

1953

1954

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 8th March, 1956

*The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *Pro Tem* (SARDAR HUKAM SINGH) *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

**Shri Biren Dutt** (Tripura West): On a point of order. I gave notice of calling attention to a matter of urgent public importance, seeking some information on the hunger-strike launched by about a hundred people at Agartala. That has not been accepted. Yesterday, I gave notice of an adjournment motion to the same effect. But the Deputy-Speaker had refused it on the ground that I had given notice of calling attention to a matter of urgent public importance on the same subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are not here to discuss the grounds on which that was rejected. The hon. Member can see the Speaker in his Chamber and then have the matter decided, and afterwards seek his remedy, whatever that might be, and not raise this matter in this way in the House.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary** (Saran South): Shri D. C. Sharma is here now. So, his question may be taken up.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have enquired twice of hon. Members whether they want any questions to be taken up. I am now going to the next item on the agenda, namely, the election of Speaker. I would call upon the hon. Prime Minister to move his motion.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I beg to move:

"That Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a Member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

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**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to second the motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

There is another motion in the name of Shri Tulsidas. The hon. Member is absent. So, this is the only motion before the House. I am putting it to the House.

The question is:

"That Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a Member of this House be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The Motion is adopted and Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is elected.

I declare that Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has been duly elected as the Speaker of this House. I have now much pleasure in inviting Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar to occupy the Chair.

[*Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was conducted to the Chair by the hon. Prime Minister and Shri H. N. Mukherjee.*]

[MR. SPEAKER (SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR) *in the Chair*]

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not a stranger to the high place that you occupy now. On many an occasion you have occupied that Chair, though not in the capacity of Speaker, but in that of Deputy-Speaker. And so, you know better than almost anyone in this House the great responsibilities, obligations, duties and privileges of this high office.

This office has been adorned in recent years by a person whose passing away we mourned only recently, and who laid the foundations in many ways of the procedure and the way or manner of working of this House. You have succeeded to a great predecessor. But you have worked with him for a long

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

time, and we have worked with you. So, it is not a new obligation or a new responsibility that you have now undertaken, and I feel sure that I echo the wishes of every Member of this House in offering you our respectful congratulations, and assuring you of our whole-hearted co-operation in the work of the Lok Sabha.

Parliamentary traditions, in a sense, are new, and in another sense, they are not so new, that is to say, we have had some measure of parliamentary institutions, limited in scope as they were, for some years past.

During the past eight years, we have had them in full measure. And it is for the country and others to judge—not for me nor perhaps for even any Member of this House—or our work in this Parliament. I am not for the moment referring to the actual work done, the policies laid down or to the laws passed, important as they are, but rather to the temper in which we carry on our work, because that is important, always in life, but perhaps more so in parliamentary work and debate; because it is the essence of parliamentary work that people who differ, and differ strongly, in their opinions have both the opportunity to express their opinions fully, and at the same time, to bear no malice or ill-will against each other.

I remember once going to the Lobbies of the British House of Commons and seeing that there were some kinds of ribbons or something of the kind hanging from a large number of pegs. I asked what they were about and I was told that they were a relic of the days when members came with their swords and they hung their swords there. Then I found that there is a practice, a convention—an old convention—in the British House of Commons that a member speaking must not put his foot on a certain part of the carpet. That too seemed rather odd. I was told it dated back to the time when people were afraid that if they were too near each other, opposing each other, they might draw their swords at each other or hit each other. So a convention was established that they must not come too close to each other, they must not step on the middle carpet. Well, all conventions endure, although the origin of the convention is often forgotten. But the main point is this, as I said, that at Parliament has to carry on always very heavy, very responsible work. At the present

moment, all Parliaments in the world, I should say, have to face more difficult problems than perhaps at any time before. Anyhow, we are not so much concerned with the other Parliaments; we are concerned intimately with our own Lok Sabha and the other House of this Parliament. We have to carry the heavy burdens of the Government of this great country which is undergoing great changes. We try to carry them to the best of our ability. But apart from these policies, I would venture to repeat that what is important is the temper in which we carry these burdens. It does make a great difference and although sometimes some of us perhaps may have erred a little in regard to temper or in regard to our expressions of opinion, in language stronger than was perhaps necessary, nevertheless, I would respectfully venture to say to you and to this House that, on the whole, this House has behaved rather well in regard to this matter, and that, I think is more important than even some of the things that we have actually done; because in these matters, as in other matters, affecting our individual or corporate lives, the means are always important, sometimes even more important than the ends striven for.

