

20.26 hrs.

[English]

## VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Sixth Session of the 10th Lok Sabha and the Budget Session for the year 1993-94 will be concluded today. This has been a long and important Session. The house held a total of 45 sittings lasting over 310 hours.

Respected Rashtrapatiiji addressed the hon. Members of both Houses, in the Central Hall of Parliament, on 22nd February, 1993. The House discussed the President's Address for more than 18 hours before adopting it unanimously.

The Railway Budget and the General Budget for the year were presented on the 24th and 27th February, 1993 respectively. In addition the Budgets of the five States under President's Rule were also presented to the House.

The Railway Budget was discussed in the House for about 18 hours before it passed. The House while discussing this Budget concluded its sitting of 30th March at 6.25 A.M. the following day. This is a new record. I congratulate the hon. Members, for their interest and patience.

The House took up general discussion on the General Budget from 20th April, 1993. The discussions lasted for about 21 hours.

The House thereafter took up the Demands in respect of Defence, Home Affairs and Agriculture Ministries. The House, was assisted in its deliberations by the reports submitted by the newly constituted Committees.

After discussions extending over 22 hours, the House applied guillotine on 4th of May, 1993 and passed the demands.

The House thereafter discussed the Finance Bill for more than 10 hours before passing it.

Thirty-three Government Bills were introduced in the House during the Session.

The House passed 42 Bills because the Bills were pending also. The Bill to end Manual Scavenging, had been under consideration for a long time and its passage is an important event.

The House also discussed and adopted five Statutory Resolutions relating to the continuance of Presidential Rule in States.

Four Short Duration Discussions under Rule 193 were also taken up by the House for discussion. The discussions under Rule 193 relating to Verma Commission Report and bomb blast in Bombay are concluded today only.

Notices of 34,902 questions were received during the Session, of which 1,000 questions were listed as Starred. 173 questions were answered orally while written replies were given in respect of 8,677 questions.

A short Notice Question and two half an Hour Discussions were also taken up during the Session.

Thirty-nine statements on important matters were made by Ministers and 253 matters were taken up by the hon. Members under Rule 377.

The Private Members continued to show keen interest and a large number of Bills and Resolutions were brought to the House. Forty-two Bills were introduced and six Resolutions admitted, of which two Bills and two Resolutions were discussed.

Discussions relating to the resolution for the creation of new States, moved by Shri Drona were extremely lively and remained part discussed. Shri Basudeb Acharia's Bill to amend the RPF Act evoked keen interest. The Bill was withdrawn following the assurance from the Railway Minister that he would look into the issues raised.

For the first time in our Parliamentary history, this House discussed the motion for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court. A total of thirteen Members spoke for more than fifteen hours on the motion.

The House spent a considerable time on discussion of the unlisted business, popularly known as 'Zero Hour'. On an average, about sixty-five minutes were taken each day and the exchanges were very very complicated.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Government has to respond to those.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): How much time was usefully spend during Zero Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: That is why we shall have to do something about this in the next session.

This session saw the establishment of Departmentally related Committees. This issue had been pending for a considerable period and I must thank the Government and leaders of all parties for their very constructive cooperation.

Seventeen Departmentally-related committees, with membership from both Houses, were constituted on 29th March, 1993, when the House adopted the Third Report of the Rules Committee.

The Committee system was formally inaugurated on 31st March, 1993 by the hon. Vice-President of India in the Central Hall.

The Committees started functioning during the period of adjournment of the House in April. All Committees have met to consider the Demands of Ministries and Departments under their charge. We have already recieved twenty reports from the Committees.

I would like to thank the Members and the Chairman of the Committee for the keen interest and hard work that they have put in.

Hon. Members, India had the privilege of hosting the 89th Inter Parliamentary Conference in Delhi, from the 12th to 17th April, 1993. More than one thousand delegates, their spouses and accompanying persons from 110 countries participated in the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Respected Rastrapatiji on 12th April, 1993 in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Conference thereafter met for its working sessions at the Ashoka Hotel.

The Conference discussed and adopted resolutions on the following topics:

- (1) Transparency in arms transfer through global arms register;
- (2) Educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values; and
- (3) Need for urgent action in former Yugoslavia.

in addition, the Conference also discussed the international political, economic and social situation.

