

tions) If the rules say like that, then I cannot decide otherwise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Which rule you are referring to?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
To the same Rule. You allow a 'mere statement'. What that 'mere statement' is, that, of course, has to be left to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: No. '....to that effect'.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a difference between 'proposal' and 'statement'. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me one minute.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: By this time the statement would have been over.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. It should be according to the rules. I have gone through this also, it is not possible. It should be only a mere statement that he is withdrawing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I draw your attention to Rule 389 on residuary powers. Rule 8(3) is not a bar. It only lays down what you have been already pleased to indicate. Under rule 389 when there is no specific provision....

MR. SPEAKER: This is very specific.

I will now put the motion to the House. The question is:

"That Shri G. Lakshmanan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G. Lakshmanan is chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this august House.

The hon. Prime Minister.

12.15 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): May I take this opportunity of congratulating Shri G. Lakshmanan on his election as Deputy Speaker.

Shri G. Lakshmanan has wide experience of public life and also he has been a member of the other House and this should stand him in good stead in safeguarding the rights and privileges of all sides of the House, of individual members as well as in upholding the dignity and decorum of this august House. I extend a warm welcome to him and I give him our good wishes and assure him of our co-operation.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I would like to extend my congratulations on behalf of the Lok Dal to the newly elected Deputy Speaker.

I would have been very happy if this election would not have been necessitated. We submitted the motion in order to draw the attention of the House to a convention that had been observed in the past where a member belonging to the Opposition was invariably made the Deputy Speaker.(Interruptions) In the last two Lok Sabhas the Opposition was consulted before the Deputy Speaker was elected or before the nomination for Deputy Speakership was made. We had hoped that that tradition would be continued and it is only when we found that that tradition had not been continued, we were constrained to make our own nomination.

[Shri George Fernandes]

I would like to extend my congratulations once again to the Deputy Speaker and I am sure that he will, in the discharge of his duties, do all that is necessary to uphold the rules and the dignity of this House.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I congratulate the Deputy Speaker. When I proposed the name of Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, it was not to show any personal disrespect to him. It is a question of principle that the Deputy Speaker should also be elected unopposed and unanimously. That was the convention and personally I raised this question on the 20th of January when our Prime Minister met the Leaders of the various Opposition Parties. We expressed our feelings because from the paper report we saw that one D.M.K. Member was going to be made Deputy-Speaker.

Sir, this is a breach of convention. We are very unhappy over this. Still, I hope that once elected, he should act as a man above the party and act most impartially to uphold the tradition of this august House.

Sir, I congratulate him for his election.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Deputy-Speaker on his election. He has rich experience of belonging to the House of Elders. I am sure, when he comes here to preside over the deliberations of this House, he will bring to the Chair, the maturity of the elders and he will also take care of the youngsters in this House so that there will be a combination of youngsters and elders.

Sir, so long as he was not elected, he belonged only to one party. But, now, we can legitimately have a claim on him that when he occupies the Chair, he will be belonging to the entire House and he can rest assured that when he sits in the Chair, we will offer our cooperation not as if he

belongs to one section but as if he belongs to the entire House and we will expect the same reciprocation.

It is true that some motion was already moved just to express that the Opposition must get the representation. And to keep up that convention, the motion was actually put forward. As a healthy convention of this House, as far as possible, unanimity should be arrived at in the election to such a high office. So, the motions were withdrawn, and I am happy (*Interruptions*) that it was a mere statement. Only the spirit of it was merely stated. Without going into the technicality of the problem, I dare say that, indeed, the Deputy-Speaker belongs to the entire House; particularly in such a House where there is a lot of impalance, it is the Opposition that will need protection more than probably the Members of the Ruling Party and I hope that that protection will be available to us in abundance.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): Sir, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Deputy-Speaker?

I think his election must be a good relief for you also because you had taken upon to preside the whole time for the last few days. I find from my experience in terms of the time, that it is the Deputy-Speaker who spends more time in the House than Speaker. Today we will have to look to him more for his mercy. (*Interruptions*) He is an elder; he belonged to the Elder's House. That is how I can put it.

