

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam Speaker, as we come to the end of the journey of the 15th Lok Sabha, I join all Members of this august House to pay tribute to the manner in which you have conducted our proceedings.

Madam, in parliamentary life, there are bound to be differences among parties but there must also be ways and means of finding pathways to bring minimum amount of consistency and reconciliation so that the ship of the Indian State can move forward. And we have seen that, on certain crucial matters, this House has the capacity, the will, to rise above partisan strife and to find pathways of national reconciliation.

The manner in which the State of Telengana is being born is yet another indication that this country is capable of taking some of the most difficult decisions without any rancour, without worrying too much about the pros and cons of things that do not matter and we can take pride in the fact that the Telengana State, whose quest for being born was pending for the last sixty years, has ultimately seen the light of day.

The Food Security Bill is yet another landmark legislation. It will create a ray of hope among those who are deprived sections of our community. It will encourage our farmers to produce more. Sharad Pawar Ji has described the manner in which the agricultural situation in our country has improved and I compliment him for the manner in which he has guided the destiny of the Agriculture Ministry. Obviously, all Members of the House have played a very important role in bringing that outcome about.

Madam, we are now entering a phase where the people of India will once again have an opportunity to assess, to pass their judgement on the performance of Government, weaknesses of our Government, the achievements of the Government and it is in that process, that once again a new sense of consensus will emerge which will carry our country to new pathways.

I thank all the hon. Members of the House. I thank the Leader of the Opposition. I thank my colleague, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde who, as the Leader of the House, has performed his duties with aplomb. I give all Members of this august House my best wishes and let us hope that, out of this strife, out of this tense atmosphere which prevailed for some time, there will be a birth of a new atmosphere of hope.

With these words, I conclude my remarks by once again thanking you, Madam Speaker, for the manner, the grace with which you have conducted the proceedings.