

third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

20.31 1/2 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

**Report etc of Press Council of India from January 88 to March 89 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India for the period from January, 1988 to March, 1989 along with Audited Accounts for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Audited Accounts of the Press Council of India for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8366/89]

20.32 hrs.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT TO MODIFY DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION REGARDING GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES TO SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANTS ETC. IN DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to modify the date of implementation from 22.9.1982 as given by the Arbitration Board to 1.1.1988 in respect of Award dated 12.8.1985 in C. Reference No.s 9 and 10 of 1983 laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 13.10.1989 regarding grant of higher pay scales to the Senior Scientific Assistants, Draftsmen, Store-keeping Staff and Civilian Motor Drivers in Defence Establishments, in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the high financial implications involved in acceptance of the Award were considered to affect the national economy".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to modify the date of implementation from 22.9.1982 as given by the Arbitration Board to 1.1.1988 in respect of Award dated 12.8.1985 in C. Reference Nos. 9 and 10 of 1983 laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 13.10.1989 regarding grant to higher pay scales to the Senior Scientific Assistances, Draftsmen, Store-keeping Staff and Civilian Motor Drivers in Defence Establishments, in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the high financial implications involved in acceptance of the Award were considered to affect the national economy."

*The resolution was adopted*

20.34 hrs.

### VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I take this opportunity not formally but from the core of my heart to appreciate and thank the Mem-

[Sh. H.K.L. Bhagat]

bers of this House for the contribution that they made during this session and other sessions of the Parliament during these almost five years of the Eighth Lok Sabha. I am expressing my appreciation not only for those who have remained in the House as also for those who left the House earlier for now they must have judged for themselves whether they should have left the House at all. They must have experienced and judged by themselves whether they did the correct thing or not.

[*Translation*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Should I recite a couplet?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I recall a couplet which I may recite if permitted by you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please recite the couplet.

S. BUTA SINGH: Their condition is like this:-

"Is aashiki mein izzate sadat bhi gayee,  
phirte hain hum khwar, koi poochhta nahin."

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are remembering them even now, with affection. A lot happened in this House. All of us created some headaches for the hon. Speaker. Although at times, some exchanges did take place between the two sides, yet I am of the view, and perhaps I am alone in putting forward this view, that the standard of debates in the Eighth Lok Sabha was good. A Parliament is not judged by the amount of commotion created in the House but it is judged by what it does for the nation and now productive it is in the final analysis. From that viewpoint and as far as taking up the discussion of subject of public importance, this Lok Sabha has achieved remarkable goal. This Lok Sabha has given new

directions to new issues. A number of progressive legislations were passed all of which I cannot list at the moment. I have been a member of the Lok Sabha since the Fifth Lok Sabha—except for a brief spell during Janata rule. I feel that the Eighth Lok Sabha is in no inferior to earlier Lok Sabhas in terms of performance. This Lok Sabha has been in the throes of much controversy. I have seen the earlier Lok Sabhas also. Certainly this Lok Sabha witnessed more pandemonium this time but if we consider the five years in totality, the position is not so bad. It is true that people become practical when elections draw nearer, particularly those in the Opposition. The Opposition may have gone but I think that this Lok Sabha has been better to many of the earlier Lok Sabhas, as far as discipline is concerned. In no way was its standard lower than that of earlier Lok Sabhas. That is my view, although newspapers and magazines have been reporting that the standard of Parliament has fallen. We follow traditions and I do not agree that the standard of the Lok Sabha has fallen, as reported in newspapers and magazines. I thank our Press. My hon. colleagues in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sheila Dixit and Shri Namgyal know how several Members expressed a desire to participate in the debates, how difficult it was to control them. But all the hon. Members co-operated and made some very good contributions. There are notable contributions on the part of the Opposition too. I thank everyone with all my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not just completing a formality. I am speaking from the core of my heart. I thank you for guiding us through the last five years, a period which witnessed several moments of difficulties for you.

