

Perhaps, there was no agreement between the opposition and the Treasury Benches. But every major view-point was heard by the House and the nation. This is the essence of democracy.

Yet despite the two extra weeks which were added on to this Session, several of the important issues could not be discussed. In this context, Sir, the Congress Party welcomes your initiative to impose greater discipline. My Party and I have full faith in you, in your ability to control unnecessary and trivial interruptions, in an impartial manner without, in any way, curtailing the inherent right of the Members to express their views or to take up issues.

In addition to the Agenda we carried at the start of the Session, several emergent issues overtook us during its course. The poorest in all parts of the country have been facing the prospect of starvation even as our granaries are overflowing. A number of regions are already reeling under drought. The earthquake relief in Gujarat remained incomplete. To add to all this, Kerala, Orissa and Bihar fell to the onslaught of floods during the Session.

Violence in Jammu and Kashmir reached a peak. The NSCN Agreement, later modified had erupted in massive unrest in Manipur and elsewhere. Disaffection is still very much present amongst the people of the North-East; and we do hope, Sir, that we have not prepared a new recipe for prolonged unrest and suffering in the North-Eastern Region.

More recently the truth exposed by Tehelka came under threat of being lost sight of due to the controversy over the means adopted by reporters.

Sir, some important legislative businesses have been transacted. However, the important legislation regarding women's reservation, unfortunately, is still languishing. We are still awaiting the outcome of the Prime Minister's promise to us when he had said that he would try and bring about a consensus on this most important issue for all of us women.

Also important are the various policies and programmes of the Government that affected the welfare of the poorest people in our country. We are extremely keen to discuss the population policy and the agriculture policy. We are also very eager to discuss the Kargil Report and the national security system. We view with gravity, the slow down in poverty alleviation schemes and the decline in the rate of growth in total employment. We are also keen to discuss the Approach Paper for the Tenth Plan.

On all these issues, Sir, we have a lot to say; and we do hope that through you, the Government will grant us an opportunity to discuss all of them.

Finally, I thank you, Sir, for your ability, your dexterity and patience with which you have been conducting the Session. I also extend my good wishes to all my colleagues here.

*[Translation]*

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Monsoon session is now over. Today people are celebrating the festival of Onam. On this occasion, I would like to greet all countrymen and the hon. Members. Tomorrow is "Ganapati Visarjana." Ganapati is the God of wisdom. We need to learn things and take blessings from him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you dwell upon the achievements of this session and in many respects, the House has done significant work. If work could not be transacted in day time it was completed in the night and for this we sat late. It is quite right to dispose off the work, but this sort of routine is not good. You have taken important measures. There should be discipline in the House. I am advocating discipline right from the days I was in Opposition. We need cooperation from the people who are at present in the opposition.

We have different ideologies here. We get opportunity to express them in House. I don't want to dwell upon the achievements of the Government, but at a time when the whole world is going through economic recession, we are successful in making economic progress. It is worth mentioning and it should be appreciated by all. I don't want to go into the statistics of development in various sectors as this is not the right moment to do so. I am only expressing my pleasure that the session is closing on a cheerful note. Such a scenario should not be seen only at the time of culmination but should permeate all through the session.

Opportunity for discussion can always be had and Government has never shied away from discussion. We put forth our views clearly. Allegations are levelled and refuted. But there should be a limit to allegations and counter allegations. Democracy can't function without dignity and if that is practised voluntarily, it would be better. If Members of all the parties take a collective decision regarding it, a better atmosphere could be created.

Session is closing today. We are enumerating achievements. But the public perception of Indian democracy, the largest democracy of the world, is not such that we can be proud of our democracy. The situation can be improved with the cooperation of all. I want

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

to congratulate you for the efficiency with which the business of the House was conducted and I also greet all the Members on this occasion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members may now stand up as "Vande Mataram" will be played.

13.23 hrs.

THE NATIONAL SONG WAS PLAYED

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned sine die.

13.24 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*