I can assure him the cooperation of myself and my group in conducting the work of this House very objectively. He will take interest of the House as a whole protecting the privileges and rights of the individual members. Particularly, when the Opposition is a small one. I hope he will take more care of the Opposition than the ruling party Members perhaps.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Pol-lachi): Sir, on behalf of the D.M.K. Party in Parliament, I offer my felicitations to the elected Deputy-Speaker, Shri Lakshmanan. I also thank Mrs. Gandhi and her party for the support they have extended to the candidature of our party. I also thank the Leader on this side who was responsible for the creation of enthusiasm in this election.

Sir, it has been said that it is the Opposition Party member that should be the Deputy-Speaker. We have seen many occasions. Even in 1969, an Independent Member, Mr. G. G. Swell was elected to the post of Deputy-Speakership. There was a dissent and some political parties boycotted and abstained from the House; they were the Swatantra Party, Jan Sangh and the Syndicate Party. Now I can call them as Jan Sangh. Now, I can call them Janata and Lok Dal. In 1971, the Marxists, it seems had some difference of opinion when Shri G. G. Swell was offered as candidate....

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: We supported.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI: Afterwards, not in the beginning.

Some difference of opinion in the selection of a candidate for a particular post is inevitable in a democratic set up.

Sir, you have been a champion for the causes of agriculturists and peasants and our newly elected Deputy-Speaker is an illustrious leader of working class. He has been associated with many trade unions. He worked as a real trade unionist and was associated with All India Postal Employees Union for more than fifteen years. He tirelessly worked for the just cause of the working class. He was also the Chairman of the Central Government employees Joint Action Committee in Madras when they were on warpath for their right demands. For the cause of workers, he underwent untold sufferings and he proved himself

to be an honest public man. Before I conclude, I want to request the Deputy-Speaker, through you, Sir; to uphold the traditions of our movement. The father of our movement was Periar who taught us that every human being should be respected irrespective of his caste, creed and colour; everybody's views should be heard and everything should be judged on its own merits. After him, our glorious and real democratic leader, Anna, pronounced that our object should be to do our duty, have dignity and discipline in public life. Then, there was a call from our President, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and the victorious leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi to do our best to have self-reliance and for the welfare of the public. I hope, we will be able to fulfil that.

Sir, I once again congratulate and felicitate Shri G. Lakshmanan on his election as Deputy-Speaker of this House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of our group, I would like to extend our felicitations to Shri G. Lakshmanan on his election to the high post of Deputy-Speaker. I welcome him more especially as a fellow trade unionist and I feel some confidence that perhaps we will be able to appreciate each other on the same wavelength. It is good that we have a Speaker, who is a farmer, and a Deputy-Speaker, who is representative of the working class. We can expect that sympathy will be shown to the cause of the Central Government employees who Shri Lakshmanan has represented in their various movements outside and we can expect freedom and justice, tempered with mercy, as far as the opposition is concerned.

We had proposed the name of Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal because we wanted to draw the attention of the House to a very simple point. It is not a question of there being a precedent that always somebody from the

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

Opposition has been agreed upon or selected as Deputy-Speaker, as we know in the past there were numerous occasions when members of the ruling party occupied both these seats of Speaker and Deputy-Speaker, but there were also occasions when that was not so, when the Deputy-Speaker happened to have been a member of the Opposition. That is not the point. The simple point at issue was whether the healthy precedent of the ruling party and the Leader of this House taking the opposition into confidence and having consultations with them prior to the election would be followed or not. I regret very much to find that that precedent has been given the go-bye this time. I do not know, why? There was plenty of opportunity to consult the Opposition. I hope, it is not because having obtained this massive majority, the Prime Minister feels that there is no necessity for such consultation. I hope, not, because she called a meeting of the Opposition leaders to discuss various other matters, national and international. Perhaps it had slipped from her mind that there was a precedent that in the matter of election of Deputy-Speaker, she should take the Opposition into confidence, and have consultations with them. It does not necessarily mean that they will agree. They may agree, or may not agree. But prior consultation is a healthy precedent, according to our parliamentary norms and traditions; and because that was departed from, we wanted to register our mild protest by submitting the name of another Member, which we had already decided to withdraw; but we wanted to record our protest. I hope Mr. Lakshmanan will not take this as any kind of reflection on him. We have nothing whatever against him. And, on behalf of our group, I can assure him of our fullest cooperation in running this House according to the best traditions.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD (Vellore):
On behalf of the Muslim League