I cannot forget the role played by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and its Secretary-General, Shri Subhash Kashyap in helping us. We praise them for their efforts. I cannot forget the Marshal of the House. The Marshal did not need to use his powers but I have been on the panel of Chairman for some time, and without the Marshal, rules cannot be enforced. He explains the rules and pro-

cedure in writing. The Watch and Ward Staff and the Press have also worked very hard.

I also thank the staff of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Secretary Shri Dhondhiyal and his colleagues. I praise my hon. colleagues also. The hon. Deputy-Speaker is a young person and his work in the previous session as well as this one has been praiseworthy. When he became Deputy-Speaker, many people were sceptical as to how he would manage the House since he had no experience of the House proceedings, even as an M.L.A. But he became Deputy-Speaker and fulfilled his responsibilities very well.

Another thing I want to say is that my colleagues in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs enjoy a unique position. Even a minor lapse on their part can prove costly for the Department. It is due to their co-operation that there have been few instances of such nature. All these people have done a good job for which I am very thankful to them.

In the end, a word about myself. The two portfolios entrusted to me, Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, sometimes get a bit too difficult a handle. It is with the co-operation of the hon. Speaker, hon. Ministers and all hon. Members that I was able to execute the tasks assigned to me. I thank all of them for their help.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has arrived. The country has seen all-round development under his leadership. But most of all his leadership has made the Lok Sabha a guiding light for the country.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also rise to express my thanks to you, to the hon. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Prime Minister, all the hon. Members of this House and every member of the staff of your Secretariat not merely as a formality but from the very core of my heart.

Mr. Speaker, sir, this House is the protector and dignified institution of democracy. I am happy to say that although the faith of

the people might have shaken a bit in respect of a number of democratic institutions but as regards the faith of our countrymen in Indian Parliament, it has been complete and absolute. That is why these people come here in the form of delegations whenever they have any grievances or they want to draw attention of the Government to some point of injustice being meted out to them. At times they approach the Members of the Parliament so that their points may be raised in the House. Our country will go on progressing as long as the dignity and supremacy of this democratic institution of Parliament of this country is maintained. There is no doubt that we are the people who believe in dialogue and discussions. And that is why we have not resigned from this House because certain critical situations may arise or some chaotic conditions may be created in the country. This House is not merely a law making body but also a forum to resolve our most serious disputes and controversies. We will have to maintain the spirit with which we had adopted a resolution in this House in the case of a disputed issue. That is the work of this august House. It is a fact that the masses have confidence in the Parliament and we shall have to maintain its dignity as well. We rendered all possible cooperation in this regard. We may have made mistakes which might have created some displeasure but this is a part of the game. For example, even today some displeasure was created but it is good that an atmosphere of goodwill was maintained in the House. A number of things have been accomplished by this House. It is a different matter that the electorate will finally judge whether they approve of us or not but it is certain that the future of this country is very bright and God willing it will continue to remain bright. This is indicated by the fact that our democracy is vibrating with life and secularism is also thriving and the people can clearly feel it.

With these words, I would like to thank the Hon. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. There were times when we criticised the functioning of the Ministers. All these things are a part and parcel of the democratic

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalia]

system. We have had differences with the Hon. Members as well but it was all done to make our country and a democracy stronger and take it forward.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister and the leader of this House is present here and I do not know as to what you will say after I make my submission. I am not familiar with all these conventions. I have been elected for the first time and this is my first turn. Therefore, I am not aware as to what formalities are observed on this day. It is my first experience and I am not familiar with the conventions to be followed on this occasion.