Therefore, we have developed in the past eight years more especially, these conventions, these habits of working together even though we differ, and we have been guided in this work by your great predecessor. You, Sir, have now come to occupy this high office and we wish you well in this office because with that is connected all our work. I congratulate you on behalf of the Government and of all our colleagues in this House.

**Acharya Kripalani** (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): Sir, I offer you my respectful congratulations on having been unanimously elected to this exalted, responsible and delicate position. I do not want all the conventions of the British Parliament to be followed here. For instance, I would not like to be hanging anywhere here ribbons for swords or for the matter of that, the sharper tongues of the Members. But I do feel that there is a very healthy convention in England that whenever a Speaker is chosen, he ceases to belong to any party. This was a convention introduced by our own great Speaker, Shri Vithalbhai Patel. But this has, unfortunately, fallen into disuse. I can understand the reasons

behind it. The reasons were that Speakers belonged to the Congress Party and the Congress Party was the only patriotic party in the country and it had to undergo great suffering in the cause of freedom for their patriotism. Therefore it was felt that it was not necessary, as in England, that the Speaker should be a non-party man. If he left the Congress it was felt that he ceased to be a patriot, a fighter for freedom. But now I take it that we are all patriotic....

**Shri Algu Rai Shastri** (Azamgarh Distt.—East cum Ballia Distt.—West): Quite so.

**Acharya Kripalani**: ....those who are on the official Benches and those who are in Opposition. Therefore, it will be worth our while to revive that convention.

I know the difficulties of your task, but, for the performance of that task, you have great powers in this House. You can stop us from talking. By giving your ruling you can deprive us of our privilege to champion what we feel to be a right cause.

**Shri Frank Anthony** (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): He can turn us out also.

**Acharya Kripalani**: My companion says that you can also turn us out of the House. But as you have all these powers—and they are necessary powers—these powers can be exercised justly only when you do not consider your judgment as infallible. All those who have absolute power must have their power modified by a conception that their judgment may not be infallible at all times.

Sir, you are the guardian of the liberties of this House. The executive is often very impatient. Those who have power want to be quick to do things. But democracy requires deliberation, discussion, exchange of views, a great deal of give and take and tolerance. In that, you are the guardian not only of the liberties of this House but of the whole country. As long as the liberties of this House remain intact, the liberties of the common citizen remain intact. I do hope that the high traditions that have been established by your predecessor, whose death we mourned so recently, will guide you. As yet, the traditions of this House have not all been made. We are as yet a new House. You have, therefore, great opportunities to establish further healthy conventions by which this House would be guided in

future. You have not only to guide but also to see that your authority is respected by the executive and the authority of the House is also respected by the executive. There can be encroachment on both; on your personal authority and on the authority of the House. That must not be allowed.

By being an old Member of this Parliament and also by having occupied the Chair often enough even before you formally became the Speaker, I have no doubt that all these considerations will weigh with you and healthier and healthier conventions will be established to guide the House. I assure you sir on behalf of my party that you will receive all the co-operation that we can give.

**Shri H. N. Mukherjee** (Calcutta North-East): It is customary for representatives of parties and groups in this House to offer felicitations to whoever is elected to the exalted Chair which you have come to occupy and it is with pleasure that I rise to offer you my congratulations. This custom has grown because once a Member of this House is elected Speaker, he represents the dignity of the House, and, therefore, of the country and even more because he sheds all partisan predilections as far as he can and conducts the proceedings of the House in a manner which is in conformity with the dignity of the country and the interests of the people.

On an occasion like this, it may be salutary to recall some ancient history, and particularly, the incident in the 17th century in England when Charles I rushed into the House of Commons and commanded Speaker Lenthall to point out five recalcitrant members whom he wanted to arrest, whereupon the Speaker answered pointblank: "I have neither eyes to see nor ears to hear except what the House has vouchsafed to me."

