

The Motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER: I declare Shri Shivraj V. Patil duly elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil was conducted to the Deputy Speaker's seat by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Shri P. Upendra and Prof. N.G. Ranga

12.35 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE DEPUTY
SPEAKER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Let me congratulate Shri Shivraj Patil for being elected as the Deputy-Speaker of the House. A responsibility will be cast on him to speak on behalf of all of us. It is a very difficult responsibility.

I had the good fortune of working together with Shri Shivraj Patilji and I have always admired his competence, his quiet efficiency, his dignified behaviour and inner self-confidence. He has had a rich experience of public life and has shouldered responsibilities in various positions in the State. He had been Minister of Irrigation, Law and Judiciary and of other Departments. And in the Union Council of Ministers he was in the Ministry of Defence, of Commerce, of Science & Technology and Atomic Energy and Space. But more so, it is not a new assignment for him as presiding officer. He was the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly already. So we know that we are in the hands of a very experienced and mature person. And I am sure, his experience will guide the House and will be our biggest asset.

In electing Shri Shivraj Patilji as Deputy-Speaker we are restoring a tradition once again of Deputy-Speaker's post going to the main opposition. I think, with his election, this important tradition has been revived and that

is a reason for greater pleasure.

We are not going to give him an easy time and nor will his be an easy task. I cannot, with any confidence, say that we will be giving him an easy time. But when passions run high, I am sure, his calm, composure and fairness will be our strength and will be able to find a way. In spite of the din, it is his coolness that will be able to guide the House.

Numerically the House is spelt out in terms of party, party strength, the strength of the Members, but this august House is not mere numbers, though that is how formally it may be spelt out. The essence of it is that it not only represents the parties and the Members of Parliament, but it also represents the people. And in all of this noise, I am sure, with him in the Chair, the voice of other people, particularly those who sweat and toil, those who contribute most to the country, will be heard and that is the greatest hope that we have in him.

PROF. N.G.RANGA (Guntur): I wish to congratulate the House, Yourself and this institution of the House sub electing Shivrajji as Deputy-Speaker. I think, he has had bigger innings for a longer time as a legislator the most of Deputy-Speakers we have and even some of the Speaker. He has been a Speaker, I think Maharashtra.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, he was.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Earlier, he was there for a number of years as an experienced legislator. During the last ten or more years here in this House, he has conducted himself as one of the best legislators, and as a Minister—my hon. friend the Prime Minister knows it better from inside—he has proved to be one of the ablest Ministers who kept his good humour and patience with all of us, even on those occasions when we were in high temper and tempo. I am sure, you would find in him very able, confident, effective and cooperative comrade in helping in House to do its work in the best possible temper and tempo.

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Shivraj Patil Ji proved to be a very honourable Member of Legislatures at the State level as well as at this level. My hon. friend, the Prime Minister was referring to our earlier experiences. If we go by those earlier experiences, this party should have been there on that side. Yet, we have stuck to parliamentary practices and parliamentary decencies in the same manner as my hon. friend, the Prime Minister has now come forward to sponsor the candidature of Shivraj Ji. I am very happy indeed to have Shivraj Ji to take up the first seat in this House on this side because he would be in a position to speak to the parties on that side in an honourable and parliamentary manner, and I hope the parties on that side would offer their cooperation in the years to come in the same dignified manner that Shivraj Ji has been behaving as a Member of Parliament. I wish to congratulate Shivraj Ji not only on my behalf but on behalf of our party and on behalf of the whole of the House because he has proved to be one of the best parliamentarians.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K.ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and also on behalf of my party. I congratulate hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil on his election to the office of Deputy-Speaker of this House. I feel that the convention we have set today is a very healthy Parliamentary tradition.

When hon. Shri Indrajitji said that unfortunately this convention was not honoured in the past, objection were raised from the Opposition benches. The objection may hold good for the sake of argument since previously also the Deputy-Speaker's office was held by a non-Congress (I) Member, but being a non-Congress (I) Member is different from being an Opposition Member.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): As is your position now.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, as and I want to inform the House that some days ago, my opinion was sought on a proposal emanating from a certain level to sponsor a Member from the B.J.P for the office of the Deputy-Speaker of this House. I opined that if the Deputy-Speaker had to be from the Opposition let him be from the Congress (I). A Deputy Speaker from the B.J.P will not be considered a Deputy Speaker from the Opposition. Of course he could be termed Deputy Speaker, from a party other than the ruling party. But today I am not prepared to consider myself as a member of the Opposition.

