

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir I wish to place on record that no democratic convention has been broken. Last time a nominee of the DMK was taken. No protest was taken. No protest was there. And then there are parties, for example the party ruling in Andhra Pradesh, they never have Deputy—Speaker from the Opposition. The candidate proposed has a right to election because his party is not part of the Government. They are technically and definitely in the Opposition. We have given this post to the Opposition and there is nothing wrong on that. There is no impropriety.

12.08 hrs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to move;

“That Shri M. Thambi Durai, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali); Sir I beg to move:

“That Shri M. Thambi, Durai a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.”

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the motion moved by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and seconded by Sbti P. Kolan-
daivelu to the vote of the House. The question is:

“That Shri M. Thambi Durai, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speakers of the House.”

Those in favour may say ‘Aye’.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Those against may say ‘No’—I think the Ayes have it. The Ayes have it. The Motion is unanimously adopted.

The Motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare Shri M. Thambi Durai duly elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House.

*(Shri M. Thambi Durai was conducted to the Deputy Speaker's seat by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Ghulam-Nabi Azad and P. Kolan-
daivelu, Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait and Shri George Joseph Mundackal.)*

12.10 hrs

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Thambi Durai on his election as Deputy Speaker. It reflects the mood of the country and the age of the Lok Sabha. I am sure he will bring distinction to

the Chair, he will uphold the principles and traditions of this House and from our side we will give full cooperation to see that there is no confrontation with the Opposition or any situation that might pose problem either to you or to our Deputy Speaker.

I would like to once more congratulate him and we look forward to five years of cooperation and building a better atmosphere in Parliament with him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in so far as the question of electing Shri Thambi Durai as Deputy Speaker of the House is concerned, I would like to congratulate him. But I would also like to submit that the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are such that they should be elected unanimously. It is a matter of regret that a large number of the Opposition Members have walked out and spoiled the solemnity of the occasion.

I think there should have been consensus for the post of Deputy Speaker between the ruling Congress(1) Party and all the opposition groups and the motion should have been adopted unanimously. That would have been truly democratic. In view of the fact that only one nomination was received for the office of the Deputy Speaker and there was no contestant, I think the matter ends there. Had there been any combined Opposition candidate, we would have made up our mind. When the name of Shri Thambi Durai only was proposed for the office of the Deputy Speaker, we had no other course but to support him and the National Conference party has supported him.

I hope he would maintain the dignity of this august House, so that he could win the respect of the whole country. The conventions and the precedents established here by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are adopted by the entire country and all the legislatures

in the country. The code of conduct framed here sets an example for the people and the legislatures in the whole country. We should show due respect to the holders of the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. But, unfortunately, there have been such incidents in the country wherein due respect had not been shown to the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, rather disrespect was shown to their offices in an improper and wrong manner. On this occasion, I would like to urge in this House*.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not the time to bring in that subject. Don't bring that in here.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the way. It is very ill-advised. No, I do not feel it should go on record. We cannot refer to that august House here in that manner. I do not think it is proper. Mr. Kabuli, you are doing injustice to that august House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI We want a convention to be established in this House that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should rise above party politics. Their dignity and authority should be respected and we should endeavour to enhance their prestige. The leader of the House and the leader of the Opposition should, therefore, take steps to ensure that the dignity of our Presiding Officers is not lowered.

Hon. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are custodians of the Constitution. The code of conduct and conventions in our country, in Parliament and in Assemblies are framed under your leadership for our guidance. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are not elected by any particular party. Although, the Hon.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

Speaker has been associated with the Congress (I) Party, yet after having been elected as the Speaker, we have the same right on him as the ruling party has. Similarly, the Deputy Speaker was connected with Anna D. M. K. Party, but now he is the Deputy Speaker of the entire House. I hope he will be impartial.

In the end, I once again congratulate him on behalf of the National Conference Party and hope that he will protect our rights and conduct the day-to-day business of the House nicely.

[English]

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Shri Thambi Durai on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, the Indian Union Muslim League on his election as Deputy Speaker of this august House. I am very happy that the conventions of having Deputy Speaker from the Opposition benches have been maintained. I hope our new Deputy Speaker will carry forward the healthy traditions of the House and also see that justice is done to all sections of this august House.

I once again congratulate him and wish him a successful career.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Thambi Durai on his election as Deputy Speaker of this august House. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are coming from the South, your language is Tamil. And especially from the South, the number of Opposition Members is much less. I hope you will give ample opportunities to all of us to speak here and I hope that in your hand, the dignity and decorum of this house is very safe and you will protect the interests of the Opposition Parties also very well in the House.

I congratulate you once more. You are an educated man and I am sure you

will keep up the traditions of the House.

I congratulate you and wish you success also.

[Translation]

SHRI N. B. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : I offer my hearty congratulations to the Deputy Speaker on behalf of the people of the country and the regional party Sikkim Sangram Parishad. My friends from the opposition benches have walked out, but it is the people of India who voted to power the ruling party, and it is they who have elected him as the Deputy Speaker of this House. I, therefore, offer my congratulations not only to the Deputy Speaker for his being elected as the Deputy Speaker but also to the people of India for the same.

