation]

The motion moved by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and seconded by Shri Pranab Mukherjee is before the House for consideration. I move this motion for voting in the House.

[English]

The question is:

"That Shrimati Meira Kumar, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted unanimously.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The Motion has been adopted and Shrimati Meira Kumar is elected as Speaker of this House. I have great pleasure in inviting her to occupy the chair.

(Shrimati Meira Kumar was conducted to the Chair by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani)

11.16 hrs.

(MADAM SPEAKER (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR) *in the Chair*)

11.16¼ hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam Speaker, it is my proud privilege to greet you respectfully on behalf of the Government, and on behalf of our people to the august office of the Speaker to which you have been unanimously elected.

Madam, this, in many ways, is a historic occasion. For the first time a woman Member of this august House has been elected as Speaker and that too a woman belonging to the Dalit community. In electing you to this august office, Madam, we, the Members of Parliament, pay a tribute to the womanhood of our country for the great services, the great contribution that they have made to our nation's life in more than one way.

Madam, on an occasion like this, my mind goes back to the days when your illustrious father Babu Jagjivan Ram was a senior Minister in the Government of India. I had several occasions to interact with him and his wisdom, knowledge and experience were great assets of the Government. You are the embodiment of the same quality of head and heart as late Babuji.

You have a distinguished record of service to our country in more than one way. You have been a distinguished diplomat. You have been a parliamentarian of 25 years or more standing. You have been a Minister in the Government of India and I am sure, this knowledge, wisdom and experience will stand you in good stead in dealing with issues that come before this august House.

Madam, in addition, the charm, the grace and the tact of which you are the embodiment, I am sure, will stand you in good stead in soothing frayed tempers which sometimes happen in this House.

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

With these words, I congratulate you on your unanimous election as the Speaker. On behalf of our Government, I assure you of our fullest cooperation in discharging your onerous duties.

I once again salute you and congratulate you for your unanimous election to this august House.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, as Leader of the House, and on behalf of the House and I extend my congratulations on your unanimous election. I join the Prime Minister when he points out your experience as a diplomat, as a political organiser, and as an administrator in the Government. Your long-standing in Parliament, particularly your association with this House will help you to render your responsibilities which have been bestowed on you. I know, Madam Speaker, it is not a very easy task and hence collectively we can help you to discharge the functions of this House smoothly and properly. Again, if not collectively, handful of us can cause problem to you. That would be our efforts. As the Prime Minister has assured you, on behalf of the Government, on behalf of my party, I can tell you and perhaps I would like to have the indulgence of the House that in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, we will try to create a new precedent not of obstructions but of debates and discussions. Of course, in democracy there will be divergence of views, but every point should be discussed, debated from every angle. From that point of view, we can make great contributions to this institution. This is the real temple of democracy.

Very recently, we had the greatest festival of democracy. For more than 700 million people exercised their voting rights to choose their 543 elected representatives. We are assembled here on this solemn occasion. I would like to congratulate you. Though I did not have long association with your illustrious father but in the early seventies, as a junior Minister, I had the privilege of working with him. I have no doubt that the inheritance which you have and the personal acumen which you have acquired over the years will help you in discharging these responsibilities and particularly in

the line of great persons who adorned this Chair, starting from Shri Vithalbhai Patel, but surely from Shri G.V. Mavalankar to your immediate predecessor Shri Somnath Chatterjee. They have established unique record of impartiality, judiciousness and taking correct decisions at the correct time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam Speaker, the first important task of 15th Lok Sabha has just now been accomplished. I accept that when the Cabinet was constituted on 22 May, then it did not seem that today such an occasion will come because at that time you were among the 19 members of the Cabinet who were assigned the responsibility of the governance. Probably this is the reason that the people of your constituency were surprised with this development, as I have seen in the news today or yesterday. They had expected you as the Minister and they thought that you would serve their area in that capacity, however, you are taking up the other responsibility. I feel that that you may serve your area in a better way in this new capacity as a Speaker than as a Minister. So, if the voters of your constituency, the people of that area are disappointed then it is because they could not understand the importance of this dignified responsibility, otherwise if any person occupying this Chair sends a letter to any Government functionary or administrative officer regarding his or her constituency then I am sure that that work will certainly be done.

Today on this occasion I would like to remember your respected father with whom I had the opportunity to work in the same Cabinet. At that time we were in the Cabinet under the Prime Ministership of Morarji Bhai Desai. We all were very much impressed by his administrative capacity, he had unique administrative competence.

The experience that the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Leader of the House have mentioned is correct. I am confident that you will fulfill your responsibility with this experience and the qualities you have inherited from your respected father.

All the Speakers since the time of Vithal Bhai Patel have established high traditions. It is correctly stated that Vithal Bhai was the Speaker of the other House. I, too, had the opportunity to serve in the 'Bhawan' which is today known as the Delhi legislative Assembly Building, first as a Member of Metropolitan Council and then as the Chairman.

Today, I welcome you for your election to occupy this Chair and extend my good wishes and hope that 15th Lok Sabha will function smoothly under your guidance and you will be able to discharge your responsibility quite efficiently. The present House will be free from all the inadequacies of the past.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, when we are informed that your name was being considered for the post of Speaker in the Lok Sabha, my immediate reaction was that the Bill, which was pending for more than a decade, to give 33 per cent representation in the Legislature would see the light of the day.

Madam, you have long experience as a diplomat, as a parliamentarian for more than two decades and also in the administration. Madam, your prolonged struggle for social justice and demands for the downtrodden people will definitely help you in discharging your responsibility of maintaining decorum and dignity of the House.

Madam, Lok Sabha is for debate and discussion. If there is no debate and discussion, then what for this House is?

What we have seen, Sir, in the past...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Please address her as 'Madam'...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: ...as to how the debate was being curtailed and we had seen the eagerness of the Government to pass, rush through the Bills even without discussion.

I sincerely hope that to protect the interests of the

Members of all sections of this House, you will definitely guide us and you will act as a friend, philosopher and guide.

