

Singh, Shri Ramnaresh (Aurangabad)

Zainal Abedin, Shri (Jangipur)

Singh, Shri Surya Narayan (Balialia)

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Singh, Shri Vishwanath Pratap (Fatehpur)

Ayes: 278

Sur, Shri Monoranjan (Basirhat)

Noes: 104

Syed Shahabuddin, Shri (Kishanganj)

The motion was adopted

Tirkey, Shri Pius (Alipurduars)

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran (Barrackpore)

MR. SPEAKER: I declare Shri S. Mallikarjunaih duly elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House.

Ummareddy, Venkateswarlu, Prof. (Tenali)

Unnikrishnan, Shri K.P. (Badagara)

Shri S. Mallikarjunaih was conducted to the Deputy Speaker's seat by the Leader of the House., Shri Arjun Singh and the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Lal K. Advani.

Vadde, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao (Vijayawada)

Verma, Shri Uperndra Nath (Chatra)

12.15 hrs.

Yadav, Shri Chandra Jeet (Azamgarh)

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)

[English]

Yadav, Shri Ram Lakhan Singh (Arrah)

Yadav, Dr. S.P. (Sambhal)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to say that this House has, today, carried out a very important function by electing the Deputy Speaker of

Yadav, Shri Surya Narayan (Sahasra)

Yadav, Shri Vijoy Kumar (Nalanda)

*Following Members also recorded their votes:-

Ayes: S/s M.D.H Farook, P.V. Rangayya Naidu, S.B. Nyamagouda, Salman Khursheed, M. Baga Reddy, D.P. Paul, K.G. Shivappa, T.R.L. Bhosale, Rao Ram Singh, R. Dattaji Maghe, Sarat Chandra Patnaik, Ajit K. Pawar, M. Krishna Swamy, Pawan Diwan, Banwari Lal Verma, C.K. Kuppuswamy, P.P. Kaliaperumal, Anand Ahirwar, Bheru Lal Meena, N.K. Baliyan, Mohan Vishnu Rawale, Surendra Pal Pathak, Bal Raj Passi, Ramesh Tomer, Virendra Singh, BriJbhusan Sharan Singh, Prabhu Dayal Katheria, S. Mallikarjunaih, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey, Kum. Uma Bharti, V.N. Sharma, Mangal Ram 'Premi', Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri, Vinay Katiyar, Ram Tahal Chowdhary, Swami Yogananda, Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Dr. Guntant Rambhau Sarode, Anand Ratna Morya, Shyam Behari Mishra, Gaya Prasad Kori, Mahavir Singh Gohel, Mallu Ravi, and Imchalemba.

Noes: S/s Thota Subba Rao, Tej Narayan Singh, Subrata Mukherjee, G. Ganga Reddy, B. Dharma Bhiksham, T.J. Anjalose, Braja Kishore Tripathi, Arjun Singh Yadav, and Shri Ashraf Fatimi.

this august House. The hon. Deputy Speaker has a wealth of experience behind him about the legislative business and we all know that his tenure, as the Deputy Speaker of this House, will be to the satisfaction of all sections of this House. It is one thing that has come out as a result of the recent election and I would like the House to recall, with your permission, what I had the privilege to say here when the Vote of confidence was being debated. And that is, we are now in a different phase of political development in this country. The people have given a decision which has, and which is, clearly reflected in this House - both on this side and on that side. The Congress Party, as the Prime Minister has said, respects this decision of the people of this country and will always try to act in a manner so that every decision that is taken by him and by his Government bears the stamp of the people's verdict in the last election. On the issue of the Deputy Speakership, I must make it very clear that in the best traditions of this House (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): You have trampled upon the traditions of the House. In the Eighth Lok Sabha you had given the Deputy Speaker's post to your ally, the AIADMK. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: That the principal Opposition Party of this House has the Deputy Speaker from its ranks and the Congress Party has upheld those traditions,—that is what has actuated our decision. I wish the Deputy Speaker all the success in his new office. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah for being elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. Though, as a fellow colleague of my party, I know him personally for the last several years but I saw him from close quarters 12-13 years back when the country was passing through a crisis and democracy was about to eclipse (*Interrup-*

