

[Shrimati Kailasho Devi]

also not moving my Motion which is shown at item no. 14 of today's List of Business.

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : That is all right. There are so many identical Motions.

So, I am now calling upon Shri Sharad Pawar to move the Motion standing in his name.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : I beg to move :

"That Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (Tenali) : I second the Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The question is :

"That Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The motions which are listed at serial number 2 to 14, 16 and 18 are identical. Therefore, since the motion at serial number 2 has been negatived, the motions listed at serial number 3 to 14, 16 and 18 are not being put to the vote of the House. The motion at serial number 15 is not being moved. That means we are left with the motion at serial number 17 only which is standing in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. So, I am now calling upon Shri Vajpayee to move his motion.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : I beg to move :

"That Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi, a member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I second the Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The question is :

* "That Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi, a member

of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER PROTEM : The Motion is carried and Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi is declared elected as the Speaker of this House. I invite him to occupy the Chair.

Shri Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar.

[MR. SPEAKER (SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI) in the Chair]

16.09 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly congratulate and felicitate you on your election to the post of Speaker of the Lok Sabha. You are not new to Lok Sabha. We are well aware of your abilities and contributions made by you as a Member of Tenth Lok Sabha. You took special interest in rural development and agriculture and we heard your speeches on these subjects during tenth Lok Sabha. Before being elected to the Lok Sabha, you had been serving your constituency and the society through Zila Parishad.

You have been a student of Law. You have also been helping poor and dalits as an advocate. Today when the country is celebrating 50th anniversary of independence, it is a matter of great pride that an hon. Member of the Lok Sabha belonging to Scheduled Caste has occupied the office of the Speaker, it is symbolic of the changing era and times.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the responsibility which you have assumed today is arduous one and its timing too is crucial. People of this country have given their verdict. The situation that has emerged after the constitution of this House makes your work even more difficult. This seat was earlier occupied by the dignified personalities like Sardar Vitthal Bhai Patel and Shri Mavalankar. Two former speakers of Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Sangma are present in this House. . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chair of the Speaker has a quality that. . .(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : If you start misusing the chair. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati, please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The person elected to this office is supposed to discharge his duty properly. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you may please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Please listen to a dalit woman who wants to say something. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : All our old conventions. . .(Interruptions) While occupying the throne of Vikramaditya. . .(Interruptions) had shown capability . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Atalji, you are proclaiming to be a well-wisher of dalits, please listen to what a dalit woman wants to say . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This House can help in making the arduous task easy if its proceedings are conducted according to the rules. We proclaim to be the largest democracy in the World and it is correct also, but. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Behraich) : The hon. Prime Minister is well aware of the conventions of this House, yet he is not giving a chance to speak even for a minute. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Please

be seated. You will be permitted to speak

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be considered as an attempt to gag the voice of a dalit women. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I should be allowed to continue.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is speaking, please take your seat. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given permission to speak

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am standing here to offer my felicitations. It is not an occasion to heckle. They will get several opportunities to do so. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may be allowed to continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Please take your seats. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, he is not only the Prime Minister but also an experienced Parliamentarian . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may be allowed to continue. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be give a chance to speak. Please be seated.

[English]

You will be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I am on a point of propriety.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Presently, Hon. Prime Minister is speaking. You will also be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be allowed to complete. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Is he delivering a speech here ? . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, let the Prime Minister be gracious enough to allow the Leader of the BSP to have her say as she also belongs to a Scheduled Caste. Sir, we are in the 50th year of Independence. Can he not be gracious enough to allow the Leader of the BSP who also belongs to a Scheduled Caste to make her observations? Let him show some grace. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good on your part because the Prime Minister is on his legs. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs now. Please be seated. This is not good to interrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Silence please. The Prime Minister is on his legs now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, Please be seated. This is not good. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, let him kindly yield to a dalit lady Member.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is speaking. Please take your seats. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Please listen to her. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Will not a dalit woman who is trying to speak on behalf of the poor be allowed to speak ? . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, they claim to be the well wishers of dalits but they are not giving a chance to a dalit Member to putforth her point. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are saying that a dalit woman should be given a chance to speak. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are they making a noise. Such things are not uttered on such a solemn occasions. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. All of you will be given a chance to speak. Right Now, the hon. Prime Minister is speaking. . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member should be aware of the convention that she should not be intervening on such a solemn occasion. She is the leader of her party and can make her point at the time allotted to her party. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : The Leader of the Opposition is present in the House. I request him to control the Member. If they continue to stop the hon. Prime Minister from speaking, an

[English]

We will not allow others to speak. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Hon'ble Prime

Minister is speaking. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to listen to a dalit woman. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to interrupt in between. Please be seated.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is talking about conventions. He must know that he should not speak at this time. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : While the Prime Minister is speaking, it is not good to interrupt. Please be seated. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the Hon. Prime Minister may please sit down for a minute and listen to the dalit woman. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, I have not permitted you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if congratulating the speaker is a crime, I am a criminal. . . *(Interruptions)*

16.29 hrs.