Coming very much nearer to us in point of time and space, the example of Vithalbhai Patel of famous memory has already been recalled and I find from the proceedings of the former Legislative Assembly that when the late Vithalbhai Patel was elected, he asked his erstwhile leader, Pandit Motilal Nehru, to erase his name—if he had not done so already—from the list of members of the Congress Party. Personally, I feel I have no business to ask you to shed your political convictions or your ideological affiliations. If I make a request of that sort, it will

[Shri H. N. Mukherjee]

be neither pertinent nor possible. But I shall certainly tell you to detach yourself from participation in Congress Party proceedings and campaigns in which, perhaps, at the time when you were Deputy-Speaker, you have from time to time taken your share. And, I shall add that I shall expect you in this House to be more than usually solicitous of the rights of the Opposition. I have no doubt that you will do so according to your lights but I say this with some emphasis because our experience in this House is rather positive that the responsibility of the Chair in this regard is very heavy on account of the generally cavalier treatment which we receive from the Government party with its mammoth majority.

I feel, for example, that your election to this office could have been perhaps more felicitously pursued if different parties and groups were really and truly consulted before the Government party made its decision and announced it in the Press. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a very pleasant man. No wonder, for like the *kasturi* deer who exudes his own perfume, he reeks of a sense of strength and self-confidence because of the serried ranks of his party behind him, and, of course, he told us about the fact of your having been chosen by the Congress Party. But that was merely an intimation of a decision and not the intimation of an intention that the Congress Party wanted to discuss it with other Members of this House. I do not make a point of it because I feel that this is not a grievance which we are presenting but I feel, at the same time, that a convention should be created whereby election to the Chair is preceded by consultation not merely in formal sense but in some substantial sense, between the different parties and groups in this House.

Turning to a pleasanter aspect, I should say that on account of the accident of my happening to be here in this seat very frequently in this House, I have had,—perhaps more than most Members of this House—the advantage of your physical and spiritual propinquity. There have happened occasions when you have brought, perhaps, for the improvement of your own mind some classic of our ancient literature like the Bhagwad Gita and I have pounced upon them for quotations to bolster up my presumably heretical deductions. In my mind, myself, I feel that there co-exists a kind of fanatical love

for the culture of our country and an almost equally ferocious hatred for those elements in our national life which have vulgarised and degraded that inheritance. As far as you are concerned, I have found your learning and your charming extrovertness, a great help in my understanding of our ancient culture, but, sometimes also a hindrance in regard to the understanding of the mind of certain sections of the community in this country. But, like the rest of us, in spite of your foibles—which I am sure we do not dislike,—I have grown to be fond of you like so many others of our House for the qualities which you have brought to bear upon your work and for the sense of humour which you have displayed so often in this House, when you say something very acid and something which hurts and then, after that, you make a sally and you laugh at yourself.

We remember today the remarkable man who held this dignified office; we lament his loss very deeply. You are taking his place and I have no doubt that when you are in the Chair you shall try to act up to the traditions of this office which have already been created. I have no doubt also that we shall have occasional differences with you—perhaps also sometimes strident differences—in regard to the interpretation of our rights. But, I can assure you that as far as we are concerned, we do not believe in having a trace of bitterness in our mind over the squabbles, wrangles, controversies—whatever you call them—which arise from time to time between you as holder of this exalted office and ourselves. I wish you a term of office which I hope will be distinguished for those things which are necessary for a country like ours where parliamentary institutions have come to be worked, where parliamentary traditions need to be developed and fashioned in a manner which would be in conformity with the traditions of our country and with the interests of our people.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** (Hooghly) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, . . . . .

**An Hon. Member** : Mr. Deputy-Speaker ? Now Mr. Speaker.

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry ; I apologise to you—old habits die hard, especially when we have some love for traditional culture.

I assure you that you are there in that seat today not merely with the allegiance and support of the party in power but

with the spontaneous support and allegiance of all of us. This is not the occasion to raise any controversial issues, but I share the views expressed by comrade Hiren Mukherjee....

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram** (Visakhapatnam): Strange bedfellows!

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee**: ....that you will follow the glorious example of the late great Vithalbhai Patel, and from today or tomorrow....