Sir, as far as hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil is concerned, I am sure all hon Members of this House will unanimously agree that very few of us would have added as much dignity to this office as Shri Patil has added. About the Members of Parliament and men in public life, it is said that some are more suited for an executive post and some are more suited for the office of speakership. Hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil is a person who combines both these qualities. And this was kept in mind when he was elected as speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Hon. Shri Patil is a person who will take an impartial and judicial view of matters while conducting the business of the House. Before this Government came to power, during the elections one of the election issue was that the institutions which are the pillars of parliamentary democracy would be strengthened. And this unanimous decision taken by the House is one of the first steps towards that goal end it is sure to set a healthy convention for the future. For example, at one time people used to think whether election for the office of speaker could be held unopposed as is the case in England. Such a thing cannot happen in isolation but they can certainly be done if a tradition is built around it. We must think in this direction. I once again on my behalf as well as on behalf of my party congratulate the newly elected Deputy-Speaker hon. Shri Patil and assure him full co-operation of my party

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, on behalf of CP(M) Group in Lok Sabha, I offer my hearties felicitations on the unanimous election of Shri Shivraj Patil as our Deputy-Speaker. Sir, we are happy that we have been able to set up a precedent, I believe, now of having our Deputy-Speaker from the biggest Opposition Group in Parliament. During the previous regime, such requests had been made from the Opposition, but unfortunately those were turned down. Sir, I have had the privilege of knowing Shri Shivraj Patil for quite some time and we have always been impressed by his suavity, by his fair mindedness and by his sobriety and I have no manner of doubt that as Presiding Officer of this House he will be able to discharge his functions to the satisfaction of all.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Mr. Advani that it is time that we lay down some conventions in our House; whether we will be successful or not, we do not know. But I hope that by electing Shri Shivraj Patil from the Congress Party, we will be able to delink him from the Congress Now. Sir, this is the highest legislative forum in this country. The people look up to us for discharging our functions properly and for the sake of the people. And it is the arduous function of the Presiding Officer to regulate the affairs of this House properly so that we can give expression to the urges, and aspirations of the people of the country in this House. And through the deliberations of the House meaningful decisions are taken and meaningful discussions take place in this House over which the role of the Presiding Officer has always been and will continue to remain extremely important.

Sir, on behalf of my group and myself, we offer full cooperation to our hon. Deputy-Speaker and we wish him all success.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of my Party extend our warmest felicitations to Shri Shivraj Patil for being unanimously elected

to this very high post of Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha. After all, Sir, when somebody's name is found to have general agreement, unanimous agreement, there is some reason for it and the reasons have already been stated here by the hon. Prime Minister and other friends. He, I think, embodies all the qualities required of a presiding Officer today. I don't know, I cannot give any instances of his performance as Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly though we have heard that he discharged his duties there with admirable dignity, restraint as well as firmness, all qualities which will be required very much by him in dealing with this House. It is not an easy job, Sir. We all belong to this House, we are part of this House, it is a lively House and a lively, volatile, boisterous House, and should be like that. But the Presiding Officers, you as well as your Deputy-Speaker, have a difficult task in trying to ensure that some modicum, decorum and order is followed in this House while giving all Members ample and equal opportunity to have their say. I am specially happy today because it has been my privilege to enjoy the personal friendship also of Mr. Patil for good many years and I can see that there can be no question of his impartiality being affected by any kind of political motivations of background. That is a very important thing. When the composition of the House has changed in a new way and unprecedented type of balance of forces had emerged from the ballot box which we never knew in this country before. There are winds of change blowing, Sir throughout the world I think, a little part of those winds of change has come to this House also as a result of the verdict that the people gave through the ballot box. Always we are accustomed to one party having a clear decisive majority. That situation has been changed by the people and we have to respect the verdict of the ballot box. Some people may not like it, some people may like it. But that is the verdict and therefore, this Government is here supported by other parties from outside and then we have a strong Opposition, at least numerically a strong Opposition and Mr. Patil will have, just as you have, Sir, quite a difficult responsibility and job to conduct