Group in Parliament, I wholeheartedly congratulate my esteemed friend Mr. Lakshmanan for his elevation to dignified office of Deputy-Speaker. What I naturally expected, when his name was proposed by our illustrious Prime Minister, was that Mr. George Fernandes will support the motion, because Mr. Fernandes himself has confessed on so many platforms that he owes his very existence to the timely help rendered by Kalaingar Karunanidhi. But when Kalaingar Karunanidhi's nominee is proposed for Deputy Speakership, I was taken aback when Mr. Fernandes proposed another name. I can understand Mr. Samar Mukherjee or the other respected leader Mr. Indrajit Gupta or Mr. Chavan proposing some other name. What I naturally expected was that our esteemed leader Mr. Fernandes will support Mr. Lakshmanan. Anyhow, now the House has, with a majority of votes, elected Mr. Lakshmanan.

We cannot find any other name, except Mr. Lakshmanan for this Deputy Speakership, because where Balaraman, i.e. Raman is there, Lakshmanan must be there to assist him. He will be able to assist Mr. Balram most faithfully and loyally.

MR. SPEAKER: It is like *Vanvaas*.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: I congratulate Mr. Lakshmanan; and I thank the Prime Minister and the ruling party for having accepted, and proposed his name.

Some doubts are lurking in the minds of the leaders, whether DMK is a ruling party or an Opposition party. I want to say that it will be decided in due course; but in the near future, it is going to be the ruling party in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK (Anantnag): I extend, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the All Jammu & Kashmir National Conference our congratulations to

Mr. Lakshmanan on his elevation as Deputy Speaker. I hope he comes up to the expectations of this House, and that this House becomes a forum of unity and purpose, for serving which all of us have been elected to this House. The country wants unity of purpose and solidarity; and it is necessary that we should forget our petty differences—Certain matters have to be forgotten and we should take an objective view of the problems that are facing our country at this juncture. We should bring harmony and unity in the country and solve the problems that are facing our country at large.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Mr. Speaker, Sir: I wish to join in offering my congratulations and good wishes to the Deputy Speaker. May I say, without wanting to give any offence, that I was largely responsible for having inducted Prof. Swell as the Deputy Speaker I was the *de facto* leader of the Independent group then. While several groups in the Opposition were not very happy, at least they did respect what had become a convention. They did not put up anything from the Opposition. To-day, unfortunately that convention has been broken and I do not expect the Deputy-Speaker to keep this in mind. But what has been done is, whether intended or not, almost a reflection on the DMK that it was not a Member of the Opposition and whatever Members may have felt that they would have been consulted, I don't think... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry...

AN HON. MEMBER: It was only because there was no consultation.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY: That is only a very partial excuse. (*Interruptions*) I am sorry, it is only an excuse. It is not an answer, because in the final analysis, as far as I am aware, even when an Independent was, I say, put up, I was rather responsible for that. No Opposition group ever opposed it and that convention should have been subscribed to. But I am certain that you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, will not bear this in

mind and that you will hold the scale evenly as the custodian of all the sections of the House.