SHRI OWAISI (Hyderabad) : I offer my congratulations to the Deputy Speaker on my own behalf and on behalf of my party. I hope he will maintain the traditions of this House and conduct the business of the House properly.

[English]

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated Anglo-Indians) : Mr. Speaker, may I say a few words? As the senior-most Member, let me welcome him.

MR. SPEAKER ; I have allowed them. Let me speak on my behalf, now.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY ; I want to say a very few words.

Sir, I am welcoming him as the senior-most Member of the House and I am congratulating him. May I say that it is unfortunate that some Members on this part of the House have walked out because he is a Member of the Party that has not with resounding success in the Assembly elections and it has, I think,

achieved unprecedented success in respect of seats in this House? May I say this which is probably not known to many members that there are no precedents as such? I had the good fortune to lead to the Deputy Speaker's Chair Mr. Swell when he was an independent. You must know that now there is a tendency to treat independents as inferior to those belonging to the so-called parties. Mr. Swell was there and he made a very excellent Deputy Speaker. I am certain that you will uphold the high traditions of your new office. May I ask you to be amply reasonable to the members of this side of the House in giving opportunities to take part in the proceedings of the House?

I want to make a last request which I made to the Speaker and, that is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will restore—I am saying in all seriousness—the original practice of giving meaning to the expression ‘catching the Speaker's eye’ and that you will not just go down the line mechanically. Those of us which you feel have some contribution to make to the debate, irrespective of whether we are independents or belong to shavings or sub-shavings you will call us according to your discretion.

Once again I welcome you and congratulate you.

MR. SPEAKER: While joining the felicitations of the august House from all sides to the Deputy-Speaker, I congratulate Mr. M. Thambi Durai on his election to the Chair, as the Deputy-Speaker.

I feel very happy that in this age when the young generation is coming into its own, here is a very young man with all the zest, zeal and enthusiasm inspiration as well as aspiration, who has come to occupy the Chair, as the Deputy-Speaker. I know you are new. But everything once in a while is new: for once it has to be new but it does not deter you from discharging your duties.

I hope, by now, you must have studied the procedures and practices

and whatever is laid down in the book to conduct the proceeding of this august House in a proper and dignified manner impartially, because you are here to enhance, enrich and nourish a very beautiful, a very fine shady tree under which we all sit and try to aspire for new horizons, And that will be the most fitting thing.

You are an Engineer and, I hope....

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI
(Dharma Puri) Economist.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good; that is right. That is much more important because money makes the mare go, without money, there cannot be anything. If economy is sound, everything is going to be sound.

AN. HON MEMBER: Economists are needed in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why we are putting him in the Chair too.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: It is time also.

MR. SPEAKER: The time is very much apt for the introduction of one economist in the Chair.

I think you will be carrying on the burden with great courage, determination and a very fine sense which is called commonsense, a robust commonsense: that will be applicable here. The rules at certain times may not help you. But a basic sense of humour, a basic sense of adaptation, give and take, understanding and making other people understand, that is what will count. I hope, all those things you have and, by your demeanour, you will adorn this Chair and you will be very helpful to me, because from your State, I had one gentleman—he was Lakshman and I was his Ram—and I would like you to replace him in the same manner. He did so well a job; I am proud of what he contributed to the House and I shall be proud of

[Mr. Speaker]

what you will be contributing to the House.

With that hope and good wishes, I welcome you to the Deputy Speaker's Chair.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI (Dharmapuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I express my deep sense of gratitude to you and to the members of this august House in electing me unanimously to the high office of the Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha.

At the outset, I take this opportunity of thanking our young and dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who has reposed confidence in me and in the All India Anna D.M.K. Party by sponsoring me for this high office.

I am very certain that our country, under the able leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi will march from strength to strength.

I wish to express my respects to our hon M.G. Ramachandra, Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, for nominating me to this high office. I am sure I will prove worthy of his choice.

Our great leader, late lamented Perarigner Anna outlined duty, dignity and discipline as prerequisites for success in any field. It will be my endeavour to always follow these good principles while discharging my duties as Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

One can never fail to pay homage to our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the illustrious daughter of Mother India, Destiny snatched her from amongst us. I am sure we will continue to march ahead keeping her life, actions and words as the guiding principles.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am conscious that the office of Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, has all along been occupied

by eminent persons who distinguished themselves in the discharges of their duties. I will follow in their footsteps.

They will ever remain in my thoughts while I sit in the House and it will be my endeavour to discharge my functions in an impartial manner as is expected of me.

At the same time, I will seek the cooperation from all sections of this House. I am sure this will be forthcoming in abundant measure. I will keep the interest of all parties, groups and individual Members in my mind while discharging my duties.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I will receive your guidance and cooperation in ample measure during my tenure.

I once again thank you and Members of this House. on behalf of our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaiver MGR and all India Anna DMK and myself for electing me to this high Office.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I invite you to the Chair, I would like to inform the House that we shall have Calling Attention Motion tabled today at 4.00 P.M. At 6 PM. the Prime Minister will reply to the debate.

Now I will invite you to this Chair. Welcome,

12.28 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *State-ments under Rule 377. Shri Chintamani Jena.*

12.29 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) **Need to Convert the Rupsa-Bangliriposi Narrow Gauge Railway Line into Broad Gauge**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, Rupsa-Bangliriposi