tions). We were imprisoned together in the Central Jail in Bangalore. Since then his personality, his amiable and pleasant nature, his concern for everyone and his readiness to go out of the way to help and extend cooperation has left an indelible mark on me. Now when the Bhartiya Janata Party donned the mantle of being a major opposition party on this issue and discussed various possibilities with the Government over the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, my party felt that a person who has served the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for the last 19 years, as an effective Deputy Speaker there, if elected to the Lok Sabha, could do justice to Parliament and Parliamentary conventions. That was the reason why I moved this motion which was supported by the House. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister, the Government and the Leader of the House for setting a new tradition in this regard and want to forget whatever has happened. I am sure that if in spite of differences, we are concerned about traditions and institutions which have degenerate during the past years, we would, as the Leader of the House rightly pointed out, usher in a new era and the democracy would become stronger and healthier.

With these words, I once again congratulate Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah on my behalf and on behalf of my party and hope that the House would run smoothly under his guidance (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD (Saharanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah for being elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. I would like to assure him that the Janata Dal (*Interruptions*) sorry not Janata Dal but National Front (*Interruptions*) I did not include them because I know they would also speak. I congratulate him on behalf of the National Front and assure him that we would extend to him all possible cooperation.

Besides, I want to congratulate the Congress (I) for having taken a decision which we had predicted. I was myself a

[Sh. Rasheed Masood]

candidate in this election and I had fought it deliberately knowing that I would lose. But this has not happened for the first time. You might recall that prior to this we had sought the confidence vote for our Government, knowing very well that we would not win. We had sought confidence for certain principles and it is once again for those very principles we have fought this election today. These are the principles through which Mahatma Gandhi gave the country a new direction.

Earlier, we have heard a lot about 'politics of convenience' but it is for the first time that I heard about 'Convention of Convenience' and that too from the Congress. The Leader of House said that if there is a candidate from the largest opposition party for this post, convention is that he should be made the Deputy Speaker but Congress has never followed this convention since Parliament has been formed. Had it been so and the Congress had followed this convention I would not have filed my nomination for this election. I would have respected that convention. But the Congress Party never respected that convention. Not only this, the entire House might be remembering the fact and I would also like to remind the House again through you that in 1980 the deputy Speaker was elected from a party which was having the fourth position in Lok Sabha and was an ally of the Congress. (*Interruptions*)

We have to develop this country and I totally agree with the leader of the House that the present conditions are forcing us to consider seriously about the country. I have written a letter to the hon. Members—possibly they have got it—in which I have mentioned that in the present situation of the country, we must consider whether the steps taken by us are in accordance with the principles and traditions laid down by Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues after independence. But it is the bad luck of this country and I regret to say that the ruling party of our country never paid any attention

to these principles, traditions and conventions. The Congress party has once again proved it today. Why it has done so, I fail to understand. I should not say much in this regard. (*Interruptions*) Just now, a quarrel was going on in the House. Some Members from the ruling party and some from the opposition accused each other of being...**.... That quarrel has not yet been over. I don't know which person is ...**... in their view (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR.SPEAKER: That is not going on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: If it is ...**... whether you you have (*Interruptions*) I would like to congratulate you for it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (*Fatehpur*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah for his being elected as the Deputy Speaker, The Election was held recently and with the end of the election process he gains the confidence of all the sections of the House. Therefore, I would not like to go into this debate. Of course, I agree with the views of the Leader of the House that the politics has taken a new turn. But the people of the country very minutely understand this new political alliance. (*Interruptions*) But the National Front and the Left Front parties had fielded Shri Rasheed Masood as their candidate in this election. We were fully confident of his capability and experience, but as he has expressed his views that we will extend our full cooperation. (*Interruptions*) We have full confidence in this House and will fully cooperate with him.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (*Bolpur*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, offer my felicitations to Shri

Mallikarjunaiah on his election to the high office of the Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Sir, on our behalf, we offer him not only our good wishes, but also our cooperation that in the discharge of his duties we shall certainly see that he is able to regulate the House and give proper opportunities to all sections of the House to express their views. He has long experience as a Presiding Officer in one of the State Legislatures and I am sure his experience there will also help in conducting the business of the House, although he is new so far as Lok Sabha is concerned.

