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Title: The Leader of the House on behalf of the Prime Minister, the leader of Opposition and the Speaker made Valedictory Reference in the 14th Lok Sabha.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I will like to read the statement. He is addressing this to you as per the parliamentary systems and customs.

First of all, I express my sincere apologies for not being able to participate in this last Session of the 14th Lok Sabha on account of my medical treatment. I am grateful for the good wishes extended to me by Madam President in her Address at the commencement of this Session. For this kindness as well as the good wishes of all hon. Members, through you Sir, I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

We have in the last five years worked together to enhance our democratic process. The legislations enacted in this Parliament in the last five years have redefined the role and rights of citizens. The Parliament deepened the democratic process vesting in the citizen the right to call governance to account through the Act on Right to Information. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act that this Parliament enacted has vested the right to work to every rural household for 100 days of guaranteed employment. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act and the Central Educational Institutions (Right to Information) Act are only a few of the many path-breaking, radical, social and economic legislations enacted by this Parliament. That would refine the relationship between the State and its citizens for a long time to come.

This Parliament was unique in many other respects also. The country faced some of its best times during the last five years, as it became the second fastest growing economy in the world. It also witnessed some very challenging times when the global rise in oil prices led to a spiral of price rise in commodities, resulting in higher inflation which we brought under control through prudent economic policy. [SS27] Today, we are addressing the global economic downturn with the same resolve and imagination. Let me assure this House that India would emerge the least affected among the countries of the world from the current economic crisis. Our foreign policy was steered in a manner that succeeded in ending our nuclear isolation, and creates for us unprecedented global opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in transacting business in this Parliament, you set yourself as a role model. We strained your patience and at times even your conscience. There were unusual times in which you had to take a call between defending Parliamentary propriety and heeding to the demands of the organization that you had spent a lifetime building. On all such occasions your sagacity prevailed. I have no words to express the gratitude of this House for upholding the dignity of both your high office and the dignity of this institution in times of personal trial. I express the sentiments of all the Members of this House when I say that in Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been truly elevated and dignified. History would be the best judge of your unique contribution. You stood like a rock to defend our best Parliamentary traditions, and in doing so have raised the bar for those to follow.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I do not thank the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advaniji in always being constructive as we collectively addressed National challenges in spite of occasional disagreements. I express my gratitude to the Leader of the United Progressive Alliance, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi who has been inspiration for many of the progressive legislations we moved in this august House. I also thank the Leaders of the political parties represented in this House and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for ensuring smooth conduct of business.

The Secretary-General and staff of the Lok Sabha deserve our commendation for the exemplary way in which they managed the administrative affairs of this House. On behalf of all of us, I thank them.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all the hon. Members who will participate in the next round of Parliament elections the very best in their efforts to continue to serve this institution. We have sought to collectively contribute to this great institution of Parliamentary democracy that our Nation has built, and each one of us should remember this privilege and sacred duty to our Nation with immense gratitude and humility.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (गांधीनगर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम सब को बहुत खुशी होती, अगर प्रधानमंत्री स्वयं स्वस्थ हो कर सदन में उपस्थित होते। मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि इस प्रकार के ओपरेशन के बाद डाक्टर्स की जो सलाह होगी, उसके अनुसार उन्होंने स्वयं न आकर ये संदेश भेजा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि मैं पूरे सदन की भावना प्रकट कर रहा हूँ। मैं सदन के नेता के साथ मिलकर प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे शीघ्रतिशीघ्र स्वस्थ हो कर अपने कार्य में लगे जाएं।

आज पिछले पांच सालों के कार्यों का मूल्यांकन करने का अवसर नहीं है, इसलिए क्या उपलब्धि हुई, क्या उपलब्धि नहीं हुई, क्या-क्या कठिनाइयां आईं, उनके ऊपर