We have seen in the past, Sir, as to how the proceedings of this House were being disturbed ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there was a unanimous Resolution.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Please address her as 'Madam'...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There was a unanimous Resolution in the Leaders' Meeting of all the political parties that there should be a minimum of 100 days' sittings in a year. I think, everyone would support for 100 days sittings in a year.

Madam, I sincerely hope...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Very good.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, today will be remembered in the future. Today is the historic day that for the first time, a woman is being elevated to the post of the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Madam, I sincerely hope that all the Members—because the majority of the Members in this House in the 15th Lok Sabha as was in the 14th Lok Sabha is of the new Members—would get an opportunity to ventilate their grievances. They represent the people, and the majority of the people today are facing a number of problems. We have poverty, illiteracy and so many other problems. Members want to ventilate the grievances of the people of our country whom they represent.

Therefore, Madam, I sincerely hope that under your leadership, the voices of the people of our country would be heard through their representatives.

Madam, you have been unanimously elected as the Speaker. It should not be misunderstood that we have not filed the nomination. We have not been properly approached by the Government. But we extend our full cooperation.

On my own behalf, on behalf of my party and on behalf of the entire Left Groups, we extend our full

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

cooperation. We will cooperate to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House in your endeavour to improve the standard of debate in this House.

With these words, Madam Speaker, I again congratulate you for your elevation to the post of the Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Hon'ble Speaker, Madam, I extend my congratulation and best wishes to you. I would like to request you to be more considerate towards opposition because whichever party is in the Government, it tries to suppress the voice of the opposition to avoid criticism. We, the members of opposition point out the deficiencies on the part of the Government through the questions of public interest and national interest. So, I would especially request you to give more protection to the opposition. It was a commendable step of the Government to elect you as the Speaker and for this I would like to extend my thanks to the entire House, hon'ble Prime Minister, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of UPA and all the leaders sitting here that for the first-time a woman has been elected to the post of Speaker of Lok Sabha. It is a historical moment.

Many hon'ble Members of the House have said many things about your family and your father. I had the opportunity to work with your father. Once it so happened that Chaudhary Charan Singhji and Babu Jagjivan Ramji were on the same platform, Sharad Yadavji might remember that they had addressed several public meetings from the same platform. I was also present in those two meetings. The socialists of Uttar Pradesh were in Lok Dal and he was the President of the party. Your family have enjoyed traditional respect in this country and they have served the country. It is the biggest 'Panchayat' of this country. You are the Speaker of this House. You should give your guidance and suggestions so that you are able to raise the problems of the people of the country more effectively before you.

With these words I congratulate you and wish that in the democratic system when the proceedings of the House are in progress we may maintain the dignity of this highest office that you grace at present. You should also give such rulings that the entire House may give regards and respect to the high office you hold.

With these words, I once again congratulate you and wish you all success.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam Speaker, we are really happy today that this House elected unanimously not only a woman Speaker but we are proud of you as we know the contributions of your family, Jagjivanramji, and all the other family members also. Madam, today we feel that it is the beauty of our democracy that all the people—except one or two, who too have supported after that—fully supported your election unanimously. We are really proud of that.

I want to quote one couplet here:

"Muddai lakh bura chahe to kya hota hai,
Wahi hota hai, jo manjure khuda hota hai."

Today it is the joint contribution of the Dalit and the minorities. If they are together, I think India is together. We are proud of that. Madam, on the Bill of giving 33 per cent reservation to women, though Soniaji was willing to introduce the Bill when Atalji was there at that time also the Bill was introduced, the problem is that Bill is not passed and not even discussed. But, today we are happy to say that it is not 33 per cent reservation, but the Parliament gave you hundred per cent reservation. We are proud to say that.

Thank you very much. On behalf of our All India Trinamool Congress we will give you full cooperation, full solidarity to take care of our *Maa, Maati aur Maanush*.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam Speaker, I join the House in sharing my heartfelt sentiment in welcoming you to the august office of hon.

Speaker, Lok Sabha and take the opportunity to assure you on behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, our wholehearted support and cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House and its Committees smoothly and orderly as per the well-established procedure, practice and convention and parliamentary traditions.

Madam Speaker, being the illustrious daughter of an illustrious and distinguished parliamentarian, late Jagjivan Ramji, history will always remember you as the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha. You share this distinction, among others, with no less than Ms. Betty Boothroyd, the first and till now the only woman Speaker of UK's House of Commons. Your election to the exalted office will facilitate the inclusive voice of the nation and of the House, particularly those belonging to the vulnerable and marginalised stratum of the society and the polity.

Madam Speaker, you bring with you the legacy and rich varied experiences as a successful diplomat, having qualified for distinguished Indian Foreign Service. As a people's representative, having been elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth time, you have espoused and articulated the hopes and aspirations of the people. As a Member of the important parliamentary Committees, you have also contributed significantly. As a Union Minister, I, in particular, would like to make mention of your significant contribution in piloting a very important piece of legislation, that is, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill in 2007. The Act is just one illustration of your social concern and commitment.

Your vast experience as a successful diplomat can also be put into great use in giving new direction to what is called parliamentary diplomacy in promoting Parliament to Parliament contacts and availing the important fora like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, CPA and Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU. I understand that India is going to host the Commonwealth-Speakers'/Presiding Officers' Conference some time next year and we look forward to your valuable contribution in hosting this Conference.

I endorse the prevailing mood and sense of the

House in reposing our faith and confidence that you will carry forward the traditions of objectivity, neutrality and impartiality of the Office of Speaker to greater heights and uphold the esteem and stature of the august institution.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam Speaker, on behalf of DMK, I join to congratulate you on elevation to the post of Speaker of this House. I am extremely privileged to express on record my happiness and to say that my partymen, inside and outside, and especially my leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the octogenarian leader of Indian polity, who is coincidentally celebrating his 86th birthday today, are really happy. Yesterday, he has given a statement in appreciation of your goodself. He had got a long association with your esteemed father, Babu Jagjivan Ram. Next to Periyar E.V.R., the great thinker and social reformist and Dr. Arignar Anna, your father was the source of inspiration for many things that have happened in Tamil Nadu.