श्री सुरज मल्ल (अम्बाला) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्री लक्ष्मणन को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। मैं श्री लक्ष्मणन की तरह डाक-तार विभाग में काम करता था, 1960 में श्री लक्ष्मणन और मैं दोनों ही नौकरी से निकाले गये थे, मैं समझता हूँ कि श्री लक्ष्मणन की पोलिटिकल बुनियाद वही से शुरू हुई है। मैं उम्मीद करूँगा कि श्री लक्ष्मणन वर्किंग क्लास को ध्यान रखेंगे।

आखिर में मैं एक छोटी बात कहकर बैठता हूँ कि राम और लक्ष्मण की जोड़ी आ गई है, इतिहास से हनुमान बाहर हैं। भगवान की कृपा से कम-से-कम हाउस में तो रामराज्य का एटमास्फियर रहेगा।

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate Mr. Lakshmanan as one of the stoutest champions of the underprivileged people of the whole of India, and more especially of South India. He belongs to the DMK which was founded by Shri E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker and led to Government by the late Annadurai who was one of my happiest colleagues in public life. Friends have referred to the fact that he has been a labour leader. He is also a leader of the Harijans, *guriyans*, backward classes and of the under privileged people in the South who were working through the self-respect movement for social dignity as well as political authority and equality with all other classes. I am glad to find him as a colleague in the Rajya Sabha and I have known how he had acted in an impartial manner as one of the Members of the Panel of Chairman. Therefore, I am confident that he would look after the interests not only of the labour, of the Opposition but also of the under-privileged people. So, I congratulate him once again on his election as Deputy-Speaker of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy to associate myself with the Leader of the House, leaders of parties and groups and other Members in extending felicitations to Shri Lakshmanan on his election as Deputy Speaker of the House. Although Shri Lakshmanan

is new to this House and to this Chair—he is no stranger to the parliamentary life and high traditions of our Parliament. He was a prominent and active Member of the other House from 1974–79 and made notable contribution. The success of any incumbent of the Chair depends not only upon his full understanding of the Rules of Procedure but also on his instinctive comprehension of the sense of the House. We are all here to see that the House, as a form of people's representatives serves the objectives underlying it and that the standing and respect for parliamentary institutions is enhanced by the manner in which we function and conduct ourselves. In our House, the Deputy Speaker shares a substantial burden of the Speaker. I am glad that the House has elected a seasoned and experienced colleague as Deputy Speaker. I look forward to our closely working together in the House.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am deeply beholden to the Honourable Members of the august House for electing me to this high office of prestige and responsibility.

Madam Prime Minister and other hon. Members have said some very kind words about me. I am most grateful to them. And, you Sir, by joining them in felicitating me on this occasion have emboldened me and instilled in me the necessary courage for accepting the rather onerous responsibilities of this office. Having had some idea of your endearing personality and friendliness, I know I can always look up to you for guidance in the conduct of my duties. While as a public man, I have belonged to a political party and have my personal views on political problems, I am fully conscious of the fact that as a Presiding Officer, now I must be guided by the norms of objectivity and impartiality and an absolutely non-partisan spirit. Also, I know I must always try to ensure the necessary relationship between the proceedings of the House and the mood and the aspirations of our people outside.

At this stage, I shall make no tall claims or promises. But I do promise that as Deputy-Speaker I shall endeavour to be a good deputy to you, Sir, and to speak always on behalf of the House. Hereafter I belong to the whole House. I assure all sections of this House that I shall not fail them and shall always do my best to uphold the high traditions of this House and to justify the faith and confidence reposed in me.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, once again I thank you and all the hon. Members.

12.42 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure I have nominated the following Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen:

1. Shri Gulsher Ahmed.
2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee.
3. Shri Hari Nath Mishra.
4. Shri Shivraj V. Patil.
5. Shri K. Rajamallu.
6. Shri Chandrajit Yadav.

12.43 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Sir, by a Resolution dated 29th May, 1979, Government had constituted a Commission on Public Expenditure under the Chairmanship of Shri S. N. Mishra (then Member of the Lok Sabha) to identify areas in which economy could be effected. The Commission has since been engaged on the task assigned to it.

The need for effecting economy in Government expenditure cannot be