I have made every effort to learn what it was in my capacity to learn. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had been very kind in encouraging us to get elected to the Parliament and hundreds of Members like myself could not have done so without his assistance. It is a fact and I have no hesitation in saying it. We have given a lot of trouble to our leader, to your honour and many others who made us familiar with all these things because we were ignorant. In our constituency we had a very high opinion of ourselves but when we came here, we realised that we were non-entities. We realised that we have been thrown into the sea and we shall have to learn to survive. That is why I would like to thank you. There are many hon. Members who have been elected to the Parliament for the first time. I find some hon. Members who have been elected to this House for a number of times. Some of them claim to have had 6 turns while some others say that they have had 7 turns and there are also a few others who claim to have been here since the first Lok Sabha. It seems as if one is indeed born 84 lakh times and it makes us believe and have faith in the concept of rebirth. Instead of putting it in words, I would like to put it in a suggestive form. Our leader should pay attention to it and understand as to why we believe in rebirth... (Interruptions)....Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that my words have reached the right place.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want then I can also make a recommendation.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Therefore, I would like to apologise for our childish attitude, our ignorance of the technicalities of law, our inability to foresee the situation at the time of legislation and for our general immaturity as Members of Parliament. At the same time I would also like to congratulate our leader that we have been able to rise to this level under his leadership. I would also like to pay my compliments to you.

I have penned down 8 lines. I would like to read them out here. When I felt that something was going to happen. I wrote down these lines. Whenever some thing is going to happen the poet foresses it. However, I regret to say that some of our hon. Members whom we liked very much, are no longer the members of this House as they have resigned. They were telling me outside that perhaps by that midnight we will also become ex-members but by that time Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri Bhagat sent a message and with the statement of Shri Buta Singh everything changed and it did not happen. On the whole whatever happened was right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I pay my compliments to you all. I pay my thanks to the staff of your Secretariat. It is said that all these things are not mere a formality and it can be done by the Party High Command and our leader but I think that it is a convention and it is essential to follow them in a democracy. Once again I pay my thanks to every one.

I have written 8 lines. I would like to read them out. I am fortunate that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has arrived. I feel very happy, So, I would like to recite these lines which mean that we worked with a sense of dedication and worship and our conscience was clean:

"Prajatantra ke prabal punya ne hamko yahan bithaya  
Panch baras tak hamne apna  
pujadharam nibhaya  
Jo Kutch janata ne saunpa tha, vah hai

uski thati,  
 Uska usko de hisab, kursi hai ati-jati  
 Gandhi-Nehru ke waris hum, hum khud  
 ki shakti tatolain  
 Ghar-ghar, angan-angan jakar, Bharat  
 ki jai bolain  
 Janata par hai hamein bharosa, janata  
 ki jai hogi  
 Neta hai Rajiv hamara, yah jai nishchay  
 hogi."

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we had a challenging discussion on communalism. We have been remembering Gandhiji and now we have Gandhiji among us again after 40 years under whose leadership we will fully meet the situation and come out victorious. The entire country is with him. I would like to express my views in the following words:

"Chal rahe hein Rajiv Gandhi,  
 Gandhi ki rah par,  
 Chalo ham bhi chalen, desh ka nirman  
 karen,  
 Rashtriya ekata ke liye,  
 Dharma-Nirapekshata ke liye,  
 Sab dharmon ki ekata ke liye,  
 Garibi door karane, berojagari mitane,  
 Har hathon ko kam, muhan main Al-  
 lah-Ishwai ka nam,  
 Ham eak rahenge, Babri-masjid ya  
 Ram Mandir ke,  
 Nam par ham nahin ladenge.  
 Hamane dekha hai Bharat ko tutate  
 Hamane dekha hai bhai bhai ko bi-  
 chhurate,  
 Hamane dekha hai Draupadi ka Chir  
 haran,  
 Hamane dekha hai Sabbir ka tara-  
 phan,  
 Hamane dekha hai Isha ka Suli par  
 charna,  
 Hamane dekha hai Sukarat ka jahar  
 peena,  
 Hamane dekha hai Gandhi ka goli se  
 marna.  
 Satya-ahinsa ke liye,  
 dilon ko jorane ke liye,  
 Auraaj Chalish Varshon baad,  
 Phir dekha rahen hain,  
 Gandhi ko usi rah per chalte,

Chalo ham bhi chalen,  
 desh ka nirman karen."

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, sir, perhaps, it may be my last speech. Who knows how many of us will return next time. (*Interruptions*). On this auspicious occasion....