The Conference was marked by lively debates of a high order.

The hon. Members will be glad to know that the organisation of the Conference was greatly appreciated. We continue to recieve message of congratulations and thanks from the participants.

This session which began in difficult circumstances, in the aftermath of riots and violence in soem parts of the country, thus has many achievments to its credit.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the hon. Members, for the kind cooperation extended to me and my colleagues, the hon. Deputy Speaker and the hon. Members of the Panel of Chairpersons in the smooth conduct of the

business of this House.

I would specially like to thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various Parties and Groups as well as the Whips, for the sustained and willing cooperation and courtesy extended.

I would also like to express our appreciation to all the officers and employees of the Parliament who have done so much to make our task easier.

I wish all the Members very best till we meet for the Monsoon Session.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHARAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this very long Session has come to a close and we are happy that we have been able to transact an unexpectedly large amount of business during this Session including the railway Budget, including the general Budget and this has been done particularly in the context of the new innovation of the Committees about which we had heard so much of cynical comments that it may not work at all. But I must tell you, Sir, on behalf of the House that you have made it work, you have conceived it properly and we are proud that the Committees have done an admirable job. I have had occasion to read some of the reports that were prepared within 24 hours within 26 hours and the Committees have done the job extremely well. I am sure that this will be found useful and we will derive the maximum benefit out of the reports of these Committees and the deliberations of these Committees while deliberating the subjects in the House.

As you have said, Sir, this has been an eventual three months period and the country has seen many ups and downs, but the Parliament has taken stock of all these situations with a certain amount of dispassionate approach. It is good that we have deliberated on all these topics and make very good contribution to the thinking that has gone into these subjects.

Sir, I would like to particularly congratulate you and thank you for the manner in which you have shown patience, skill, perseverance and firmness where needed in order to steer the proceedings of the House. We did not expect anything less from you. We have got all that we expected and I am sure that in your hands the conduct of this House is going to be absolutely safe.

I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Advanji, and all the Leaders of other parties who have, in spite of rather tense comments now and then supervening in the debate, shown considerable positive approach and cooperation in the conduct of the House. I thank everyone who has toiled to make this session a grand success.

We had marathon performances, perhaps, for the first time. We have not had such long performances in any of the previous sessions as far as I recall and this has been a special feature. I really appreciate the manner in which the Members contributed to these debates. I also appreciate the untiring work done by the Parliament Secretariat.

In the end, Sir, I would say that the democratic process which this country has adopted has proved once more that this process has not only come to stay, but it is going from strength to strength. There may be some areas in which improvement is needed.

Thank you very much we have on an average 65 minutes a day, spent on 'Zero Hour' that is, 40 hours.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): But the result is not 'zero'.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): The result is good.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I thought you are announcing the decision about Rs. 2 crores M.P. Constituency fund.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: With 40 hours gone in this, may be we would have passed some more important legislation. I regret, to some extent, that some other areas on Commerce, matters concerned with the Commerce Ministry etc., could not be accommodated. When I find 40 hours have been spent for Zero Hours, I do feel that we could have done a little more to accommodate those things. But in any case that is part of the parliamentary life. As you said, if you are able to find a way out of it, you will become absolutely immortal in this country as a Speaker. I have no doubt about that.

Thank you very much. I thank all the hon. Members once again.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir the clamour and din of democracy quite often drowns the substance of it. What we are witnessing now is the assertion of the substance of it, and the recession in to the background of the essential clamour and din of it. The leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister and you have pointed to the unusual stresses and exceptional nature of this particular Session. This Session was marked by your initiative to introduce the subjects Committees. They are still in their embryonic form. We have indeed submitted reports but I say not hesitantly but as a caution that it is relatively easy to bring into existence new organisms but it is extremely difficult to ensure their continued growth. I refer here to the fact that we have a very high infant mortality rate in the country and it is my expectation that these new Committees will certainly not add to those statistics. You are deserving of all our gratitude and our high sense of appreciation, not just for this but for many other innovations that you have introduced and the great responsibility that you have displayed in absorbing the clamour and din and in attempting to bring forward the substance of democracy.