कैसे हम विजय प्राप्त कर सके या नहीं कर सके, इसकी चर्चा मैं यहां नहीं करूंगा, क्योंकि यह विवाद का अवसर नहीं है। मैं यह जरूर कहूंगा कि जब भारत में वर्ष 1950 में संविधान पारित करके संसदीय लोकतंत्र को स्वीकार किया गया। विश्व के बहुत सारे लोग थे, उनमें कई विद्वान थे जिन्होंने आशंका प्रकट की थी कि देश लोकतंत्र के मार्ग पर नहीं चल सकता। यह कुछ समय की बात है। मुझे उन दिनों का याद है जब "who, after Nehru" से ज्यादा चर्चा इस बात की होती थी "what, after Nehru" जैसे मानो आज भारत में लोकतंत्र चल रहा है तो वह बाद में नहीं चलेगा लेकिन हमारे लिए यह गर्व की बात है कि देश में वे सारे लोग जो संदेह प्रकट करते थे, उनको गलत साबित किया है और लगातार देश को सशक्त, मजबूत लोकतंत्र के रूप में चलाया है। उसमें अगर कमियां हैं, क्योंकि हम उसमें भाग लेते हैं इसीलिए बहुत निकट से देख सकते हैं, पहचान सकते हैं और उनको सुधारने की कोशिश करते रहते हैं लेकिन मैं कुल मिला कर मानता हूँ कि आज दुनिया भर में भारत की जो इज्जत है, उसका प्रमुख कारण यह है, जब बाकी सारे विकासशील देश एक-एक करके इस मार्ग से हट करके, किसी ने सैनिक शासन अपनाया, किसी ने और कोई अधिनायकवादी प्रवृत्ति अपनायी, इसने लगातार एक सशक्त लोकतंत्र के रूप में अपने को संवाहित किया। उसमें स्वाभाविक रूप से सरकारी पक्ष, विपक्ष, इस सदन के नेता, कुल मिला कर जितने विधानमंडल हैं, उन सब ने योगदान दिया है, जिस के लिए सब की प्रशंसा करता हूँ, सब का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ, सब को साधुवाद देता हूँ और आपको भी इस पद पर अपने दायित्व का निर्वाह करने के लिए बधाई देता हूँ। मैं मानता हूँ कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की, ब्यूरोक्रेसी की बड़ी आलोचना होती है लेकिन जब से मैं संसद में आया हूँ, सरकार का कोई अंग है जिस के ब्यूरोक्रेट्स, कर्मचारियों की हम सब लोग हमेशा प्रशंसा करते हैं। संसद की जो व्यवस्था है, ऐसा कभी नहीं होता कि मैं आज भाषण दूं, वह कल सुबह मेरे पास न आए, जरूर आ जाता है। उसकी व्यवस्था होती है। मैं सैक्रेटरी जनरल, उनके सभी सहयोगियों, साथियों को बधाई देता हूँ।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं मानता हूँ कि यह 14वीं लोक सभा के अंतिम सत्र का अंतिम दिन है। शीघ्र ही देश अपनी पंद्रहवीं लोक सभा चुनेगा। हो सकता है कि सदन के इस सत्र की समाप्ति के आने वाले दो-तीन दिनों में तारीखों की घोषणा हो जाए। स्वाभाविक रूप से हम प्रायः सभी के सभी चुनाव के संघर्ष में उतरेगे और वह अच्छा ही संघर्ष होगा। मैं विश्वास करता हूँ कि उसका परिणाम भी अच्छा ही आएगा।

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all sections of the House for the support and cooperation extended to me in the course of the discharge of my duties as the Presiding Officer of this great Institution. At the end of the last Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, I feel that now is the appropriate time to take stock of what this House has been able to achieve in the last five years and make a dispassionate introspection.

Before I proceed, I wish to express my great personal sorrow that today our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee are unable to be present here due to their indisposition. On my behalf and on behalf of the House, I wish to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for his successful surgery and I am sure he will soon be able to resume his normal activities with perfect health and vigour.

