

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 16, 2004/Agrahayana 25, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

Title: Observation regarding maintaining dignity of the House.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re : Early Adjournment due to
non-functioning of Lok Sabha on 15.12.2004

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the request of the respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the hon. Leader of the Opposition, but reluctantly with great sorrow, I had to adjourn the House yesterday soon after the Luncheon recess.

Since my assumption of this office, I have tried humbly to the best of my ability to discharge my onerous duties. I have been earnestly requesting the hon. Leaders of all the Parties for their help and cooperation for running the House and also seeking guidance from them. I am thankful to all for giving me assurance of their help and cooperation. But in spite of that, the House could not function yesterday after the Question Hour. Further, I have been accused of indulging in *tanashahi*. The Chair does not have any prestige any longer and has become totally irrelevant and it has become a matter of agony for me to occupy this Chair, which I never expected to do, far less solicited.

So long as I am here, I shall try my best to discharge my duties and functions according to the Rules of Procedure and my conscience. If Members are not happy with the present incumbent, I shall have no regrets in leaving it. I was happier facing the Chair than occupying it.

Yesterday, about 40 students of a very well known college of Pune met me in the evening. They told me that they were in the Visitors Gallery and witnessed the proceedings yesterday. They asked me that if the Parliament did not function, what was the future of parliamentary democracy in this country. I leave that question before all the hon. Members to ponder and find out the answer, and let the country know.