Sir, I wish to make it clear that we did not wish to make any personal reflection on the capacity and ability of our new Deputy Speaker when we put up a candidate against him. We had done it on some political principles that we wanted to place before the House. The Leader of the House has said that the people's decision in the last elections is reflected also naturally in the House. Now the Congress-I are the largest party here and they have formed the Government. It seems now they have understood the people's verdict to be that they should collaborate and cooperate with the BJP in running this Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I am not very conversant with how we should speak on this occasion because this is the first time I am speaking in the House on this occasion. But, with your permission, Sir, I think, the normal practice is that we do say what we have to say about the person who has been elected.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have not said anything against the person.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: But if this is going to be a basis of political debate, then kindly hear me out. *(Interruptions)* We are not accustomed to snide remarks about our conviction. I would like to make it very very clear that what has been done is what needed to

be done on the floor of the House. It is a leading Opposition Party. So far as the Congress-I is concerned, there can never be any collaboration with the BJP on any principle or any ideology. Whereas our hon. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was having this Party as a crutch for eleven long months. Now you are talking about this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a very unusual intervention by the Leader of the House when I am felicitating the new Deputy Speaker. I am not sure, probably there is a guilty conscience so far as the Leader of the House is concerned.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): You have guilty on conscience. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Otherwise, he would not have moved in the manner he did. It was very unusual.

The Leader of the House has raised this topic. He has raised the question of tradition. He has referred to it. He has referred to the question of people's verdict being implemented here. I am referring to that. Why are you feeling so disturbed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): This is not the occasion for debate. *(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is the language of the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not going on record.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The so-called tradition referred to by the Leader of the House is the Speaker to be selected from the ruling Party and the Deputy Speaker from the principal Opposition Party. This is

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

the first time, to justify the present selection or election of Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House, the Congress-I party has supposedly followed this tradition.

Sir, I have the privilege of being in this House from the Fifth Lok Sabha. I have seen that tradition being followed only when the Congress has been out of power. From 1971 onwards, this has never happened and only in 1977, when the Janata Dal Government was there and only in 1989 (*Interruptions*) when the National Front Government came into power, this tradition was observed and followed.

I am sure Shri Advaniji also agrees with me that there was no such tradition which Congress party believed in. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Why do you raise this Question? Don't tell this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as I can recall, subject to correction by Shri Advaniji, when you were elected as Deputy Speaker in the Ninth Lok Sabha, Shri Advaniji referred to the fact that when Congress has been defeated, the tradition has been followed. Of course, now he is happy that the tradition is being maintained in this House also because his Party's nominee has become the Deputy Speaker. I only wanted to refer to this thing because the Leader of the House referred to this thing. He tried to justify his party's decision.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: As a matter of fact, even when the National Front Government was there, it had offered the post of Deputy Speaker to my Party, (*Interruptions*) but because my Party has always been pleading that the post of Deputy Speaker should go to the Opposition and, at that point of time, my Party was the supporting Party, (*Interruptions*), therefore, even though my critics are correct when they say that this is the convention that has not been practised in the past, but my party was concerned and they insisted on it. So, when the ruling party

agreed to it, I thought that it is in the fitness of things and it is a new augury and, therefore, I welcomed it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not know (*Interruptions*) It seems that Shri Advani and his Party during the Ninth Lok Sabha, very fairly had reminded the National Front of the tradition which the Congress never followed and the National Front immediately responded to that and if I may remind Shri Advaniji (*Interruptions*) as one of the other supporting parties, we also wanted that Shri Shivraj V. Patil be elected Deputy Speaker. Please give us that credit also. Therefore, all of us have been trying to put some good sense in the heads of the Congress Party all the time.