I also convey on behalf of the House and on my own behalf our best wishes to Vajpayee Ji for his speedy and complete recovery. We are happy that he is making good progress on his way to complete recovery.

I also convey my very best wishes to my dear and young friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi for a speedy and complete recovery. [r28]

The 14th Lok Sabha was constituted on 17 May 2004 and the House met for the first time on 2 June 2004. In all, the House had till today, 332 sittings.

On 4 June 2004, the House bestowed great honour upon me by unanimously electing me to the august Office of the Speaker. My colleague, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal was also unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker on 9 June 2004. It has been our sincere endeavour to conduct the proceedings and the deliberations of this House to the best of our abilities and in an impartial manner and uphold the dignity of the House. I also express my deep gratitude to the distinguished Chairmen on the Panel for the most conscientious and able manner in which they conducted the proceedings of the House.

As the Presiding Officer of this august House, it has always been my humble endeavour to promote quality debate on all issues by giving opportunities to all sections of the political spectrum in the House and to facilitate smooth and orderly transaction of the business in the House. To this end, I initiated several procedural reforms such as meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups daily half-an-hour before the start of the day's proceedings to seek cooperation and support in obviating disruptions and disturbances in the House. As every minute and hour of the time of the House is precious, I started the practice of making a weekly Statement every Tuesday on the business transacted by the House to make every Member aware of the time well spent and the time wasted in the House.

As the hon. members are aware, much of the work of the House is done now by the Committees. The Parliamentary Committees have, during the past five years, done excellent work. The Departmentally Related Standing Committees have been restructured and their number has been increased to 24 and their jurisdiction defined. This restructuring intended to bring about an improvement in the examination and scrutiny of the Demands for Grants of the Ministries and Departments has served its purpose towards ensuring effective Parliamentary scrutiny of executive actions as envisaged in our Constitutional scheme.

The Parliamentary Standing Committees and the Parliamentary Committees functioned effectively and efficiently during the present Lok Sabha and made many important recommendations. The Standing Committees of Lok Sabha presented as

many as 626 Reports. I am happy to record that the hon. Members almost on all occasions considered the issues and problems which came before the Committees in a non-partisan manner.

As the hon. Members are aware, a new Direction 73A was incorporated in the Directions by the Speaker which made it incumbent on all the Ministers to make a statement in the House, on the status of implementation of the various recommendations/observations made by the Standing Committees in their reports within six months of their presentation in the House. In this context, the Ministers made 388 statements regarding the status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Reports of the Standing Committees.

Putting questions is an important instrument in the hands of the Members to scrutinize the functioning of the Executive. In the 14th Lok Sabha, 6218 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 963 Questions were answered orally. I tried my best to give opportunity to Members belonging to different parties, large or small. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 60,419 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. Fourteen half-an-hour discussions were also taken up. Five Short Notice Questions were also answered.

The 14th Lok Sabha enacted 258 Legislations including Right to Information Act, 2005; the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005; the Protection for Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; the Disaster Management Act, 2005; the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005; the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008; the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2009.

Personally it is a matter of great regret for me that we have not been able, during my tenure, to pass the Women's Reservation Bill which to my mind would have gone a long way towards genuine and effective empowerment of fifty per cent of our population. The Women's Reservation Bill has now been introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the 2008 Budget Session to ensure that the Bill does not lapse with the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha. I am hopeful that all political parties will reach unanimity to evolve a clear consensus on the issue in the next Lok Sabha.[\[KMR29\]](#)

Coming to Private Members' Business, 327 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the 14th Lok Sabha. Nine Private Members' Resolutions on important subjects were moved.

During this Lok Sabha, 3444 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and at the end of the sitting for the day. Hon. Members also raised 3485 matters under rule 377. As the Presiding Officer, I had humbly tried to allow the members maximum opportunity to raise matters of importance. As a part of this approach, I allowed a larger number of matters under Calling Attention as compared to the number in the earlier Lok Sabha, which helped the members in getting response from the Ministers to the matters raised by them. In fact, 115 Calling Attention matters were raised during this period. The Ministers made 266 statements on various important subjects, which also include the statements made by the hon. Prime Minister.

