

11.09 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY-SPEAKER

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam Speaker, in electing Shri Karia Munda as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House so soon after your own election unanimously as the Speaker, it augurs well for our country. Both of you belong to the two most disadvantaged communities of our country. By honouring both of you, this House reaffirms its commitment to the cause of social justice and to the empowerment of the disadvantaged communities.

Madam, Shri Karia Munda brings to bear on his Office a wealth of experience. I believe this is his seventh term as a Member of this House. He had been a Member of many Standing Committees and he had also been a Minister in the Union Government. He is a multifaceted personality and an accomplished social worker who has taken active interest in the empowerment of women, he is also a writer, I believe, he has written a book on Rabindranath Tagore - a person with all these qualities of head and heart. I congratulate Shri Karia Munda for his unanimous election to the august Office of the Deputy-Speaker.

We assure him our wholehearted cooperation in running the affairs of this House.

The unanimous election of both the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker, as I said, augurs well for the running of this House in a smooth manner and I sincerely hope that the 15th Lok Sabha will set an example before the country in orderly conduct of the business of the House.