Now the present electoral arithmetic of this House has sort of reminded the Congress party of their great tradition which they never followed and now they have tried to follow the National Front and the Janata Dal tradition in this House. It is good. It is very good. People will know. People will decide. People will judge and, therefore, so far as we are concerned, I believe, in this country the way the campaign was launched, during the last election, the people of this country wanted secular political parties and a secular Government (*Interruptions*)

They never voted (*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Please allow me to say one word.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I think I should not be disturbed.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: No. I am just trying to help you. Will you also throw some light on whether there is a convention for the Speakership also in the House? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I remind the hon. Prime Minister what Shri Indrajit Gupta said on that day? We avoided it on that occasion because we sincerely

felicitated you, Mr. Speaker. We know you. The hon. Prime Minister has been saying that to run the Government the Speaker has to be from the ruling party, otherwise he cannot run the Government. Shri Indrajit Gupta rightly pointed out that it is **not** the job of the Speaker to run the Government. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, there has been no such occasion. After all, in what circumstances we had proposed the candidature of Shri Rabi Ray, everybody knew. We have made it clear. And, if the hon. Prime Minister now wishes to raise it, we are prepared to have a discussion on the floor of this House as to what should be the tradition, the convention regarding appointment of Speaker in this House.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: You are talking of convention. Who broke your convention? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not know why the Prime Minister intervened. I do not wish to go further. We want the House should run properly. In spite of the country having the misfortune of having a Congress Government, this country and this House should run. This House has to run. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVRAYA NAIK (Kanara): He is insulting the verdict of the people of this country (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is why on this side of the House and speaking on behalf of my party and for myself, I would say that we have always given the cooperation and we assure the hon. Deputy-Speaker that we shall continue the cooperation with the Chair so that the business of this House is transacted smoothly and properly.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, I was feeling so sorry for Shri Mallikarjunaiah. He must be thinking that it could have been better if we have dispensed with the so called felicitation (*Interruptions*) This went into something else. Anyway, I do not have the opportunity of claiming that I knew him personally. I do not know him personally.

Of course, that will be remedied now, I hope. But I take it from what the Leader of the Opposition has said that their choice is based on his ability, his experience and his background and certainly once he is elevated to that high office, he no longer belongs to the BJP or to any other party. Therefore, on behalf of my party, I am fully prepared to offer our full cooperation to him in running this House according to the procedures, the norms and in keeping with the dignity and decorum of this House.

Sir, I wish him well. Since so many things have been said here, may I also add a little bit of myself? I only want to be sparred. My request is to the Congress party. Do what you like because you are running a minority Government. I know you have your own compulsions. You need some support. It is up to you to choose your supporters. I cannot dictate to you. But please spare us from these daily sermons which are being pronounced by some gentleman who is supposed to be an official spokesman, briefing the Press everyday and saying that the Congress Party has taken this decision because it is always adhering firmly to the glorious traditions and conventions of this House. Neither Shri Godey Murhari nor Prof.G.G. Swell nor Dr. Thambi Durai ever belonged to any identifiable Opposition parties. They were either Independents or they were people who belonged to parties which were indistinguishable from the Congress Party. Such people were deliberately made Deputy-Speaker by you. The largest party sitting in the opposition here at one time, was the Telegu Desam Party. You never bothered to offer them the Deputy-Speakership. So, what is the convention? There is no convention except when Shri V.P.Singh was the Prime Minister. Only at that time, that convention was fully followed. Otherwise, it has never been followed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: It was not the officially recognised not the opposition.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I know that. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, I know that, I am a bit older than you in this House. I know that they

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

were not an official opposition. When there is no official opposition, you are free to do as you like. Anyway, I am only saying, please spare me from this daily press briefings by that gentlemen, I do not want to name him, outside, whom you have selected as your official spokesman. I do not think, he knows anything about the traditions and conventions of this House. But he is saying so many things outside that it becomes difficult sometimes to tolerate these things. You do what you like. We do not mind. It is up to you. It is your choice. Once a Parliament takes a decision, we have to abide by that decision. Therefore, Shri Mallikarjunaiah, who is now the Deputy-Speaker, elected duly by this House, is to perform his functions and we will certainly cooperate with him to see that the House is conducted properly. I can assure him of that. And I wish him well for that.

As far as Congress Party is concerned, it is for them to do what they like. I cannot, somehow or other, isolate my mind from what was happening in the last two or three days. It all got mixed up. There was some bitterness going on in the House and the House was not able to function for two to three days. We all know why that was happening. You do not want me to repeat all those things again. So, it is very difficult, one day to think in one way and the next day to be asked to think in a completely opposite way. It is very difficult for us. Anyway, it is up to you. It is your choice.