In recognition of the right of the Opposition to move Adjournment Motions on urgent issues, I tried my best to allow a number of them consistent with the provisions of the Rules, many more than allowed earlier.

In this context, I would like to recall some landmark decisions that were taken during the 14th Lok Sabha. As the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House and with a view to maintaining the dignity and authority of Parliament, I had to take some painful decisions. Ten Members had to be expelled from the membership of the House for their involvement in the cash-for-query scam. Another four Members had to face suspension of their membership of the House for a certain period for irregularities in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. I had also the painful duty to constitute several Committees to inquire into alleged misconduct of Members as in the alleged human trafficking case and the alleged bribery scam prompted by the unsightly display of wads of currency notes in the well of the House during the debate on the Trust Vote in July 2008. Some other Members had to face expulsion from the membership of the House through disqualification under the Anti-Defection Act. In all such actions, this House has shown exemplary commitment to cleanse itself of the erring Members and a firm resolve to adhere to the code of conduct expected from people's representatives, and this process of self-cleansing must continue whenever there arises any such occasion in the future also.

Outside the procedural plane, several other initiatives were taken during the life of the 14th Lok Sabha. The constitution of the Parliamentary Forums on different topical issues was one such significant development. We now have five Parliamentary Forums: one each on Water Conservation and Management; Youth; Women and Children; Population and Public Health; and Global Warming and Climate Change. The underlying idea has been to provide Members an important platform to interact with subject experts and key officials of the Ministries concerned. These Forums have been useful in equipping the hon. Members with information and knowledge on specific issues and in helping them to adopt a

result-oriented approach in dealing with particular issues. Member-Conveners have been appointed for each Forum and they have been very active in organizing several Programmes of interest to the Members during Parliament sessions.

During Fourteenth Lok Sabha, a Lecture Series was instituted for Members of Parliament at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training to sensitize them on issues of topical concern and contemporary problems having a bearing on our socio-economic situation. So far, twenty-four Lectures on various issues have been organized in which experts from India and abroad shared their perspectives with hon. Members. The keen interest taken by hon. Members and the meaningful interactions they had with the experts are indeed heartwarming.

I mooted the idea of an autonomous Salaries Commission for Members of Parliament which was accepted, in principle, by the Government.

A prestigious Annual Parliamentary Lecture has also been instituted in memory of one of India's most outstanding parliamentarians, Prof. Hiren Mukerjee. The Inaugural Lecture on the theme 'Demands of Social Justice' was delivered by the Nobel Laureate and Lamont Professor at the Harvard University, Prof. Amartya Sen, in the Central Hall on 11th August 2008. I believe all these initiatives have been received well and with good results, and hope that Members in the future also will continue to hold the same for which eminent persons will be invited to speak on important subjects. [p30]

Two Round Table Discussions involving major stakeholders were also organized by the Lok Sabha on the theme 'Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy'. The first Round Table was held on the 4th September 2008 and the second one on the 1st November 2008. Both the Round Table Discussions were interactive and addressed by very distinguished and eminent parliamentarians, jurists, journalists and civil society leaders. The deliberations were stimulating and thought provoking with the distinguished participants sharing their informed viewpoints on the state of our parliamentary democracy.