Today is the most important day, if I may say so. The President of India is a woman. The esteemed leader of the Ruling Party, Madam Sonia Gandhi is also a woman. Now you are occupying the exalted position of the temple of democracy, the Indian Parliament, which will send a right signal and proper message to *dalits* of India and especially the women folk of India. Madam Speaker, this is a congenial atmosphere so that 33 per cent reservation can be given to our women folk in Indian Parliament as well as the State Legislatures. Let us dedicate ourselves to it and at least in this Parliament, let us enact it and see that women folk's demand is met without any further delay.

Madam Speaker, I am reminded of a saying by the great Poet Subramania Bharathi. He said in one of his poems:

"Pattangal aalvadum sattangal seivadam,
Paarinil inge nadatha vandhom,
Ettum arivinil aanukku pen,
Illaippillai kaan endru kummiyadi."

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

It means, "We, women, have come here to rule and make law. We reach the farthest horizon of knowledge and equal men." This is what the great Poet had to say. I think it has become a reality today by your occupying that exalted position of the Office of Speaker.

With these words, I congratulate you and would like to say that we would definitely cooperate with you in every respect.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome you on behalf of Shiv Sena. I also give best wishes on behalf of Shiv Sena Supremo hon'ble Bala Saheb Thakareji and hon'ble Uddhav Thakareji. The President of our country is also a woman. It is a widely accepted example of women power, as a result of which a lady has been elected to the post of the Speaker. You also have a glorious tradition because you are the daughter of well known and famous leader Babu Jagjivan Ramji who contributed immensely for the country. You have also inherited his experience and it is on account of this that you are in the Lok Sabha for the fifth time. Last time too you were a Minister and served poor people immensely through your department. Since you are present here as a maternal power so, through you, we will be able to raise the role of Hindutva and hope that you will permit us to do so. I would also like to say though we are in opposition but we will be treated at par with treasury benches. Just now it has been discussed that on account of your election to this office, the reservation for women will further increase. I would like to submit that even without reservation the percentage of women in this Lok Sabha is 10 per cent. The stand of Shiv Sena is that we will not oppose women reservation, however, we want that it should be party based. Once it was also suggested by the Election Commission so we will follow it. The Election Commission had suggested for party based reservation and our party will also support that move. After your accession to this office several people may certainly be

hopeful that women reservation bill will be introduced in the House. I would like to submit that your stand on the women reservation bill will be the same whenever it is moved. However, I welcome you as a symbol of maternal power. I promise that you will always get cooperation from our party, the Shiv Sena.

[English]

SHRI M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam Speaker, the AIADMK Party that I represent deems it a pride and privilege to congratulate you on this historic occasion of your elevation as the Speaker of this august House, the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

From the core of my heart, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations and felicitations to you. This is the first time, since Independence, that we have a woman Speaker in this House and we welcome it.

Our Party's General Secretary hon. *Amma* is also in favour of giving 33 per cent reservation of seats in the Legislatures for women.

Madam, you will recollect that when I was the Law Minister in 1998-99, I had piloted and introduced the Women's Reservation Bill, but on the first occasion, I faced a lot of problems in the House. It was only during the second time that I could successfully introduce the Bill. The Bill has been introduced but it has not yet been passed. I hope, during your period, this Bill will be passed.

Madam, we have a friend, philosopher and guide in you. The Members of my party will be with you in your endeavour to improve the quality of debate, discussion and the content of legislative outcome of our proceedings. I am sure that our deliberations will be characterized by reason, compassion and a deep commitment.

Madam, today you have joined the line of illustrious predecessors starting from Shri Vithalbhai Patel to Shri Mavalankar and many others who have not only raised the status of this Office but also upheld the dignity, prestige and honour of this democratic Republic. You have seen the Parliamentary functioning from close

quarters since 1985; I would like to proudly say that both of us got elected to the Eighth Lok Sabha, for the first time. In the last Lok Sabha, your work as the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment was very much appreciated by one and all. I am sure, you, being an advocate and a civil servant, would do justice to all sections of the House without any bias and prejudice.

On this occasion, I would request you to be little bit considerate towards the Opposition Parties. It is always said that the Ruling Party has its way and the Opposition has its say. So, I feel that the Opposition should be shown consideration by way of giving more time and opportunities to raise issues concerning the common man.

On behalf of respected Puratchi Thalaivi, hon. Amma, the General Secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and on my own behalf, I express our felicitations and unstinted support to you, Madam, as you embark upon a new chapter in your distinguished political career as Hon. Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

Madam, I also assure you of our fullest cooperation in maintaining the dignity and decorum of this House. With great pleasure and pride, I would like to once again compliment you, Madam, on your taking over as the hon. Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Madam, I am really happy to congratulate you because you are occupying the highest position of the parliamentary democracy in this country.

You might be the only Member in this House who got the opportunity to associate with eminent leaders, right from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, till the present Prime Minister. You have the legacy of Babu Jagjivan Ram, the great son of the soil, the great freedom fighter.

In fact, I recollect my young days when I was working in the State, in the Agriculture Ministry, Babuji was looking after the Agriculture Portfolio at the national level. Let me admit that I have not seen such an able

administrator. His administrative capacity brought Green Revolution in this country. I have got opportunities to hear his speeches; he was one of the best orators in Hindi and English; I have seen that in Babuji. So, you have the legacy of the great man. We have seen, in the last 4-5 terms of your tenure in the Parliament that you tried to continue that legacy.

We have worked together, Madam Speaker; on a number of occasions, we have seen how you were sincere to the cause of the weaker section of the society. I recollect when both of us visited Orissa and when we spent a day in the affected area of Kandamal, and particularly when we visited the camp where those affected people were staying—I had seen when you were discussing with the children and particularly with women about their problems; I have seen when you were hearing them. I also recollect, the same day, when we returned from Bhubaneswar, and when we were discussing with the officials of the Orissa Government, I have seen woman's heart the firmness of the woman, which you have shown in that particular meeting.