Kumari Mayawati and some other hon. Members then left the House

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have assembled here for the first time after the Parliamentary elections. I wanted to thank the Opposition, specially Mr. Sharad Pawar for helping in taking a consensual decision about your election. . . *(Interruptions)* Governments will keep on changing in a democratic set up. Yesterday, I was in the Opposition. Except for a very short period in 40 years. I served the country and contributed in the House from the Opposition. The verdict of the people should be honoured. . . *(Interruptions)* A very few Members should not have the right to disturb the entire business of the House. They should not be permitted to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that if the business of the House is conducted according to the rules and if the Members maintain dignity in their conduct and speeches, the difficulties being faced today can be reduced. . . *(Interruptions)* Today, the whole world is looking towards this House. The countries which have got independence recently and have adopted democracy, come here to learn from our democracy. I do not know what we are going to teach them. If they follow the things which have taken place here today, then the future of democracy is going to be dark. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again congratulate you and assure you that you will be getting our fullest co-operation in protecting the rights of all the Members of the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to felicitate you. This is the highest temple of the Parliamentary democracy and today responsibility of its leadership has fallen on your shoulders. All Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of this country are guided by this House and in this respect, you have a greater responsibility. The Office of the Speaker is the most important office in the Indian Parliamentary democracy. The country respects this office. The whole world looks towards India, being the largest democratic country of the world. Among the various Parliamentary Institutions of the world, be it Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or any other Parliamentary Institution, the speaker of Lok Sabha of India has a distinguished place in that. Now, the responsibility lies with you to uphold this important position. I agree with the Leader of the House that this office has been held by many distinguished personalities like Shri Mavalankar and Shri Iyengar, who made great contribution towards building a strong Parliamentary democracy for this country. Shri P.A. Sangma shouldered this responsibility till now. I feel proud in mentioning his name. Today, the situation is quite different. In my opinion, the mandate given by the people of the country and consequent composition of the House, has added to our responsibility. It is our biggest responsibility to maintain the dignity of the House and guide other Parliamentary Institutions. This House is not new to you as you have been a Member of the tenth Lok Sabha. You started your social career from Panchayati Raj and also shouldered the responsibility in Zila Parishad. Thereafter, you became a Member of Parliament and for the last few years you have been a member of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, you served as a Minister of Andhra Pradesh Government. You belong to the backward

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

class of the society and as such, you are well aware of their condition. You are a legal expert and I am sure your experience of last many years in social life will guide you in conducting the business of this House.

The post poll scenario has made it clear that a coalition Government has to be formed in the country. A situation has arisen where different parties have to work together and it is our duty to follow the consensus policy. I would have been happy if we could have started the process of taking unanimous decision. But I do not want to go in detail on this issue. I am confident that you will be successful in maintaining the dignity of the House and strengthening the democracy of the country.

I, on behalf of my party and other colleagues assure you that we will give our full support in conducting the business of the House. You must ensure that the rights and privileges of the Members, be they in the Opposition or in the treasury benches, and also, whatever their number be are protected. We will give our full support in this regard.

With these words, I felicitate you once again.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I offer hearty felicitations to you on your election to one of the highest offices in our great Republic. It is significant, as the Leader of the House has mentioned, that today a *dalit* is adorning this high seat. We firmly believe that with your experience in different organisations including the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, you will be able to discharge your very onerous duties with distinction. On our behalf, we offer you full cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from now on you do not belong to any party but you belong to this House. You are now the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House and the Members. This is the House which the country is looking to for solving many of the problems that are besetting it, the task which the people have given to us. Sir, I am sure that you will maintain the equidistance which was promised by our good friend the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

I cannot conclude by paying my respect to you without expressing our deepest sense of appreciation of the manner in which your predecessor discharged his duties and functions. He showed exemplary conduct as Speaker. I must pay my tributes to Shri P.A. Sangma. I hope he is present here ! He should be known as one of the ablest Speakers this House has ever had.. . (Interruptions) I have

some humble experience of this House and so I can say this with confidence. The way the Special Session was organised by Shri Sangma as the Speaker speaks volumes of his commitment to the basic fundamentals of our Republic and our Constitution. We cannot but express our commitment once more to the Resolution which was adopted unanimously at the end of that Session. As to how far that is being maintained, we will have to see in the days to come.

We are happy that you are here. But I only wish, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, there was a consensus. But that was not to be. That Merit has been sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. Even then, Sir, you have our fullest support. We offer you our fullest cooperation. I wish you a brilliant tenure as the Speaker of this great institution.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is only in a democracy in the truest sense of the term that the leader of leaders could emerge from totally unexpected quarters. Your election to lead and guide this House is proof that we are a democracy in its every sense.

My heartiest congratulations to you. I have always believed that if the future of our country is to be made safe for domestic peace, democracy and peoples' welfare, we should hold out hope for our youth. You are young, Sir, and I hope that your election would send the right signals to the youth of our country.

The Chair to which you have been chosen by this House calls for enormous wisdom.

The term 'Bala Yogi', literally translated, means the Young Sage. Sages are persons of great wisdom. For the aged, wisdom comes from experience. For the young, wisdom flows from their instinct, an alert mind and heart. I hope that you will be immensely guided by your youthful instinct and mindful and hearty wisdom. By your name, you are also 'Mohana Chandra', which literally translated again, means the 'lovely moon'. Let the coolness of the moon temper your reflexes and environment in the House.

You have found your elevation to the exalted Chair of this popular Chamber virtually straight from the din and dust of grassroot politics. I am hopeful that your reflexes and decision would be impacted by the wisdom flowing from this grassroot experience as well.

This House has had the delightful experience of being guided from the Chair you have come to occupy during the later half of 1950s and early 1960s by the enlightenment of a great son of Telugu world, Late M.A.