AN. HON. MEMBER: You will have a re-  
 birth...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I would like to express my gratitude to you for making all out efforts to do justice to about 70 per cent of the farmers in the country. I am also grateful to you for providing opportunities to their representatives to speak in the House and express their views. I am equally grateful to the hon. Deputy Speaker who is sitting here and who provided opportunities to us to represent the cause of the downtrodden and backward people. Recently, he got married. In spite of that we could see him in the House for quite a long time. I know that we were not happy to keep such a young man away from his home for such a long time but we were helpless.

I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Members of opposition. Shri Madhav Reddi, Dandavate ji, Shri Indrajit Gupta and other who are not present here at the moment as also to Prof. Soz and to Shri Banatwalla who has also been with me in Bombay. Shri Banatwalla rightly said, that on a good number of occasions, we had heated exchanges. But these exchanges were meant to extract something good out of them—and this is why we are speaking today. I also express my gratitude to all the hon. Ministers. As a matter of fact, I used to have maximum word duels with them both inside the House and outside. But these were never meant to offend anybody. I was to present my views before them with a view to getting something from them for the people. If I knowingly or unknowingly offended them at any stage, I apologise to them and also express my gratitude to them.

I am also grateful to the hon. Prime

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]

Minister, the leader of the House for providing able leadership to the House. Whenever we committed a mistake, he pointed it out to us. But today I would like to submit that when we came here after having been elected with a thumping majority, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said at the very first sitting of the first Session that this time the opposition is numerically weak and we were at liberty to express our views because we do not raise our own matters here but we raise here the matters of public interest. That is why people like me could take part in the discussions here. We are grateful to the man who gave us that, privilege.

The Watch and Ward Staff perform their duties day and night braving cold and rain. The reporting branch remains busy with their reporting work even upto 4 A.M. in the night. I thank wholeheartedly Kashyap Saheb and every member of his staff.

As has been said by Shri Banatwalla, our country is great. In spite of all these, we are forgetting the past. Perhaps, learned Iqbal had visualised it much earlier. That is why he has said...

"Irano Misra Roman, Sab mit gaye jahan se,

Phir bhi abhi hai baki Hindustan hamara

Sare jahan se achsha, Hindustan hamara."

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak only because due to indisposition I could not participate in the debate in this Session. I view things from the historical angle. Ashoka, the Great was the first emperor who had unified India. His 'dharma Chakra' is our national emblem. The lion pillars put up by him at Sarnath constitute the symbol of our Government. He maintained the tradition of this country. He followed the teachings of Gautam Buddha, Vedas and Puranas and kept up Indian traditions. Sacrifice of animals and birds on 'Punarvasu Nakshtra' was

stopped. I tried to probe into the background of such a step. When Indira ji inaugurated the committee on Environment, I sought to know the reasons. I enquired from the universities. Buddhist monks and other scholars, but was not able to get any breakthrough in my search. I had a little knowledge, but it was limited. I read the Ancient Indian History written by Shri Radha Kumud Mukherjee and after going through his book on Ashoka I came to know that from the times of Manu, the great Indian emperors prohibited sacrifice of any kind on their birthdays. Time has changed and with the ideologies have also undergone changes. Only the traditions which were in practice during the times of his predecessors continued to be followed. Ashoka maintained those traditions and also allowed the message of Lord Buddha to continue at a time when a republic attacked a smaller republic. Vaishali in Bihar is the first ever republic in India. People pondered over the measures to be taken under such a situation and went to Lord Buddha for advice. Buddha recognised the spirit of the country and the universe as well. He recognised the spirit existing in every being. He sought to know from the villagers which are subjected to an attack if they had a Sabha. The villagers gave an affirmative reply stating that the elders are being given respect in the Sabha. Buddha further desired to know if all the decisions were being taken with mutual consultations. The villagers replied in the affirmative. Then Buddha blessed them with the assurance that kings of the world, however great they may be cannot defeat them. The same thing happened. Large kingdoms of the world oblivion, but this incident of Buddha's life continued to be there even today. Similarly, the tradition of our Lok Sabha still continues to be maintained though names are different, the spirit is one and the same.