I have no doubt that on numerous occasions we tested your patience. You always succeeded and always we were found wanting and we have failed. The Government attempted, as they must, to test us frequently. Whether they succeeded or failed is not for me to say. Naturally, all of us here did our best to test the Government is well on as many occasions as we could. But now I do not wish to test the patience of the House because it has been a very long Session, momentous session no doubt, but a testing Session in every sense of the word. Thank you very much.

Our apologies for any acts of discourtesy that may have arisen from any of my colleagues were part of what I call the exuberance of democracy and it is the articulation of that exuberance because if there is no clamour in democracy there is no life in it. Democracy is in that sense a clamorous business. It is not the same as a totalitarian system of consent.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very glamorous also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is very glamorous also. In the hope that the glamour of democracy will continue to assert vigorously and more and more glamour will be seen, I wish you and the Treasury benches and my colleagues very well.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the session is going to conclude. After that we would either go to our constituencies or some other place. On behalf of our party we would like to thank you. What we should have said has been stated by Shri Jaswant Singh also. Although we are aware regarding the limits and dignity of the chair, we do sometimes violate the limits. The Speaker has to reprimand us but neither it is our intention nor the intention of the Chair to show disrespect towards one another. It is a routine matter. We are here in this House since, 1977 and such speakers are rare who have patiently listened to the discussions realising the seriousness of the subject matter

for eight or nine hours. we have gained inspiration from this. I am unable to convey my gratitude and we wish you all the best to you and our unbounded gratefulness.

We all are aware that you have transacted great business in such a short time. We find that our doubts regarding the telecasts of proceedings were proved baseless we are marching ahead in this direction. Through you I would also like to thank the Leader of the House and members of the ruling party. We are like a family where sometimes disputes also arise and hot discussions are made but in spite of that there is an inherent cooperation. The passing of two Bills without any discussion is an example of the same cooperation. On behalf of Janata Dal. I once again thank the hon. Prime Minister and the leader of the House.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most important Session that we always have in a year, namely, the Budget session where the economic business naturally which should have priority is gone through.

We have been able to have a full discussion in this House in this Session on the Railway Budget and the General Budget. We have been able to transact a large quantum of business which is really for the sake of the country's progress and for meeting the urges and aspirations to the people.

Sir, this Session has been marked with a very important innovation, that is, the Committee system. I cannot adequately thank you for the great initiative that you took, Sir. What was in the mind of everybody concerned, you gave the concrete shape to it. Under your leadership and inspiration, the Committees have come into existence. As you and the hon. Prime Minister and all of us have noticed, in this Committee, there is willing cooperation from every one.

It augurs very well that the stresses and strains inside the House, which are bound to come. bound to be there and necessary to be there also in a democracy can be avoided for the purpose of tackling the issues in a different atmosphere with an attitude of cooperation and with an attitude of finding out solutions to the problems. I know that it has put very serious strain on the secretariat and the staff. I have been here for over two decades. I have always been admiring the efficiency and the ability of the Secretariat and the staff of Lok Sabha and I again must record my deep appreciation the way, the hard work they are putting even in these Committees after doing the usual work that they have. And I shall be failing in my duty if I do not recognise that.

This Session has also been marked by another historic occasion regarding the impeachment motion. I can assure you that neither the notice of motion was given with any sense of pleasure or happiness nor was it discussed for the purpose either of getting any political advantage or for the purpose of crossing swords with the ruling party. It was felt to be a national duty. And I hope, there will be no occasion like this in the future because all organs of the Government of the state should function in a manner that their respective positions, their respective reputations are maintained. This kame in the Parliament has come into this matter because of the constitutional provision. But nobody is happy or can be happy to have such business transacted in the House or discussed in the House even.