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

the House in a way in which nobody, no party and Member feels that he is in any way being excluded or shut out from the exercise of his rights and at the same time, that he should be able to ensure that the House performs the maximum amount of work that it is supposed to do in conditions which are conducive for that. So, on behalf of our Party, I felicitate Shri Shivraj Patil warmly and I am sure he will add greatly to the dignity of the? Chair and he will perform his duties in a way which will convince all of us, even if anybody is still unconvinced, that we have made the best possible choice in selecting him as the Deputy Speaker.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving the opportunity for our Party to felicitate our new Deputy Speaker Shri Shivraj Patil. This Presiding Officer's post is not a new one for Shri Shivraj Patil; he occupied the posts of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Just now Shri Indrajit Gupta has mentioned that he did not know about how he conducted the Assembly there. He may not know, but we have to recall how he had handled the situation when hon. Shri Jayaprakash Narayan death incident was there when he was the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. It is a hallmark of his Speakership. Secondly, he was a Minister in Maharashtra and he occupied the Ministerial post here also from the year 1980 onwards. He is a very simple and kind person. He is an able lawyer and all his experience will help him to run the business of the House very efficiently. I want to say one more point to him. He has not only to conduct the House but he has to protect the rights of the Members and their lives. Just now, we have experienced the agony of one of our hon. Member which he wanted to express here. Therefore, it is the duty of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to protect the rights of the Members.

Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Advani have mentioned about the dissociation of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker

with their Party. There is a provision in the Act also that if the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are willing within six months of their election to the post they can dissociate with their party and act as independent Members. Shri Advani has said that we have to maintain some good tradition in our country. Accordingly, if the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker seek re-election, at that time we have to decide not to put our candidates against them.

Sir, I need not add anything more and all our Members will cooperate with him. So, on behalf of our AIADMK Party, I wish our Deputy Speaker Shri Shivraj Patil all success during his tenure."

SHRI A.K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the new Deputy Speaker on his election and also the Ruling Party, the Opposition and all the leading Parties for this new perestroika in our House. The Speaker often remains a distant figure for ordinary Members like us, having less number, less lung power and less capacity to meet the noise which the Speaker only helps by his prolonged absence from the House, we feel very close to the Deputy Speaker and with the choice of Shri Shivraj Patil, we all the Members of the smaller Parties who are more ignored than heard, feel assured that we would be heard in the House and we would be able to speak something before everybody. I had some experience to observe his performance as a Minister in the Seven Lok Sabha. Many people were thinking of delinking him from the Ruling Party. Even as a Minister, he looked delinked from the Ruling Party. With these words, I again congratulate him and all those who have contributed for his election.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the compliments paid to Shri Shivraj Patil. I have had the privilege of knowing him for many years and I am sure he will do great justice to this vital office because he is fair minded and he has great

humility and also great strength.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to compliment the Prime Minister in his capacity as the Leader of the House for having restore a very vital convention. Our system of parliamentary democracy provides various checks and balances. I regret to say that over the last 10 years, these checks and balances came to be gravely disturbed. I am having that on important check and balance between the office of the Speaker and the office of the Deputy Speaker has been restored.

May I also take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of congratulating Mr. L.K. Advani as the Leader of the BJP for turning down the suggestion made to him of putting up a BJP candidate for the office of the Deputy Speaker.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we in the 9th Lok Sabha have had the good fortune of reviving two healthy conventions—firstly we have had the unanimous election of the Speaker. And now we have unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker a member who genuinely belongs to the Opposition.

I would now like to make a request to the House and to the Leader of the House. We should now take these welcome developments one stage further and try for the depoliticization of the office of the Speaker. This can be achieved, Mr. Speaker, by allowing and providing for his uncontested return to the Lok Sabha. It had been my privilege to have cried hoarse for this particular change for many years now I do hop that the present House will come forward and do the needful.

In this context, I would like to mention only two things. As far back as 1953, the All India Presiding Officers' conference held at Gwalior and presided over by Mr. Mavalankar unanimously adopted a resolution on the subject. This resolution sought the 'uncontested return of the Speaker to Lok Sabha. In 1954, Mr. Mavalankar was good enough to inform the country that the Congress

Working Committee had accepted the proposal in principle. Unfortunately, this proposal was not carried through although Pandit Nehru himself stood for such depoliticisation. Mr. Speaker, you would recall, that Pandit Nehru had said that the Speaker of the House not only represents the dignity of the House, but he also represents its independence and impartiality.