"Eakam Sadvipra Bahudhavadanti".

Whatever may be the nomenclature, it proposed under the able patronage of Mahatma Gandhi. Pandit Nehru lent dynamism to this tradition by his relentless efforts and Indira ji sacrificed her blood for its further progress. Now Rajiv ji is leading the tradition

ahead. This is the view expressed in Hindi books and Sanskrit scriptures. Shelley has rightly said in English.

[English]

"The one remains, the many change  
and pass,  
Heaven's light for ever shines,  
Earth's shadows fly,  
Life like a domed multi-coloured glass,  
Stains the white radiance of eternity."

P.B. Shelley (1792-1822)

[Translation]

This is what Shelley has said. This poem contains all things in it. The soul of India is one and tradition is one whether you go to the *Samadhi* of *piror* anywhere else. Whether we believe in the Buddha or pray in temples, churches or mosques, we are all one and the organisation which has been following this tradition is the Indian National Congress and the leader of this organisation is Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We hope that this tradition will continue in future and the world will get a new direction thereby. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you for having granted me an opportunity to sit on this esteemed chair by including me in the panel of Chairmen in Lok Sabha. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister that with his help I could do some work after being appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances. I was elected to the Fifth Lok Sabha as a Member along with Shri Bhagatji and when he was not here I was in Shimla. Today, I am with him. I had opportunity to work with the late Shrimati Gandhi and now I enjoy the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, despite my being a junior Member, you have granted me opportunity to speak. The Parliament is the temple, mosque, gurudwara and church of our democracy. After Shrimati Gandhi's death, a number of people were worried as

to what the Eighth Lok Sabha would do under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi since all the Members were young and junior; how would they be able to maintain the stability of the country. Under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi the demand in Punjab for Kahlistan did soften and the disturbances in Arunachal, Mizoram, Tripura also came to an end. The biggest achievement of the eighth Lok Sabha under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi is that we have been able to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. We did get the political independence but we could not get economic independence. In the Eighth Lok Sabha a number of revolutionary steps like the Nagar Palika Bill, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Panchayati raj Bill, reduction of voting age to 18 years, benefits to the S.C./S.T., new Education Policy, upliftment of women, etc. were taken. This is a very big achievement for our country and our Parliament. This is our economic freedom movement. I do not want to talk about the Opposition Parties but we being new Members would like to learn something from them. Our party formulated the 20-point programme for the economic upliftment but the Opposition during the past five years continued with one programme viz. 'Rajiv hatao! Shri Rajiv Gandhi did not quit but they themselves have resigned from the membership of the House. When we came to the House, we did not know anything. You have helped us a lot. I have always got your good wishes. Our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have helped us a great deal in discharging our duties. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and the staff members also extended their full cooperation. We extremely grateful to them. I do not have special interest in '*shero shairi*' but I would like to recite a couplet:

"Roushni chand se hoti hai sitaron se  
nahin  
Muhabbat ek se hoti hai hazaron se  
nahin"

Our masses love only the Congress. I am of the firm view that there is no alternative to the Congress Party in this House. The

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Congress will come to power and protect our traditions.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir: I have heard a lot of our Members speaking. I was thinking, perhaps we could have another session; but somehow or the other, the Members have made up their mind. Can I thank you, and thank all the Members for all that has been achieved during these past five years.

When I think back, five years ago when we first called for elections, what nation was going through then, what we went through at that time after Indira ji's assassination, and then when I look at the nation today and I see what has happened, what has changed, what differences there are between that time and today, I feel extremely proud. I feel proud not because the Government or we here have done something, but I feel proud of what our people have done. We here have perhaps been able to give some directions, some indication. But the real burden has been borne by our people in the development and the progress that has taken place during this period. No matter which area we look at, whether it is the unity and integrity of the country, whether it is the security of the country, whether it is the economic development, whether it is the uplift of the poor, whether it is on certain basic principles of secularism, of socialism, of upholding our democracy, I feel proud about what the nation has achieved during these five years.