Zero Hour is commented on. But so many issues- thanks to the Government and the Prime Minister, they are creating so many problems are bound to be raised. And this is one method of giving a vent to our feelings. It is because there are limitations to the number of questions. limitations are there to the number of discussions under Rule 193, limitations are there to the number of discussions under Rule 184 and everything has limitation. But I believe, in sixty minutes per day or 65 minutes per day, we are

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

able to bring so many issues before the Government. My only grievance is, we have always been making it, that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs very kindly nods his head, but does not do anything. I am not saying it in a derogatory sense. But please make some response about the issues raised under Rule 377 and the issues that you at least allow them to be raised in Zero Hour. Then it can become more effective and instead of taking ten minutes probably, one will take two minutes to raise an issue expecting to get a response and there will be much lesser time consumed in that. That is why, one tries to make his presence felt, tries to extract some assurance from the Government through you, that a statement will be made. And until then, a thing goes on, rolls on. Of course, there is a virtue in moderation. Excess is always not to be encouraged. But I am sure, there will be no reason, no attempt to close it or forestall it altogether. I am sure, you will not do that totally.

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss about it.

Sir, I do not wish to take up further time of the House. Yes, this has been a very important session. There are so many issues which probably we could not discuss, which we would have liked to discuss. But we have our private work, to function outside the House also. Parliament occupies a very important position. And I am sure that in the sessions to come, we shall be able to maintain the spirit and cooperation on important national issues. There are bound to be differences of opinion, there are bound to be differences in the perceptions of the problems or in the solutions that we can think of. They are bound to be there, otherwise the whole thing becomes a routine affair. But that does not mean that there is any personal rancour or there is any personal animosity. We want politics of discussion and politics of cooperation than politics of confrontation because for our great country, we have to achieve so many things and we want to achieve them through discussions, through laws, through methods found out through

the parliamentary process which we all of us have adopted.

Sir, I must thank you once more for the excellent courteous behaviour that we have always received from you. We deeply value your guidance and we have never felt ill at ease and I found that you have taken the opposition into confidence as well as the Government and discussed with us, give us opportunities to give our views on several matters. And I can only say with all modesty that I wish you well, Sir, and I convey my greetings to all the Members, to all sides of the House and wish them all the best.

Thank you.

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the long session is going to end today. I will say that in this session we had many historic events which will also be remembered as having occurred under your guidance. The introduction of the Committee system, which has started working, will further work and I think it will be more useful in strengthening our parliamentary system for which you are adding your own contribution.

Sir, in this session, you gave a ruling and there by you have enhanced the prestige of Parliament. I thank you for the same. In this session, in spite of the differences, on many occasions, on the issues pertaining to the people, on the issues pertaining to the masses, we have all come together, above party positions, to have a unanimous position. Sir, a question was raised about Bolangir and Kalahandi. It was a heartening moment because, instead of engaging ourselves only in political work, we have devoted time to discuss this issue, and we have all come together cutting across party lines. It is a heartening moment and if this spirit is strengthened in our Parliament, our Parliament will be able to meet the requirements of the people.

I also thank you and the Government for reacting on many occasions very favourably

towards the mass problems. While thanking you for introducing this system with patience and for guiding us, I would like to say that there will be differences which we have to take into consideration. In a democracy, differences should be there. It is bound to be there. But, in spite of the differences, no questions relating to national interest, we should cut across the party lines and come together to maintain the prestige and honour of Parliament for which, if necessary, some sacrifices should be made by parties. In future, we should also behave in the same way, so that the Parliament's sovereignty, Parliament's prestige is not ruined. We have come across all these problems. I thank the Government for that.

During Zero Hour, so many questions have been raised. Our country is such, our rules are such, our problems are such that it is really the Zero Hour which gives some opportunity to members to air the grievances, which goes a long way in bringing certain issues to the notice of the Government. Therefore Zero Hour should be regularised to see how much minimum time could be consumed and a device should be found out for this.

Lastly, while thanking you for innovating the Committee system and giving some historic rulings in this session, I would say that we have

also marked in the Parliament that norms are by and large maintained. In this session, as compared to previous sessions, all Members have tried to maintain norms and I feel that it should be continued. Otherwise Parliament will not be able to deliver what it requires to deliver.

I also thank the Government. I thank all our colleagues both in the opposition and in the Government. I thank the Secretariat which has helped us and which has worked hard. I hope the next session will bring us into more cooperation more uniting for national cause and further strengthening of the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Now we have Vande Mataram.

21.01 hrs.

#### National Song

*(The National Song was Played.)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

21.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*