To take the institution of Parliament nearer to the people, I have the great satisfaction in being able to launch the Lok Sabha Television Channel (LSTV). With the introduction of the 24-hour TV Channel exclusively devoted to telecasting live all proceedings of the House, our people would be able to see the way their representatives discharge their responsibilities inside the Chamber of the Lok Sabha, and find it as an effective interface among the people, Parliament and the Government. Besides the coverage of parliamentary proceedings, several value-added programmes are telecast whereby parliamentarians participate in various programmes on contemporary topics and articulate the stand of their respective Parties on important political, economic and international issues. The Channel also telecasts plays, cultural programmes, films and documentaries on our heritage, beliefs, traditions, music and dance. We feel proud that this is the only TV Channel in the world which is owned and operated by Parliament, without any executive control or even intervention. I conceived the idea of starting a TV Channel for bringing the people close to Parliament and also to extend the space for the Visitors' Gallery to every home to let the country see what Parliament is doing. As the people are our real masters, they have the right to know how their representatives are serving them and the Nation as a whole.

Recognising the important role that the Media plays, I had regular interactions with the editors and senior journalists during the Parliament Session and exhorted them to improve the coverage of the proceedings of the House. I do believe that as a result of these interactions the coverage has improved, though it is not yet in ample measure. A Panel of Experts was also constituted comprising among others media personalities to advise me on these aspects.

Another important initiative to bring Parliament closer to the people has been the setting up of the state-of-the-art Parliament Museum. The Museum, which was inaugurated by the then Rashtrapati Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 14 August, 2006 and is open to the public, has been designed to serve as a hi-tech, story-telling Museum, depicting the continuum of democratic ethos and institutional development in India. The Lok Sabha Television and the Parliament Museum have been lauded by one and all, as important initiatives that would help to strengthen our parliamentary system.

I wish to sincerely thank all the Leaders, especially the hon. Leader of the Opposition for the kind help and guidance that he gave to me during the time when the Museum was set up. I am happy to say that a large number of boys and girls, particularly students, are coming to see this Museum. I hope Members, who could not find time up till now, will pay a visit to the Museum.

Yet another important initiative has been the widening access which we have facilitated to the Parliament Library. I have endeavoured to ensure that the rich reservoir of knowledge we have in the Parliament Library is also utilized by genuine research scholars from Universities and institutions of repute, journalists, Heads/members of educational institutions and others. We have also set up a Children's Corner in the Parliament Library to cater to the information and knowledge needs of children. It provides opportunities to them to know of our parliamentary framework and about the

country's progress and development, specially of matters relating to the children and youth.

With a view to promoting knowledge about parliamentary democracy among the younger generation, we have for the first time started the Lok Sabha Internship Programme. It is a year-long programme which provides an opportunity to five young post-graduates with outstanding academic records to acquaint themselves with the working of parliamentary democracy and democratic institutions, and especially about the Indian parliamentary system.

During the 14th Lok Sabha, we also had the satisfaction of observing two memorable occasions, namely, the 150th anniversary of our First War of Independence and the 60th Year of our Independence, in the Central Hall, which programmes I believe were extremely successful.

I would also take this opportunity to mention that I have initiated a Scholarship Scheme for the wards of Group 'C' and 'D' employees of the Lok Sabha Secretariat who have been admitted in professional courses in the disciplines of Medicine including Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines, disciplines of Engineering, Chartered Accountancy, MBA, LL.B and Architecture. [\[R31\]](#)

Under this Scholarship Scheme, six wards one in each field mentioned above shall be granted the sum total of the tuition fee of the course charged by the Institution/College wherein the ward has been selected for pursuing his/her studies.

On this occasion I would also recall the supreme sacrifice that an Official of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Shri Rajeev Saraswat made while he was working as in-charge of the Control Room for the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation at the Taj Mahal Hotel, one of the several places attacked during the dastardly terrorist assault in the city of Mumbai.

On behalf of the House, I had communicated our deepest condolences, to the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and to the bereaved family. In this context, I would like to inform that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has given ex-gratia amount to the family of the deceased and I have recommended to the Government to allot a petrol pump to his family to secure their future. I hope you have heard it.

These are some of the humble initiatives which the Presiding Officer took during this Lok Sabha with a view to strengthening the institution of Parliament. I must gratefully acknowledge the fact that I received unstinted cooperation and support from all sections of the House, the Treasury as well as the Opposition Benches, in the discharge of my duties as the Presiding Officer of this House and for the new initiatives.