If Baba Buta Singh is really so convinced about what he is trying to say, I think, it would have been a better gesture on his part, if he had come to the House today wearing an orange or yellow colour turban
(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: We thank him for his sermons!

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, rise to congratulate and felicitate Shri Mallikarjunaiah, who has been elected Deputy-Speaker of

this House. I wish him well. But at the same time, I must be very frank and honest to the House that conscientiously I cannot persuade myself and my colleagues in this House to vote for the Motion that was before the House. I must be frank because I have basic, fundamental differences with the BJP. I hope, they will sort it out. I hope, that will be in the interest of the country. But so long as they are not sorted out, I will have basic and fundamental differences with the BJP. Therefore, I could not persuade myself to vote for the Motion in this House.

I hope the House will understand the feelings as this is a question of principles. When I say this, I have nothing against the personality who is elected to the Deputy-Speakership of the House. I have all respect for him respect for his experience and respect for his ability. I congratulate him again. I hope, he will be able to run this House very well with his vast experience of 19 years as a presiding officer in the Karnataka Legislative Council. Anyway, this has been the feeling which I wanted to frankly share with the House. I wish the elected Deputy-Speaker all success. I have nothing personal against him. Out party will cooperate with him completely in running the House smoothly. I hope, he will also do justice to all sections of the House. I once again congratulate him.

SHRI B. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah, on his being elected as Deputy Speaker of the House. He was a senior Legislator in Karnataka and he is well experienced. On behalf of Telugu Desam Party, we wish him all success in discharging his duties.

I want to bring to the notice of the Leader of the House, Shri Arjun Singh, who talked about the traditions and conventions, that we are an aggrieved party. In 1984, our Party was deprived of its right to get the post of Deputy Speakership. At that time Congress was in power. Now, Shri Azad was telling that at that time, out was not an official opposition party. But, at that time, all parties had supported the TDP to get the Deputy

Speaker post. On that occasion, the Congress Party had left all the traditions and conventions and according to their convenience, because of their being in majority, have bulldozed the traditions and selected the AIADMK candidate, Shri Thambi Durai.

Secondly, I want to bring to the notice of this House that on the Public Accounts Committee issue also, at that time, Mr. Jaipal Reddy's name was proposed by all parties including the BJP but, unfortunately, the Congress Party chose AIADMK candidate only. Then also, they had forgotten everything about traditions and conventions. So, I want to condemn this kind of approach of the Congress Party.

Once again, on behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I extend our fullest cooperation to Shri Mallikarjunaiah, to discharge his duties and we are with him in the smooth running of this House.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I rise on behalf of my colleagues to express our felicitations to Shri Mallikarjunaiah, on the occasion of his being elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august House.

Sir, I believe, hope and trust Shri Mallikarjunaiah will run this House smoothly, will maintain the dignity, decorum and traditions of this House, also protect and preserve the rights and privileges of the Members of this House and, if possible, create new convention and extend the rights and privileges of the Members of this House.

I have got no doubt that he will prove himself to be a successful Deputy Speaker of this House. Sir, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, I extend our fullest possible cooperation in the discharge of his responsibilities as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

It is a fact that I could not vote for him during the motion for election of Deputy Speaker. It was not meant to show any

disrespect personally, to Shri Mallikarjunaiah. We all have got faith; we have all praise for his abilities, his capacity to become the Deputy Speaker of the House. We opposed him on the basis of certain principles which are very much fundamental to the position taken by us. During the election campaign, we made it abundantly clear that our party and the left forces as a whole would demarcate itself from such forces which are inimical to the unity and integrity of the country. That being the fundamental position taken by the Left parties, it has forced us to vote against the motion moved by Shri Advani. This, again I make it clear, does not mean any disrespect personally to Shri Mallikarjunaiah. Therefore I want to be forgiven by him for this.

So far as the tradition of the Congress-I is concerned,

MR. SPEAKER: Is it necessary to repeat it?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: They are merely interested to see how they can fulfil their partisan interests in the maintenance of their total power over the Government. Therefore the least said about it, the better. I would also want them to make it clear their political stand with regard to the fundamental ideological position.