I would like to commit one thing that there will be the fullest cooperation from me and all my colleagues. I am sure the country and the Indian Parliament will remember your contributions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam, I would like to extend my congratulation to you for your unanimous election to this post. On this occasion I would like to submit that there is no better place in the country than this House. In 14th Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Da was the Speaker. There is no such example in the judicial system of the world, where the representatives elected by 15-16 lakh people were expelled from this House within 13 days for their misconduct. When I was elected to this House, for the first time, it had members like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Late Shri Madhu Limayji, Late Shri Pilu Modi, Shri Shyam Nandan Mishra and Shri Jyotirmaya Basu. I have seen lively discussions of the array of Members of unparalleled eminence. As the time is passing, I do not say completely, but its

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

standard is declining. The discussion should always be of quality though Kabir has sung 'Nirgun' as well as Sagun Bhajans.

I would also like to remember Babuji in this House. When he participated in the discussion, the House functioned as smoothly as his language and his experience about the ground reality floated like resin. I would like to submit that we have agreed for a meaningful discussion and not for meaningless discussion. If there is meaningful discussion then the House is relevant and if there is meaningless discussion then there will be problem. As my colleague, Mulayam Singhji has said that some Members have mentioned about something which is controversial. I would not like to say anything about that because it is the first day of the House. I could speak many things, but, that would be against the decorum. Those who have spoken have breached the decorum and when the decorum is breached then action should certainly be taken to protect it.

The majority among the helpless people of the world are those who do maximum labour. As the time passes, after independence, their life becomes more difficult. I feel that here we will have meaningful discussion. However, I would like to submit that I know you for a long time when you were not even in this field, even then we were together in all happy and sad moments. I would like to remember late Babuji. I expect and am confident that whatever discussion is held here should be lively and must be balanced and relevant to the people of the country and if there is any sort of imbalance then it will be difficult to maintain peace and run the House with a unanimous approach. I feel that meaningful discussion should be held in the House in the interest of the people of the country.

As such, without going into details, I welcome you and extend my heartiest congratulation. However, I congratulate you for a meaningful discussion. You should adopt the way of meaningful discussion in the House. With these words I extend my thanks to you.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Madam, I, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, congratulate you on your unanimous election as the Speaker of this House.

[Translation]

50 per cent of the country's population are women and it is worthy of appreciation if a Dalit woman is elected to this post.

Madam Speaker, our party Chief and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu got elected as a dalit to the office of the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly in 1998. It was for the first time that a person from Dalit Community was elected to the office of Speaker in Andhra Pradesh Assembly. Similarly a Dalit woman has been elected as Speaker here. You have experience in administration, you have experience of the political administration as well by virtue of being the daughter of Late Babu Jagjiwan Ram. As such we have high expectations from you that our aspirations of Nav-Bharat Nirman would be fulfilled. I and several other members have been elected to this House for the first time. I hope that you will provide full opportunity to the youth and women Members in the House.

Madam Speaker, we also hope that you will provide more time to the Opposition for giving constructive suggestions and views.

Madam Speaker on, behalf of my colleagues of Telugu Desam Party, I conclude my speech while extending support to constructive suggestions.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, it is really a great moment for Indian Parliament and for Indian democracy. It is really great—I mean it—to elect you as the Speaker of the temple of Indian democracy. I have no hesitation in congratulating the Government for taking this laudable move. I congratulate the Government for taking this laudable move. After you

have elected a woman as the President of India, the same trend is sought to be continued. We have elected today a woman as the Speaker of Lok Sabha. It opens a new chapter in all sense of the term. It opens a new chapter in the history of Indian parliamentary system. It is really a truthful recognition of the role that the Indian womanhood is playing in the social life of India.

Under your leadership Madam, I believe that the House will reach a new height. I sincerely believe that there will be less hold-up, there will be less disruption and there will be more discussion.

There will be more fruitful representation of the national problems that is becoming baffling to this country. I believe, in a pluralistic democratic system, the right to dissent has to be protected and respected. I believe, under your leadership, Madam, the right of criticism, the right of presenting the individual views, the right to express opposition to the policies which I or we consider to be negative, will be respected and protected, creating a new legacy in conformity with the great tradition of the country. I believe there will be longer Session of the Indian Parliament and the Parliamentary system should not be short-skirted as have been done in the recent past. I believe, the Government by taking the move in electing you as the Speaker, has created a new chapter and in the similar way, the Government shall respond to the longstanding demand for a longer Session, namely, 100 days Session, so that there will be useful discussion and the Parliament, in real sense of the term, will be an important instrument in shaping the policy that the nation needs to adopt.

Madam, I congratulate you and I offer you our full cooperation in leading this great House to fruitful discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam Speaker, I congratulate you and extend my best wishes to you for being unanimously elected as Speaker. At the same time I would also like to suggest to the leaders of various parties that we are making a commitment to extend our full cooperation to you but I doubt that it would be maintained. Late Babu Jagjiwan Ramji after

leaving the Congress floated his own party—Congress for Democracy. I joined politics in 1977. Babu Jagjiwan Ramji addressed the people of Bihar in Gandhi Maidan and in his speech he said during the chusing of independence, the Dalits, poor, backward classes and minorities did not even get peripheral benefits while most benefits were cornered by only a few. It is good that the idea of social justice which we talk is being implemented in the highest offices and such things are taking place in the country which one could not have even imagined. All kind of speculations were being made as to who would be elected to the office of Speaker, and the President. The allegations of spreading casteism which were levelled against Mulayam Singh Yadav and all of us is not casteism. However, simply by occupying high offices some persons will not change the fortunes of the deprived, poor people, dalits and backward people. This issue will be discussed later. Today you are on the seat of judgement. It is said and accepted in principle, that the Speaker does not belong to any party. Your senior and our erstwhile Speaker, Shri Somnathji is a living example before us. There is a need to provide justice to the people in the true sense and to the backward states like Bihar, Orissa which have remained neglected even after 60 years of independence. They should get the status of special states. It is being demanded by the Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitishji and the same demand was made by us when Bihar was divided and Advaniji was in the Government.