I will only be betraying my emotions if I do not refer to what I would painfully call certain aberrations and avoidable situations during the life of the 14th Lok Sabha which has somewhat lowered the esteem of this august institution in the eyes of the people. I am pained to say that politics of intense confrontation has gained upper hand with the result that disruptions of the proceedings of the House through sloganeering, coming into the well of the House, walk-outs, etc., have greatly eroded people's faith in the efficacy of this great institution. As we know now, this Lok Sabha spent a total of 1739 hrs 05 minutes on actual sittings and not utilised 423 hours at the end of the 15th Session. The time wasted in disruptions and adjournments due to disorderly scenes amounted to a total of about 24 per cent of the time of the House which is very alarming.

The very edifice of parliamentary system of government is grounded in the clear delineation of powers and functions of the three different organs of the government - the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. As such, Parliament is the supreme law-making body which has exclusive powers to regulate its own proceedings and to discipline its Members. As the custodian of parliamentary rights and privileges, "it fell upon me to defend and safeguard the rights and privileges of Parliament, and Legislatures across the country. Members will recall that in March 2005, on a dispute that arose over the decision of the Jharkhand Governor in appointing the Chief Minister, the Supreme Court passed an interim order which *inter alia* contained directions to the Presiding Officer on fixing of agenda of the House, maintenance of order and video recording of the proceedings in the House. Such matters fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Presiding Officer of every Legislature under the Constitution, the Rules of the House and even by convention. I had to assert the supremacy of the Legislature in its exclusive domain, and in all this, I had ultimately the concurrence and support of all the Leaders of Parties in Parliament and the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, for which I am grateful to them.

Another such occasion arose when the expelled Members in the cash-for-query scam filed writ petitions in the Supreme Court challenging their expulsion. As the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha, I had to defend the rights of this House to deal with all matters relating to discipline and misconduct of the Members and to make it clear that the votes given by the Members inside the Chambers of Parliament cannot be questioned in a court of law. The Supreme Court

subsequently dismissed the writ petitions and recognized the position that I took, that was endorsed by all sections of the House as well as the Emergency Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.[\[R32\]](#)

As we adjourn *sine die* today, it is a mixed feeling that I have – I have a feeling of quiet satisfaction, which I share with you in all humility, that I have honestly tried to uphold the dignity and prestige of the high constitutional office of the Speaker in regulating the proceedings of this House in the highest parliamentary traditions and in affording all opportunities to hon. Members to participate in the proceedings and express their voices. In discharging my duty, it has been my endeavour to protect to the best of my ability the rights and privileges of the House and the hon. Members irrespective of their political affiliations and to further enhance the functioning of our parliamentary system.

Once again I would like to express my gratitude to all sections of the House for their support and cooperation, notwithstanding the unkept assurances and frustration and disappointments at times, in discharging my duties and responsibilities as the Presiding Officer of this august House. I thank the Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Md. Hamid Ansari, for his active co-operation in coordinating the works of the two Houses of Parliament; the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Hon'ble Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani, and the Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs for their support and cooperation in running this House; the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, and the Members of the Panel of Chairmen for sharing the onerous duty of the Presiding Officer of this House; the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, for his cooperation; the Leaders of all Parties and Groups and each and every Member of Parliament for their contribution in making our parliamentary democracy work. I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairpersons of the UPA and the NDA for all the respect shown to the Chair and for their kind help and co-operation.

I also extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, for being a constant source of strength and support in running this august House, and his team of officers and to all the staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well as in the Speaker's Office for their committed, efficient and professional handling of all works related to the Lok Sabha. I also put on record my thanks to all the media persons accredited to covering the work of Parliament and the media in general for being a vigilant watchdog of democracy.