[*Translation:*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I would like to congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah for his being elected as the Deputy Speaker of this House. He is a Member of B.J.P. and the Deputy Speaker of this House, just as you are a Member of the Congress party and the Speaker of this House also.

It is my only request to him that he would pay attention towards the small parties also. Keeping in view the process of election to these posts, it can be said that the Congress Government is not minority Government. At present, the Congress is having an alliance with the largest opposition party

[Sh. Pius Tirkey]

and it appears that the Government can do its work smoothly. Therefore, it is hoped that the Government has no fear at present and it is no more a minority Government. I on my behalf and on behalf of RSP, would like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and hope that while conducting the business of the House, he will keep the small parties in mind.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a tradition to congratulate the person, who is selected. I congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah as well as the Congress Party for coming out in the open. It has done a good thing exposing itself. Today the minorities and muslims have realized after a long interval of 40 years that the Congress only wants to use us for its own ends and now we are fully aware of its mentality and concern for us. Today the muslims of this country are surprised to know that this has been done by the Congress. But we have come to know that the Congress really is. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister who has shown enough courage to expose the Congress. In this way he has done a very good work in the history of this country.

I once again congratulate him.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would heartily congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah who has been duly elected as the Deputy Speaker of this hon. House. We have full trust in him. We believe that he will be impartial and fair-minded. On behalf of AIADMK I assure him of our full cooperation in conducting the business of this House. I hope that he will give full opportunity to speak to all the Members of this House, particularly the new Members of this House who want to reflect the hopes, urges and aspirations of the common people.

With these words, I congratulate him once again.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my party, the

Kerala Congress, I congratulate the Deputy Speaker, Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah. For the last few days he was here as the Chairman in various sittings and he proved that he could be a very good presiding officer above party lines and sectarian considerations.

13.00 hrs.

I have only one suggestion to make and that is regarding small parties, If I make that point at this stage, I think, it will be appropriate. There are a few Members who are in small groups. They do not have any representation in the Business Advisory Committee. Normally they do not get any opportunity to voice their grievances or to speak out or to give representation in the proper forum. I would request that this aspect may also be considered and the Chair may be pleased to give opportunities of all sorts during discussions for the small groups including the motions which we give, because we are not in a position to take up the motions later.

I have made this suggestion at this stage because I felt that this was the appropriate time.

I once again congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah on his election as Deputy Speaker. I am not entering into the other controversies because I do not have any time.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, on this happy occasion, I would like to congratulate my friends Shri Mallikarjunaiah, who has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august House. I know his ability; I know his capacity. He was Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of Karnataka and he was a Member for about twenty years in the Karnataka Legislative Council. He is going to prove his capacity and ability while conducting the proceedings of this House. There should not be any doubt in it. I only say on this happy occasion that there should not have been an unnecessary controversy about his election. We all know that once the Presiding Officers are elected to the Highest Office, they will always try to detach them-

selves from the party and they will conduct themselves as a non-party Member. This is the tradition and convention, all these days we observed but, unfortunately today, there were certain controversies. On this occasion, I do not want to join with such controversies.

I am happy that Shri Mallikarjunaiah, one of my old friends has been elected to this highest office and I extend my full cooperation, and once again on behalf of my party and also myself want to congratulate him.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rejoice in the fact that the finest tradition of parliamentary democracy has been upheld in fact. I would say that the finest tradition of parliamentary democracy has been upheld in the finest spirit of the system.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to set the record straight. Unfortunately, my name-sake and senior member of this Parliament, Shri Indrajit Gupta, is not here now. I would like to clarify that the finest traditions of parliamentary democracy were upheld right until 1971. In 1957, Shri Hukum Singh who was then a member of Akali Party was elected as the Deputy Speaker. Thereafter, the Congress party went all out and elected Shri Hukum Singh as the Speaker of the House, though he belonged to the Akali Dal. It was at that time that Shri Godey Murhari who was a member of the Congress party was elected as the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that I am very new, relatively new to this Parliament. This is only my second term. But, I have had the privilege of watching this Parliament function from the Press Gallery above for the last forty years.