If we look at our standing internationally, if we look at the contribution India has made to global development, again India has done proud during these years. And for this, I would like to thank the people of India, and I would like to thank the people of India through their representatives who are sitting here today, and also those whose representatives have decided not to be here today—having abdicated their responsibility and to run away from the charge given them, by

their constituents.

Also, when I sit on this seat, I cannot but be reminded every time I sit here, of those who sat here before me: of Panditji, of Shastriji, of Indiraji; and when I see that we have done well during these years, we have done well because of what they did before we have gathered here for the last five years. We have further built on what they built, we were guided by the directions, the light that they showed us, and it is only because of them that we have been able to achieve what we have achieved. But it is not only them the earlier Prime Ministers that I must thank. We must really go back to Gandhiji and the principles that Gandhiji had given us. That has guided us during these five years.

What makes me even more proud of our achievements is that during these years, we have been able to carry those very principles of Gandhiji beyond our boundaries; and we have been able to get people across the world, even in those countries who were mocking at these principles a few years ago, to start talking about these, to believe in these principles as the only real course open for civilization and humanity today.

If I am asked about the one achievement that this Parliament has had, I would say that even more than removing poverty, even more than passing Bills which will give powers in the hands of our people to remove corruption and power-brokers and various sources of exploitation that takes place, even more than many Bills that we have passed here to bring about social justice to the weaker sections, the Bill that we have passed to strengthen women, to uphold the dignity of women, the Bills that we have passed to bring about major changes in our electoral processes, strengthen our democracy, there are so many things that Parliament has done. I would say the first big achievement of this Parliament is in bringing the ethos of Indian civilisation across the globe and having it accepted by a very large number of people even in countries that did not believe in what we stood for. Our struggle is not just a struggle for removing poverty and exploita-



tion within India; our struggle is to remove poverty and exploitation across the globe. And during these years we have brought about a change in global thinking. For the first time, there is a break-up of the power-blocs. There is a new international democracy that is coming out of the old system. I do not want to take credit for this. The credit must go to Gandhiji who raised his voice, to Panditji who showed us the way, to Shastriji and Indiraji who sat in this seat and guided us in that direction. We have only followed in their footsteps and we have been able to walk a little further because they had guided us so far

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will be completing a decade of my tenure as the Speaker of this House very shortly. I could never think, nor did this very thought come to my mind that I would ever become the Speaker of Lok Sabha. I do not know how it came to the mind of Shrimati Gandhi 10 years ago, January 14, 1980, when she took the oath that she asked me "Bal Ramji, have you studied law?" I replied that Madam I had absolutely, no knowledge of this field. Then she had said that it did not matter. You had to be the Speaker. Since then I have won your confidence. I do not have the words to thank you. I am very grateful to you. I have got the cooperation of the leader of the House who is present here. I had got full cooperation from the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and I have no hesitation in saying that no person has tried to create any kind of hurdle in my work at any time. I was given full freedom to do what I liked within my jurisdiction. It was with the support of all of you that I have been able to discharge the functions of the Speaker. I am proud of this. There have been some differences, some pandemonium too but I agree with what Shri Bhagatji was saying that he is proud that the Eighth Lok Sabha which has been able to maintain the highest standards and principles in its functioning and is the foremost in knowledge, wisdom and intellect. It may be that sometimes we might have been carried by sentiments and sometimes passions might have

risen high and we had spoken in a raised voice. There might have been mutual exchanges of hot words. But I tried time and again to calm down the members sometime by compassion and sometimes by making appeals in the House and outside. In the Annual Conference of Speakers also I tried my best to exhort the participants to follow the principles which we have enunciated for our selves because all of us should nurture this democracy which we have given to ourselves in this country. It is a very important point and all of you have helped me in this matter.