I conclude with the hope that the Leader of the House together with the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders would come forward and further establish this healthy practice, in the best interests of our parliamentary democracy.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the observations made by the hon. Prime Minister with regard to the election of Shri Shivraj Ji to the high office of Deputy-Speaker.

Advaniji in his chaste Hindi said a couple of good things. Therefore, Sir, before I congratulate Shivraj Patil Ji, I want to say one thing about the convention and that too after hearing my comrades Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

Conventions are sometimes very important, rather more important than the rules of procedure that are enshrined in books. I would say, whatever has happened in the past, for the future, let us resolve to honour the conventions and resolve also to strengthen these conventions for future we are yet to learn a couple of lessons from the House of Commons which are still known as the Mother of Parliament. Britain has no written Constitution. But every convention is honoured in letter and spirit. When I say that we must forget the past if anything has gone wrong, I say it because of a philosopher, perhaps Mr. A.N. Whitehead—I may not be correct on the name of the philosopher but, what he said is correct—"True learning is possible only through Judicious forgetting." Coming to Shri Shivraj V. Patil Ji, I must say, I have known him for a pretty long time and when I say that he exhibited all the time a kind of humility for new acquaintances or

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

friends who had not known him earlier, that humility could appear dubious on occasions but, when I met him a number of times, I could feel that his humility was decidedly dignified and real. I found him very polite on all occasions when I dealt with him. But, simultaneously I found that he was very firm in his convictions. I want to share my experience with Shri Shivraj V. Patil who has the quality in him to say "Yes" as also 'No' but his 'No' he says with a kind of humility that disarms the other person. He has the courage to say 'No.' His knowledge of the procedures and his qualities of integrity will bring colour to this Chair and I hope he will do Justice to us.

On behalf of myself and My Party, J & K National Conference, I assure him of utmost cooperation and I wish him well in the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): On my personal behalf and on behalf of my Party, the Muslim League, I rise to extend my heartiest felicitations to our Shri Shivraj V. Patilji for his election to the exalted Office of Deputy Speaker of this august House. Indeed I am extremely happy, I must say, to see that Shri Shivraj V. Patil has been unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of our House. I know him personally for the past several decades. We have been together even in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. I know the charm with which he can conquer the people.

Shri Shivraj V. Patilji brings to the office of the Deputy Speaker a vast fund of experience. Even in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, he was the Speaker over there for a number of years. He knows very well how to draw respect from the house and from every section of the House. He knows the secret that respect is drawn from the House by the Chair himself showing respect to the House and to the Members that compose the House. Respect draws respect, consideration draws consideration and he has, I must say, disarming charm to win every section of the House. I am sure that he will be

a great success as a Deputy-Speaker.

You will also have a very able assistant on whom you can always depend without any hesitation whatsoever.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to him. I assure him of our fullest cooperation and I wish him well in this exalted office.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I join the Leader of the House and the other distinguished colleagues to offer my heartiest felicitations to Shri Shivraj Patil on his being unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this great House. It is needless for me to mention that Shri Shivraj Patil knows his duties as the Deputy-Speaker of this House. He knows the rights and privileges of each Member of the House under his comradeship. Further, I believe, he knows that on him rests the dignity and tradition and high standard of this House. As I know him for several years as one of his colleagues in this House, I know his erudition, his views, experience and other matter. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to say all these things. So far as the Prime Minister's move is concerned, it is really highly appreciative because this very step of offering the Office of the Deputy-Speaker to the main Opposition of the House goes a long way towards the restorations of the traditions and conventions of this Parliamentary Democracy and democracy itself.

Sir, I believe that Shri Patil knows that the Ninth Lok Sabha is of a different nature having different colours. It has got its unique characteristic. I believe that he is quite aware of this uniqueness of this House. Many parties are represented here—small, smaller, big, large. But everybody who has been returned to this House has got a mandate of his own as a Member of this House to reflect the hopes and aspiration of the electorate. He is here to articulate the views of the people outside this House. It must be—I cannot say must—and it should be the concern of all the Presiding Officers to see that every Member, every party every group gets adequate scope to reflect his views, his

group's views and in general the hopes and aspirations of the people. Naturally, as we represents the hopes and aspirations of the people, there might be some conflict of ideas, conflict of argument. The Parliament is the House for dialogue, for exchange of arguments. Therefore, I think a little disturbance here and there should not distract the responsibility of the Presiding Officers.

Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I extend my heartiest, congratulations to Shri Patil on his elevation to this exalted Office. I extend my group's fullest possible cooperation in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the rare unanimity which the House has displayed today in electing Shri Shivraj V. Patil as the Deputy-Speaker, is indicative of the high esteem in which he is held by all of us present here. Indeed, his election is a great triumph of Indian democracy and is indicative of our innate strength and capacity to rise above party considerations. Shri Patil richly deserves the high honours bestowed upon him by party leader.

During his tenure first as Deputy-Speaker, Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha, during 1976-78 and later as its Speaker from March 1978 to September 1979, Shri Patil endeared himself to one and all by his uprightness and impartial handling of contentious issues. Later as a member of the Union Council of Ministers during 1980-1989, Shri Patil proved his administrative acumen in whatever portfolio was assigned to him. I am sure that with his innate qualities of head and heart and capacity to win over people by persuasion, Shri Patil would prove himself to be an ideal Deputy-Speaker of this House.

I really feel greatly relieved to have him by my side to share the onerous responsibilities of running this House. I have no doubt that the proceedings of this House will be greatly enriched and the roots of democracy will strike deeper in the days ahead.

May I once again congratulate Shri Patil

on behalf of myself and on behalf of each one of you on his election as Deputy Speaker.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am immensely grateful to you, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Leader of the Opposition who is off to Namibia now, the hon. leaders of other parties and the hon. Members for bestowing upon me, the honour of working in this House as the Deputy-Speaker. The warm words spoken by you, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister and other leaders have given me confidence that my task in discharging the duties as Deputy-Speaker in the House would be easier. In discharging my duties, I shall try to be humble, friendly, considerate, just, correct, unbiased and above all un irritating.

It is a fact of parliamentary life that the Members want to express their views and ventilate their opinions, to help their voters, their States and the country and to contribute in making the policies and implementing them properly and redressing the grievances of the people.

It shall be the endeavour of all concerned to see that as much time as is possible is given to the Members. I shall endeavour to do the same. It is also imperative that the business in the House is transacted, and transacted in the best possible manner and also on time. With the cooperation of all concerned, it should be possible to achieve this objective also. Once while speaking on an occasion like this, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that the Members symbolise the authority and the dignity of the people, and the presiding officers symbolise the authority and the dignity of the House, and it should be remembered by all concerned.

The success of the parliamentary democracy depends to a very great extent on the manner in which the proceedings in the House are conducted.

These views go to show the enormousness and importance of the tasks to be done by the presiding officers. Always and always I shall bear these views in mind.

[Sh. Shivraj V. Patil]

In my task, I need the cooperation, friendly attitude, understanding and help, from all the Members, the leaders and other presiding officers and the officers of the secretariat of the legislature, which you have agreed to extend to me.

I am sure I would get the same in ample measures.

May the system we have adopted become stronger and stronger with the cooperation of all concerned. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.20 P.M.

13.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Welcome Sir.

[*Translation*]

Congratulations.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up matters under Rule 377. Shri T. Basheer.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I first take this opportunity to congratulate you and wish you well.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): As an exception it will be recorded, otherwise not.

SHRI T. BASHEER: I hope it will be recorded.

14.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(I) **Need to convert Trivandrum Aerodrome into an International Airport**

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): One of the persistent and just demands of the people of Kerala and the Keralites who are working abroad throughout the world has been that the Civil Aerodrome at Trivandrum be declared as an International Airport.

At present more than 20 International flights are operated from Trivandrum every week. The average weekly number of International passengers to which Trivandrum Airport caters is 5285.

If Trivandrum is declared as an International Airport, it may be possible for more airlines to operate for Trivandrum. A lot of passengers to Gulf countries and other places have to take off now from Bombay or Delhi. Increase in the volume of passengers from Kerala being handled at Trivandrum means substantial physical comfort to these passengers. This proposal will also greatly help the economic development of the State and provide more employment opportunities.

I request the Government that steps may be taken to declare Trivandrum as an International Airport.