It was stated that they would not let Bihar suffer, and a special package would be given to the State. We put a proposal for a package of Rs. one lakh 87 thousand crore before the N.D.A. Government but not even a penny was given. We in Bihar are together on this issue and we empathise with other States as well. Since, this is the largest Panchayat of the country so these questions would be raised here and I hope that you will allow the sweetness of your voice to blend with our voices and give us an opportunity to speak to all the parties, irrespective of the mandate they received in the elections in 1984 in which BJP had won only two seats. Be it the ruling party or the opposition, they are requested to get the recommendations of the

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Rangnath Mishra Commission implemented. Reservation to Muslims in jobs should be implemented as per this report. We shall extend our full cooperation to you in this regard.

Advaniji had referred to the people of Bihar and your constituency. People look up to you and expect that you would take care of Sasaram, Bihar and the entire country. You have been elected to this office and I do not think there would be any room for disappointment for anyone from you but you will have to show the courage. The smaller parties will not be told to restrict their speeches to five minutes. If this happens I will not challenge your decision but there would be problems in the House.

It is the day for celebrations. I rightly said that after your farewell from the ruling party you have become our guardian. You will do justice to this Chair. I know you personally as well. We have the example of Somnathji before us, the leftist got very angry with him on the issue of nuclear deal, but he never succumbed to their pressure and did justice in this case Basudeb Achariaji is sitting here. You will also face similar situations in the coming days, as faced by Somnathji ...*(Interruptions)* Sharadji, we will meet later. You started speaking as soon as you heard Mulayam Singhji. ...*(Interruptions)*

We expect you to do justice...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: These comments will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**...

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, we expect that we will get more and more opportunity to speak and constructive suggestions would be solicited and everyone would be heard. Once again we express our gratitude to you. We have unanimously elected you to this office. We again congratulate you and extend our welcome.

*Not recorded.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Hon. Speaker Madam, I congratulate you on behalf of myself and my party Shiromani Akali Dal on this occasion. Your success augurs well for Indian democracy. You are the daughter of a great leader who had served the people of this country. People who had been oppressed for centuries, have now risen to esteemed positions. We hope that you will provide equal opportunity and justice to all sections of this august House so that we are able to raise matters pertaining to the common man here.

For centuries, women have been fighting to get equal status in society. Better late than never. I am happy that a woman has graced the esteemed chair of the Speaker 62 years after independence. I felicitate you on this occasion. Madam, Sikh religion firmly believes in providing equal status to women in society. We all must come together to uproot the various evils that still plague our society.

On behalf of myself and my party Shiromani Akali Dal, I once again congratulate you on this occasion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on my own behalf and on behalf of my party Muslim League on being unanimously elected to the post of the Speaker of this august House. Your election has created a history in so far as this Parliament is concerned. On this historic occasion, I would also like to congratulate Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance who has shown the courage and unconventional wisdom in selecting you as a candidate for the post of Speaker.

Madam, I would only like to remind you of a saying in English. It says: "The hand that rocks the cradle will rule the world". I hope you will have the hand to rock this Parliament hereafter as you have assumed the office of the Speaker.

Madam, so far we have had the Father of the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

House. This is the first time we are going to have the Mother of the House. I would also like to say that you are very much younger in age than many of our elder Members sitting here. But you are the Mother of this House now.

Madam, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the role played by your illustrious father in addressing the problems and issues faced by the Dalits, Backward Classes and Minorities. I am sure you will always keep the grievances of these sections of the people in mind while discharging your duties.

Madam, it is a historic moment and I am very happy to be a part of this historic moment. This is a rich contribution to the Constitution of India and also to the founding fathers of the Constitution.

With these words, once again, I express my felicitation and also offer fullest cooperation on behalf of my party.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Madam Speaker, I believe that today India is creating new history. While electing a woman to this highest office, all mothers, sisters and daughters of India are being honoured. I, therefore, extend my congratulations wholeheartedly to this House and all the hon'ble Members sitting here. This is a new beginning in the history of our country where a section of the society who had been treated as a slave often and had suffered under the control of male dominating societies for centuries, they are awakening with the country and in this way we are going to create a new history today.

On this occasion, I extend my congratulation to the whole House and the country from the core of my heart. Madam Soniaji and the ruling parties alongwith the able Members of the opposition have set a glorious example for us by taking a unanimous decision in this regard and have paved the way for the progress and welfare of the country while creating a new history and I hope that the real issues being faced by this country as well as the poor, the downtrodden, the minorities and the

backward classes, who live in remote areas will be addressed fully. Since you have the same blood which feels the pain of the poor, downtrodden and underprivileged, therefore this House without indulging in unfruitful debate will engage itself in discussion on the issues which the poor of the country are looking forward to and hoping for a new beginning.

With these words, I congratulate the whole House, the entire country and all the hon'ble leaders sitting here and I also offer heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and my party National Conference. I hope this country and this House will get able guidance from you and all of us shall move in the right direction.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Respected Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with all other earlier speakers to extend my heartiest congratulations for your elevation to the highest office as Speaker. Madam, I am sure, the Ruling Party has taken the decision to elect you as a Speaker, which will go a long way in the history of this august House.

I witnessed the Fourteenth Lok Sabha on the day when we all associated ourselves to congratulate the previous Speaker, a very learned person, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. On that day I expressed my doubt whether both the right and the left Parties, which are sitting on this side and that side of the Chair, were going to extend the cooperation and that if they did so then the decorum and decency of the House can be maintained. Those were my words that I expressed on that day. Subsequently, in the last five years, I have personally witnessed what has all happened.

Today, with your elevation to the highest office, I must congratulate the Ruling Party first that they have taken a wise decision to elect you as a Speaker as you have a very rich experience. I do not want to quote the legacy of your father. I also associated for some-time during the shortest span of two-and-a-half years. But you yourself have got rich experience as a democrat, as a Parliamentarian, and as one of the

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

senior-most leaders. By working in various fields, in various walks of life, you have gained this experience. I hope and trust, all sections of the people in this Fifteenth Lok Sabha will try to restore the decency, the decorum with a healthy debate, with a healthy atmosphere so that what we have lost in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha may be restored and the honour of this House will be protected.

