

that night. I was very touched; I thanked him profusely. I really felt if many more of our colleagues were to follow the same example this would be a happier place to live in.

I have always cherished the desire to run to him and meet him so that I could personally convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to him for the civility that he had shown. But I deeply regret that I was to be denied that opportunity.

I hope, Sir, that you will convey to his family, and the families of all the others, our deepest sorrow. May their souls rest in peace.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Sir, almost everytime when we start our business in this house we are reminded of the eternal proverb that in the midst of life we are in death. I do not know if this proverb has any lesson for us in developing a sense of humility in our overreaching aspiration for political things. If that has been so, perhaps the nature of politics in our country would have been a bit different. I associate our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy with the sentiments that you have expressed for the departed souls and also your words of appreciation for their contribution to our national life. I remember Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda whom I had the opportunity of knowing for long. She was so affectionate in her nature and every one of us used to call her as Didiji; we used to say so to the Prime Minister. She came from a distinguished family whose contribution to the national struggle is well-known. I do not know how the Chair will appreciate my sentiment, but I feel that it was unique in her life. She was a devotee of Shri Ramakrishna and when she went to offer her pranams at the Ramakrishna Ashram, she fell there and died. This is something of a unique fulfilment of the aspirations of a real devotee.

About Diwan Chamanlal, his name was known to us from our younger days. He was during the freedom struggle known as a moderate leader but, for the depth of his knowledge and spirit of patriotism he was honoured by all of us though we were in the fiery revolutionary group. I do not want to add more about our friends who were our colleagues here and those who contributed to our freedom struggle and to the development of parliamentary conventions and also the history of our country. On behalf of my party I express similar sentiments that had been expressed by you, the Prime Minister and other colleagues in this House and I request you to convey our sorrow and bereavement to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North): On behalf of Anna DMK, I request you to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

SHRIMATI M. GODFREY (Nominated-Anglo Indians): On behalf of our party I join in the sentiments expressed by you and the Leader of the House and other colleagues on the sad demise of our friends who used to sit with us a few months ago. In particular I should like to express my heartfelt condolences at the passing away of Mrs. Chanda who was near and dear to me. I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTER

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI!): I have great pleasure in introducing to you, and through you

to the House, my new colleague, Pandit Kamalpathi Tripathi.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPEAKER AND SECRETARY OF LOK SABHA

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Sir, before you proceed with the business of the House, I have another pleasant task to perform—one which has been entrusted to me by the entire House, all parties. It is to warmly congratulate our Speaker, Dr. Dhillon on his election as President of the World Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an international parliamentary organisation whose aim is to promote personal contacts between Members of all Parliaments and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective countries in the firm establishment and development of representative institutions and in the advancement of the work of international peace and cooperation. The honour is a richly deserved one. It is in recognition of Dr. Dhillon's personal qualities and of his hard and conscientious work for the Council. Dr. Dhillon has guided the deliberations of this House with dignity and good humour. We are conscious of the honour to our country and to this Parliament.

I should also like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Shri S. L. Shakhder on his unanimous election as President of the Association of Secretaries-General of the Parliaments of the world for a three-year term. The objective of the Association is to carry out studies concerning parliamentary law, practice and procedure and to propose measures for improving the methods of work of the various

parliaments of the world and for ensuring collaboration between their services. Shri Shakhder's election is a tribute to India and to the work which he has been doing for the Association over the last two decades. All of us here are aware of his knowledge and his deep interest in parliamentary procedures, on which he is a recognised authority.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Congratulations, Sir.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : Congratulations to you and Mr. Shakhder.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam Prime Minister and Hon. Members, I am greatly touched by the very magnanimous and generous observations made by the Prime Minister on her own behalf and of you all. As a matter of fact, it is not an individual honour for me alone. It is an honour because I represent your House and it is an honour because our House represents the largest democracy in the world and a great country.

I would like to join the Prime Minister in congratulating Mr. Shakhder for the very well deserved honour that he has achieved, having been elected the President of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments. It is a still greater honour because we call him Secretary and he is the President of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments. I have consulted the Prime Minister that we must also designate him Secretary-General.

I avail of this opportunity to convey my thanks on your behalf to the many countries which had sponsored my name. In the last 83 years, rather 84 years, of the existence of this Inter-Parliamentary Council and Union, this is the first time that it has gone out of Europe