I also appreciate the services of the Watch & Ward Staff, CRPF, Delhi Police and other security agencies who are vigilantly protecting the Parliament House Complex. I also thank the CPWD including the Horticulture Department and other allied agencies which have rendered their valuable support.

Hon. Members, along with Fourteenth Lok Sabha which for all effective purposes is coming to an end today, I am also reaching my journey's end and in a short while I shall be leaving this Chamber for the last time. I seek your kind indulgence for referring to my feelings on this occasion, when I shall be finally dissociating from this great Institution. As a humble servant of the House of the People, I have had the great opportunity to serve the nation through this great Institution for nearly 39 years with a short break of eleven months.

I recall vividly that in the Fifth Lok Sabha, I was allotted seat No. 512, next to that pillar, from where I had the privilege to listen with awe and admiration and as attentively as possible some of the memorable speeches delivered by the outstanding parliamentarians. I had the great opportunity to serve the people of this country as a Member of this august House from the 5th to 14th Lok Sabha. I was the Leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha for 15 years till my election as Speaker. As the Leader, it was my duty to see that issues of the working class and vulnerable sections of the society were duly raised in the House. Lok Sabha provides the most important forum for articulating the urges and aspirations of the people and for raising matters of concern for the peasants and workers and for the common people of the country. I cannot but recall the great guidance and encouragement and affection that I received from my leaders, particularly Comrade Jyoti Basu. I am grateful to the Indian Parliamentary Group that selected me for the conferment of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in the year 1996.

I respectfully submit that, as the Presiding Officer, I tried honestly and sincerely to uphold the highest traditions of the Parliamentary Institution and discharged my duties to the best of my ability. I totally disassociated myself from any political activity whatsoever, in keeping with the essence of the Constitution of India, which demands discharge of duties with total impartiality and treat all the Members as equal.

In consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, I took a considered decision to stand by the Constitution of India and not allowed myself to take a course of action, which would have, in my view, seriously compromised my position as the Speaker of the supreme legislature of the country. But I was completely overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of support and appreciation that I received from not only the citizens of this country but also from the India diaspora, on what

they acknowledged as my principled stand on a very vital issue on the role of the Speaker, keeping the dignity of the Institution and upholding the fundamental principles of the Constitution. I could not compromise on the role and expectation of the Speaker as enshrined in the Constitution.

Hon. Members, I wish to sincerely thank all of you once again from the bottom of my heart for the great opportunity that you gave me and during the short time I am left with, I wish to closely follow the functioning of this great Institution for all its glory and greater success.

I beg to convey my best wishes to each one of you for your success in the coming event.

Now, National Song, Vande Matram may be played.

15.41 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played

15.42 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: The House was stands adjourned sine die

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

[U1]cfd. by b

Fd by o1 [KMR2]

[D3] Papers cd.

[R4]Fd by 'q'

[S5]Rcd

[r6](CFd. by s1)

Fkld by t1 [R7]

[R8](Cd. by u1)

Oscar ctd [r9]

[\[N10\]](#)Fd by w

Cd by [\[MSOffice11\]](#) x1

fld by y1 [\[R12\]](#)

Contd by z1.e [\[r13\]](#)

[\[l14\]](#)cd.

Contd by B2 [\[SS15\]](#)

Cd by c2

[\[r16\]](#)

Cd by d2 [\[KMR17\]](#)

Suklabaidya cd [\[p18\]](#)

Cd E2 [\[p19\]](#)

cd. by f2

cd. by g [\[R21\]](#)

Fd. By j2.e [\[a22\]](#)

[\[R23\]](#)(Cd. by l2)

Cont by n2.h [\[p24\]](#)

L Singh cd

[\[N25\]](#)

cd. by o2 [\[H26\]](#)

Contd by R2 [\[SS27\]](#)

Cd by t2 [\[r28\]](#)

[\[KMR29\]](#)Cd by u2

[\[p30\]](#)Cd W2

cd. by 'x2' [\[R31\]](#)

cd. by y2 [\[R32\]](#)