With these words, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations on behalf of me and my party.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Madam, I extend my congratulations to you on behalf of my party and myself. It is really a historical day for Indian democracy when a lady has been elected to the office of the Speaker, where as your election is worth appreciating at the same time, it gives a message and proof that if the political parties so desire, opportunities could be given to those whose proportionate representation in this House and on the offices like this have been less. Without going into details, I would like to request that it is upto the political parties to decide as to how they could increase the representation the sections like dalits or Muslims in the House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say that, of course, I belong to minority community, but millions of people have elected me to this House so that I can raise issues concerning them in the House. I hope that after your assuming the office of the Speaker, I will have more opportunity to raise the real issues of the common man. At the same time, I believe that while offering you the post of Speaker, not only the House but the country also is paying its true tribute to your father for his sacrifices, because it is the result of his struggle that today the country is appreciating his ideals and will continue the same in future as well.

Madam, I once again congratulate you and I assure you that we will give you our full cooperation to run this House. This is not only the Lok Sabha but also

the abode of decorum and decency. In the past, moral values were frequently sacrificed in this House. I hope these values will be restored while maintaining the parliamentary decorum. I welcome you and hope that you will give opportunity to the smaller parties also to express their views.

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Madam, I congratulate you on assuming this Chair. Looking at your background, I have full faith that you will run this House so efficiently that history will remember you.

Madam, this is for the first time when I have been elected to this House as an independent candidate from the State like Jharkhand which is facing the problem of extremism. I am aware that the whole country always looks towards this House. I have been the Speaker of Jharkhand Assembly. I have been an MLA for six times there. As I have been a Speaker, I know that the whole country including the State Assemblies keenly watch proceedings of Parliament.

Madam, I remember the day of 25th November, 2001 when late Shri Krishna Kant presided over a conference in this very Parliament House in which all the Chief Ministers, Leads of Opposition, Chief Whips and others including hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee were present and in the wake of two days' long discussion a resolution was passed unanimously as to what kind of code of conduct is needed to run the House smoothly. But I regret to say that no sooner had we reached our states after attending the conference and passing this resolution, than the hon'ble Members came into the well of the House the very next day and created such an uproar that the resolution passed in the conference proved futile. So, all the Assemblies in the country look at Parliament for guidance. But if the norms and discipline are flouted in the Parliament itself, then, situation in Assemblies can only be imagined. If such scenes and situation are seen in the Parliament itself, what will happen in Assemblies. So, today, it is the need of hour to maintain the dignity of this highest public representative body of the country. We should make all efforts for this and we urge you to exercise your own discretion to run the House smoothly. When one moves ahead with one's will power, then it is said that:—

Chahakne lagi jahan bhi bulbul hua wahi par jamal paida,
Kami nahin hai kadradaan ki Akbar kare to koi kamal paida.

The newspapers have called you a nightingale and that is why I recite this couplet for you:

Chahakne lagi jahan bhi bulbul hua wahin par jamal paida,
Kami nahin hai kadradaan ki Akbar kare to koi kamal paida.

(Chirping of nightingale creates beauty in the surrounding, there is no dearth of admirers if Akbar is capable of creating magic.)

I have full faith that your sweet voice will prove to be a new therapy for this ailment. We have tested male Speaker many a time. Somnath Dada was a very strict Speaker, even then he could not often maintain discipline successfully. So, therapy has been changed. For this, I congratulate the ruling party for this new experiment and I have full faith that this arrangement will work and the dignity of the House will be restored once again and India will further prosper.

With these words I extend my congratulations to you.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Madam, Speaker, at the outset on behalf of my party Bahujan Samaj Party I congratulate you for being unanimously elected to the Office of Speaker. All the people of the weaker sections cross the country are celebrating the occasion and I also express my happiness. Besides, I also feel proud that today the daughter of a Dalit is occupying the highest Chair of this Parliament.

Madam Speaker, the people of the weaker sections have high expectations from you. A little while ago all the hon. Members had taken oath including our hon. Prime Minister to uphold the provisions of the Constitution and keep its spirit and integrity intact. Weaker sections particularly Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes have been guaranteed certain rights under the Constitution to strengthen them socially and economically. The people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given 22.5 per cent reservation in

government jobs and education. Similarly, the Backward Classes were also given 27.5 per cent reservation. Even after 60 years of independence the objective of reservation has not been fulfilled. That is why we have high expectations and we repose full faith in you.

When the thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted, Late Shri G.M.C. Balyogi was elected to occupy this Chair. At that time our party leader, Behan Mayawatiji extending her felicitations to the Speaker said that it was a moment of pride for her that a son of Dalit community was elected to the office of the Speaker and she made an appeal that reservation may be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The then Prime Minister and Hon. Speaker constituted a committee comprising members of Dalit as well as other communities. The convention was held for three days and the proposal was unanimously accepted that reservation should be included in the Ninth Schedule. The BJP Government completed its tenure, so, did the U.P.A. Government, however, nothing was known about the fate of the report. It was not even known whether or not the report was implemented. So, it is requested that by exercising your influence on the Government kindly ensure that the rights of the downtrodden enshrined in the Constitution are given to them and reservation be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. With these words, extending my heartiest wishes to you. I conclude my speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: I extend my apology to the hon. Members whose names appeared in the list but could not be accommodated due to paucity of time.

Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of Opposition, hon. U.P.A. chief, hon. leaders of political parties and hon. Members.

I express my heartiest gratitude for electing me unanimously to the office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. Whatever happened today was unprecedented. This House has created history and established a record in its long tenure of 57 years by electing for the first time a woman to the office of Speaker. I am overwhelmed by the sentiments expressed by leaders of various political parties in the House just now in regard to my

[Madam Speaker]

late father. I am touched by these beautiful verses and adulations expressed in regard to me and feel at loss of words to express my gratitude. I am honoured. I humbly acknowledge the regard given to me.