Shri Indrajit Gupta talked about Professor G.G. Swell and about other friends. Professor G.G. Swell was vigorously an independent individual. He belonged to the Opposition and was elected Deputy Speaker because he belonged to the Opposition. Therefore, it is wholly wrong for people to

say that this convention has not been upheld. It is true that at one stage there was an element of distortion when a DMK member was elected to that post in 1980. He belonged to an Opposition party which was friendly to the Congress. (*Interruptions*) I would say, Sir, that we all should rejoice in the fact that we have restored the finest convention and tradition of the parliamentary system.

I think we need to rejoice on one more point and that point is this. We seem to be injecting into our national life a dangerous concept of what may be described as political untouchability. I think it is a highly dangerous concept. Therefore, by upholding this tradition, I think, we have also applied the brake on this highly dangerous and disastrous concept.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You talk to Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia. Why don't you explain to him?

SHRI INDERJIT: I will.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to congratulate Shri Mallikarjunaiah for having been elected to the Deputy Speakership of the Lok Sabha.

I would like to wish him all the best in his duty to the House and the people.

He has functioned as the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council in Karnataka and knows the rules of the game, and pangs and pleasures of the post of Presiding Officer. His experience would go a long way in helping him to do his duties to this House. He has been in politics for a pretty long period and knows the political trends and ideologies which are reflected in the works of the Members in the House. He has to be above and beyond politics while sitting in this Chair. His long tenure in politics would help him to understand the political trends behind the moves of the Members. And that would facilitate his working.

Presiding Officers need a particular kind

of nature and character to perform their duties. He appears to be endowed with the requisite kind of nature and character which are going to be of great help to him and the House.

The Deputy Speaker shares the duties with the Speaker and the Members of the panel of Chairpersons. It is a very high office. On him, and all those who preside from this Chair, depend to a great extent the success or failure of the parliamentary democracy. What the Presiding Officers do from here does not have an impact only on them or the Members and for the present alone, but also on the procedures to be followed in the future too, and ultimately on the system itself. The realisation of this aspect of the duty certainly can widen the scope of and the responsibility behind the duty.

The House has to be a mirror of the public opinion. It works as an instrument to guide and control the executive. It plans and provides, for the present and the future, and for meeting the demands of the people in the country and partly those of the world. The time available for the proceedings is always limited and compared to the enormosity of the tasks, less than what is required. As the Members come from different parts of the country and have different demands, their demands on the time of the House are found to be enormous and at times conflicting. There is nothing more precious than the time. However, it cannot be stretched beyond itself. The success of the House depends upon using it in the most judicious and sagacious manner. The success of the Presiding Officer also depends upon making it available in proportion to the real and just demands of the Members and the issues. It is in this that the Members and the Presiding Officers and officers have to cooperate and produce the best possible results. The Members and officers have been helping all those who have been sitting in this Chair and they deserve a great deal of appreciation and thanks for the same. I have no doubt the same kind of cooperation would be given to the Hon. Deputy Speaker also. In the present situation, the cooperation by the Mem-

bers would be more valuable and necessary.

Together, we have a duty to make the system work and work successfully. Together, we would do our best to do the same.

With this, we would like to welcome Shri Mallikarjuniah to the high office of the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to thank hon. Members of this House for electing me as Deputy Speaker of this august House. I am also thankful to the Prime Minister, Leader of the House, Leader of Opposition and leaders of various parties for all the felicitations and good wishes extended to me.

Our country is facing manifold problems which pose a challenge to us. All these will be reflected during the debates in this House. I am aware of different perceptions of the various political parties represented in this House. However, I expect full cooperation from hon. Members in resolving the various issues that may come before us.

I am aware of my limitations. I have had the good fortune of serving the Karnataka State Legislature for the past 19 years. But so far as Lok Sabha is concerned, this is my very first term. I am sure, however, that with the cooperation of all sections of the House, I shall be able to do justice to the task on which I am about to enter. I assure you that I shall discharge my duties with a sense of Justice and responsibility in the best traditions of this House and with a view to strengthening this democratic institution of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I also wish to thank you for the good wishes offered to me. I specially thank Shri Rasheed Masood who was in the field along with me. I would like to assure you, Sir, that under your able guidance, I will be able to discharge the onerous responsibility that has been entrusted on me.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we take up the