

LOK SABHA

*Monday, November 23, 1970 | Agrahana 2,
1892 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO ASTRONAUTS ARMSTRONG AND CONRAD

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have pleasure in announcing to the House the presence in the President's Box of two of the astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Charles Conrad, who have ushered in the inter-stellar age. We extend to them a hearty welcome to our country. Through them we have the first touch of the moon in this Parliament. They belong to all humanity. We all differ, discuss and sometimes quarrel over earthly matters in this Parliament, which I propose we shall not do today. Parliament is itself at the moment feeling like the moon. They had come here to receive the space awards at the Sixty-third general conference of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. Astronaut Armstrong as you know was the first human being to set foot on the moon so far considered as distant and unattainable. Capt. Conrad soon followed him in the next moon probe. We hope they will have a nice sojourn in our country, though it may not be as exciting as theirs on the moon. I propose we give them a standing ovation.

*The Hon. Members gave a standing
ovation.*

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) :
Salutations of the nation also go to them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :
Could we have a sample of the moon rock
laid on the Table ?

MR. SPEAKER: I would not mind if
they take you to the moon next time.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER
OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER
OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER
OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA
GANDHI) : May I, Mr. Speaker, share
the sentiments which you have expressed
regarding our distinguished guests, the
astronauts. We have spoken on this
matter earlier in this House and of
our great admiration for their achievement
and the achievements of American science
in the exploration of space, especially
of the moon landings. We give them our
good wishes.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER
OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF
HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER
OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA
GANDHI) : After this pleasant interlude,
I have a sorrowful duty to perform. As
the House knows, the country, the House
and every one of us mourn the death of
Dr. C V Raman. He was the greatest
scientist of Modern India and one of the
finest intellects our country has produced
in its long history. His mind was like the
diamond, which he studied and explained.
His life's work consisted in throwing light
upon the nature of light, and the world
honoured him in many ways, for the new
knowledge which he won for science.

Dr Raman was a dedicated teacher,
who believed that learning is not for hoar-
ding but to be shared with all. He had an
unsurpassed enthusiasm for explaining the
phenomena of Nature in a manner that
the most uninitiated could understand. I
have personal experience of this, for, in