I extend my heartiest felicitations to all of you for being elected to the fifteenth Lok Sabha. The country has bestowed on this biggest representative institution the crucial responsibility of representing one of the ancient civilizations of the world and deciding the fate of more than a billion people of the biggest democracy of the world and you have assigned me this crucial responsibility of the Speaker of this great representative institution. I feel like riding the crest of glory yet modest with the deep faith reposed in me by you. After being elected as Speaker it would be my supreme duty to serve this House as per the rules and conventions of the Indian Constitution by rising above the various political principles and political lines. Actually it is service to the nation since this House is India's miniature.

Hon. Members, when I was a school student I witnessed from this visitor's gallery several times as to how the invincible priests of our freedom movement used to take decisions in the interest of people in this House, particularly in the interest of those who were exploited, deprived and marginalized. These were the leaders who had the zeal to sacrifice everything for the nation and who laid the foundation of high conventions of sincerity and discipline in this House. In the year 1985 when I got elected for the first time as a Member of this House, I used to sit on the backbench. It has a pleasure of its own. One can have the overall view of the House without being observed by anybody. At that time several learned persons, voracious Speakers used to adorn the House, whom I used to listen very attentively.

Hon. Members, I firmly resolve that I will not allow the glory of the House and the respect of the members to be diminished. I am conversant with the high ideals set by the eminent former Speaker from Shri Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar to Shri Somnath Chatterjee who complied with the great conventions of the House. They

added glory to the office of the Speaker which enhanced the dignity of one and all. I will continue my efforts to take new initiatives and evolve improved style of functioning making this valuable heritage more prosperous.

Lok Sabha is directly connected with the lifeline of the country. Mahatma Gandhi once averred that the real power lies in the hands of people, which is temporarily passed on to those who are elected as their representatives. The Members have no power, no existence if they get alienated from the people. We should have the right understanding of the expectations our voters have from us. They want us to express their concern and misgivings effectively in the House and make laws accordingly. So, we should raise their concerns, and hold debates and express disagreement as well wherever necessary, but politely and without interrupting the proceedings of the House. Certain groups in the House feel that it is necessary to interrupt the proceedings of the House to effectively express their dissent. No countryman would ever appreciate that the proceedings of the Parliament are brought to a deadlock for raising his concern in the House. Actually, Members have various simple methods to raise the matters of public interest and concerns in the House. If we adopt these methods effectively then we could make this House a useful forum for deliberation.

The people have given a clear mandate in favour of stability and good administration despite the speculations of a broken mandate and hung Lok Sabha. In the West Minister system being followed by us, the executive is a branch of Legislature and is always accountable to it. The efficiency of the Members is in their capability to put the Executive on alert without interrupting the functioning of either Legislature or Executive. The Parliamentary review of the functioning of the Government and errors and omissions is not possible in the event of these interruptions and as per the principles of democracy it should be avoided.

The people expect good governance from us. It should be our endeavour to come upto their expectations notwithstanding whether we belong to the treasury benches or the opposition. We should draw

inspiration from the founding father of Indian Parliamentary Democracy, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, according to whom democracy implied having tolerance and respect for those who agree or disagree with us. Constructive co-operation of all the hon. Members of the House is necessary for ensuring good governance in the second most populous country of the world. The people of the country have pinned great hopes in you and I believe that you will leave no stone unturned in your endeavour to uplift their lives.

It is perceived that a Member of Parliament represents his constituency, party and, of course, his conscience in the House, but what is significant is that owing to our taking oath in the name of Constitution, we represent the country as a whole which is an excellent example of the country's unity, integrity and sovereignty. You may face a situation during your tenure as a Member when these diverse roles will clash with each other. In such a situation, our commitment to the Constitution should be paramount over our other duties. Then alone can the House function smoothly. A mature Member of Parliament is one who can successfully come out of such a dilemma with the help of his common sense, knowledge and sharp mental faculties. I am sure that there is no dearth of such Parliamentarians amongst us.

Hon. Members, as you all are aware that this general election has been peculiar in the sense that the youth of the country were aware of the value of their votes and came out in droves to the polling booths to exercise their franchise. It should remain our priority to fulfill the hopes and expectations of the young India. Since youth are curious and impatient by nature, which they should be, there is a need to undertake this work as soon as possible. We shall have to bring home to them the fact that we are conscious and aware of their hopes and aspirations and would focus all our efforts to fulfill them. It gives me great pleasure to note that young Parliamentarians have registered their conspicuous presence amongst the 302 newly elected Members. We should boost their morale so that they could provide their able leadership to the country. We have among us several seasoned parliamentarians

having rich experience of parliamentary life and distinct political background. I would like to request them to pay special attention to apprising the newly elected parliamentarians of the parliamentary conventions and democratic conduct. I would also want all the Members to be regularly attending the House.

It is a matter of happiness for me that the Lok Sabha, of which I have the honour of presiding over, has 58 women parliamentarians their largest number so far in the House. This proves that the Indian woman can no longer wait for her emancipation from social shackles for achieving equal opportunities of progress. Two years ago we sent auspicious message to the villages across the country and to the international arena by electing the first woman President of the country. Now by electing the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha, we have reiterated our intention that we are the votary of women empowerment not only through our words but are also committed for implementing it at the ground level. I strongly wish that by carrying forward this sequence, this House will now be unanimous in matters of women empowerment.

Hon. Members, now the time is ripe for us to try and resolve the social and economic challenges before the nation by putting the hurly-burly of electoral fray aside. The world is going through a phase of unprecedented economic recession. Apparently, this crisis is global in nature and our country is not isolated to it. The moot point is how we can pave the way for the country on the path of progress despite this global economic slowdown. This should be a cause of our national concern so that we could unanimously try to find solution to these problems. It is high time that we adopted national perspective by rising above party lines and considerations.