Some members here might have felt aggrieved but one thing I can say with certainty that whenever I sit in the Chair of the Speaker in the House, I always keep in mind, that I am only the Speaker though I have been and am a member of Congress party. But whenever I sit in the Chair of the Speaker, I discharge my duties without any favour. Nobody has ever interfered in my independent functioning. In delivering my rulings I have always made efforts to ponder over the issue dispassionately and also sought advice from all the wise men and consulted various books concerning the issue. It may be that due to some misunderstanding or for some other reasons some Members might have taken the impression that they have been discriminated against but these kind of things have never come to my mind and heart. I have discharged my duties under the rules and keeping myself above party politics. I have always tried to do my work with the strength bestowed on me by God and the confidence reposed by you. Some of you have referred to recent angry moments in the House but why did it all happen. I know this. Some people with vested interest wanted to create chaos even by misusing the strength they got. But I am not worried about it. I am a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I have faith in democracy. I believe that forgiveness is great. Forget what they did. Our conscience is clean. We must have self-introspection and in that process if we find ourselves guilty only then we should consider ourselves guilty. Don't see things with other's eyes. View your

inner self with your own eyes. I have tried to think and understand things in this manner.

I am very much grateful to all of you. I wish you all the success. May God give you all the strength to lead the country to prosperity and progress. I am very much confident of coming events. We have a bright future before us. I have visited abroad. I have represented this country in all the big countries and I am very proud of it. The people of other countries look to us and feel rejuvenated. They have all the appreciation for our functioning. Recently, when I visited abroad, they told us that 80 crore Indian population have done a wonder in the world by sustaining democracy for all these years and that we had made tremendous progress in these years. It was an example before the world that we have been able to achieve a nine per cent growth rate. No other country has been able to achieve this rate during this decade. You have mitigated hunger, you have sufficient stocks of foodgrains. You are moving on the path of progress. You have a new zeal, a new direction. I know it. I recollect a couplet:-

"Wade Mukhalif se na ghabra a ookab  
Ye to chalti hein tujhe ooucha othane  
ke liye  
Tu shaahin hai, kam hai parvaj tera  
Tere liye Asman aur bhi hein."

So we have other aims before us which we have to achieve. We have to move towards them. The testing time is before us. People know what they have to do in this test. People know that India is united and we have to keep it united. For this, economic progress is imperative and the people understand this. People also know that democracy has to survive and communal forces have to be checked effectively and brotherhood is to be maintained. They know that communalism and democracy cannot exist side by side, violence and democracy cannot continue together. Communalism and Democracy go against each other. Therefore, we have to see that democracy survives and for this we have to defeat all the forces that go against this system.

My colleague, the Deputy Speaker, like me was also new to this House and you elevated him immediately to the position of Deputy Speaker. He got married also. You have set record after record. You did not allow him to sit in the House even for a day as an ordinary Member nor did you allow me to sit here like that. We are grateful to all of you for this.

Our Secretary-General, his colleagues, Marshal and members of my staff, officers and employees of Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Watch and Ward staff responsible for our security, all have helped me greatly in discharging my duties. I am unable to express in words my appreciation for untiring efforts put in by them in helping me to function as the Speaker. They will have to go deep into my heart to know how grateful I am to them. The work we have done during the last five years is on record. That will speak of the tremendous work we have done. I do not want to take much of your time on this count. I give the entire details to the Secretary-General, who will get them properly recorded. All of you can see them there. We have done a lot.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: You circulate it to the Press.

MR. SPEAKER: We wish we could circulate it but the record is voluminous.

I would like to say one thing more. You have given many new schemes. You have taken an historical step. You have given a new turn to the democracy. You have brought it down to the grass-root level. I would like to congratulate all of you for all what you have done.

Forge ahead. India is moving towards prosperity and progress, I am confident that no power can stop our progress. We will meet again after December. You have said about rebirth. I wish you repeated rebirths. Best of luck to all of you.

Yesterday, you had spoken about farmers. I thank you very much for this because

only such a step can bridge the gap between havees and havenots. It will generate confidence in every citizen of India, whether urbanite or ruralite that he belongs to that India where every citizen has equal rights, equal opportunity for progress and acquiring education, we have a bright future.

I am really grateful to all of you. Jai Hind.

[*English*]

I declare, the House stands adjourned *sine-die*.

21.25 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*