Though we have made stupendous progress during the last six decades yet all of us will agree that there is still a long way to go for achieving the goal of an egalitarian society bereft of the discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, rich and poor. The freedom which we are enjoying today cannot be termed real freedom because that is merely political freedom. For a large number of people in the society, most of which

[Madam Speaker]

belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes this freedom does not hold any meaning because until we are able to raise the level of their living, provide them food, clothes and shelter, able to resolve their problems of poverty and free them from all kinds of exploitation, injustice and harassment and do not give them opportunities for their all round development, this freedom is meaningless. We have to achieve these social targets from every point of view. This is an unprecedented opportunity to serve the people of the country and there cannot be a greater reward than the satisfaction one derives from fulfilling one's obligations to the nation. The people of India have elected and sent each of us here in Lok Sabha for the fulfillment of this objective.

Hon'ble Members your cooperation is indispensable for the smooth functioning of the House. Therefore, I would like to request all the senior and newly elected Members of the House to extend their cooperation to me to run the House according to the glorious traditions of the House, so that I may be able to fulfill those constitutional obligations which you have vested in me. I would like to assure that I will be fully vigilant towards all the sections of the House. I would also like to assure that I would neither show any bias in favour of the opposition nor will I give an opportunity to complain to the party in power.

Media is one of the strong pillars of the democratic system which plays an important role not only in the dissemination of information but in creating political awareness as well. There is no problem if media brings to light the episodes of interruptions in the proceeding of the House but I would request the media to highlight the accomplishments of the hon'ble parliamentarians as well.

I am overwhelmed with the respect shown by the House to me. I express my heartiest gratitude to the hon'ble Prime Minister, the leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Leader of UPA, the leaders of groups and political parties and all the hon'ble Members for their support and kind words.

I would also like to thank the pro-tem Speaker, Shri Manik Rao Gavit for smooth functioning of the House during the last three days with distinct grace and dignity.

Lok Sabha Secretariat is known as a very efficient organization and is known for its dedication even in the toughest situations. I am convinced that I will get the complete cooperation of the officers and staff of the Secretariat for the functioning of the House.

Lastly, I would say that this is not an ordinary House, this is a holy House, this is a 'divya' House because it is in this very House that we worship our great democracy. Let all of us surrender ourselves to the democracy and the soul of India with all our intent, speech and deeds.

12.55 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have great pleasure in introducing to the House the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. We extend to him our good wishes and wish him all success in his task.

Also, I have pleasure in introducing to this House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, as the Leader of the House.

12.55½ hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I have great pleasure in introducing to this House, Shri L.K. Advani, as the Leader of the Opposition.

12.56 hrs.

now kindly introduce the members of the Council of Ministers.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister may

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and, through you, to the august House the members of the Council of Ministers.

Cabinet Ministers

Shri Pranab Mukherjee	Minister of Finance
Shri Sharad Pawar	Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Shri A.K. Antony	Minister of Defence
Shri P. Chidambaram	Minister of Home Affairs
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	Minister of Railways
Shri S.M. Krishna	Minister of External Affairs
Shri Virbhadra Singh	Minister of Steel
Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh	Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Shri Sushilkumar Shinde	Minister of Power
Shri M. Veerappa Moily	Minister of Law and Justice
Dr. Farooq Abdullah	Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Shri S. Jaipal Reddy	Minister of Urban Development
Shri Kamal Nath	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
Shri Vayalar Ravi	Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
Shri Murli Deora	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shrimati Ambika Soni	Minister of Information and Broadcasting
Shri Mallikarjun Kharge	Minister of Labour and Employment
Shri Kapil Sibal	Minister of Human Resource Development
Shri B.K. Handique	Minister of Mines and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Shri Anand Sharma	Minister of Commerce and Industry

Dr. C.P. Joshi	Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj
Kumari Selja	Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Tourism
Shri Subodh Kant Sahay	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Dr. M.S. Gill	Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
Shri G.K. Vasani	Minister of Shipping

13.00 hrs.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Mukul Wasnik	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Kantilal Bhuria	Minister of Tribal Affairs

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Shri Praful Patel	Minister of State of the Ministry of Civil Aviation
Shri Prithviraj Chavan	Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal and Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Shri Salman Khursheed	Minister of State of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Minister of State of the Ministry of Minority Affairs
Shri Dinshā J. Patel	Minister of State of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Shrimati Krishna Tirath	Minister of State of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
Shri Jairam Ramesh	Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests

Ministers of State

Shri Srikant Jena	Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shri E. Ahamed	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri Mullappally Ramachandran	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri V. Narayanasamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Shrimati D. Purandeswari	Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Shri K.H. Muniyappa	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri Ajay Maken	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles
Shri Namo Narain Meena	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shri M.M. Pallam Raju	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
Shri Saugata Ray	Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development
Shri Jitin Prasada	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shri A. Sai Prathap	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel
Shrimati Preneet Kaur	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Gurudas Kamat	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Shri Harish Rawat	Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Prof. K.V. Thomas	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Shri Bharatsinh Solanki	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power
Shri Mahadeo S. Khandela	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Shri Dinesh Trivedi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Shri Sisir Adhikari	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri Sultan Ahmed	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
Shri Mukul Roy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping
Choudhury Mohan Jatua	Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Shri Tusharbhai Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Shri Sachin Pilot	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Shri Arun Yadav	Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Shri Pratik Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Shri R.P.N. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Shri Shashi Tharoor	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Vincent H. Pala	Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources
Shri Pradeep Jain	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Kumari Agatha Sangma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, our colleagues from the DMK are away in Chennai because of the birthday celebrations of Dr. Karunanidhi. I will have to introduce them separately.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till half-an-hour after the Address by the President on Thursday, June 4, 2009/Jyaistha 14, 1931 (Saka)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 4th June 2009, half-an-hour after the conclusion of hon. President's Address.

INTERNET

The Original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version, English version, Hindi version and indices thereto, DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

© 2009 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition)
and Printed by Chaudhary Mudran Kendra, 12/3, Sri Ram Marg, South Mauj Pur, Delhi-110 053