**An Hon. Member**: Why 'tomorrow'? Why deprive him of a day's Speakership?

**Shri N. C. Chatterjee** ....from today you shall cease to be a party man in the general sense of the term. We lamented the tragic death of our great Speaker, but we honestly feel that you are the nearest possible substitute for the great Speaker we have lost. You are the nearest possible substitute for Shri Mavalankar. I am saying this not because of the occasion for uttering conventional words of felicitation but we honestly feel that you are eminently qualified for the distinguished Chair and you have always been fair to us, Members of the Opposition. When you were there we usually felt and breathed an air of freedom and I hope we shall enjoy that privilege hereafter. No lengthy observations are needed. You tried almost the impossible by trying to spiritualise my friend, Shri H. N. Mukherjee. Naturally he resents that trespass, but I am sure we deeply admire and appreciate your character, your willing devotion to the great heritage of India. And those of us who had the privilege of going to your city and also to the great Tirupati temple and university know how you are loved and cherished by hundreds of thousands of people in that part of India. You will enjoy that admiration and support also in other parts of the country and also from all sections of this Parliament. I wish you a very glorious career as Speaker of this Parliament and I assure you that you will have our willing, spontaneous and loving co-operation in the discharge of your onerous duties.

**Shri Frank Anthony**: Apart from the motion for your election which stood in the name of the Prime Minister, a motion for your election also stood in the name of the Independent Group. It, therefore, gives me very great pleasure to welcome you to this high office. Personally I feel that your genial sense of humour and your essential humanness will prove an invaluable asset to the

high office to which you have been called. In this formative period of our Parliamentary Democracy, we look forward to you as a Speaker marked by courage and independence in the discharge of your duties without fear or favour. In a Parliamentary Democracy I believe that a person who is called to fill this high office ceases in spirit, though not in fact, to be a member of any party and becomes the custodian of the rights and interests of the whole House and of every Member of this House. It is in that high tradition that I welcome you as a Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

**Sardar Hukam Singh** (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): I congratulate you on your elevation to this exalted office. I realise that with this elevation your duties also have increased tremendously, I should say, but we are sanguine on the sound basis of the experience that we have gained in the last few years that you will be able to discharge the new burden with efficiency and credit. No doubt your predecessor Shri Mavalankar was a great person with high qualities, and even now his practices and rulings and also the traditions that he laid down would give us and you great guidance and inspiration. I do realise that the House will miss in your elevation the humour that you gave us so often when you spoke from your seat there, but I am sure that this will be counterbalanced by the guidance and inspiration that we will be able to get now from you when you are in that Chair; that deficiency, I am sure, will be made up.

I join my friends in paying tribute to all the qualities that you possess and the benefit that we have been deriving. I assure you we have full faith in you and I can tell you that you will be having our full co-operation and assistance in the discharge of your duties.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram**: May I be permitted to congratulate you on your unique election as the Presiding Officer of this House and of Parliament in general.

This morning's election, to my mind, constitutes a precedent of tremendous importance to the evolution of parliamentary institutions in this country. This Chamber has been in existence for more than thirty years and you have taken a fulsome part in the activities of this Chamber for nearly twenty long years but for some gaps when you were detained elsewhere as His Majesty's guest in the old days.

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

Even as I suggested to the Leader of the House when the election of the late Speaker took place in this Chamber on the first working day of this Parliament, the election of the Presiding Officers on a unanimous basis is a convention which each one of us in this House cherishes. Today I consider that a very important step forward has been taken and I do hope, even as I suggested in 1952 to the Leader of the House, that the election of the Deputy-Speaker would be unanimous and the Deputy-Speaker would come from this side of the House.

Some of us who have seen your work inside and outside this House for the last twenty years know your serenity of disposition, your brimming sense of humour, your intimate knowledge of Parliamentary Procedures and Conventions, and more than everything else—I am sure each one of you will share with me in this—your dominating contribution to the evolution of committee work, especially as the presiding officer of the Estimates Committee for a number of years and of numerous selection committees. All these are assets to this House for the evolution of proper conventions and practices. From this moment, with great humility I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, you are above party, you are the custodian and guardian of the rights and privileges of this House, and, I am sure, you will discharge your duties with impartiality and again with that cherubic smile which is always to be seen on your face. With great reverence I am saying that even under tremendous fire you have never lost your sense of humour. I am sure you will have the co-operation and assistance, loyalty and respect, of every hon. Member in the discharge of your onerous duties.

**Shri S. S. More (Sholapur):** On the 15th May, 1952 I spoke in this very Parliament as a defeated candidate. I pay my great homage to the late Speaker who left us in tears, but unfortunately I was absent on that occasion. Many hon. Members may enquire in what capacity I am speaking here today. I do not belong to the party in power. Though I belong to the party in opposition, I do not claim to speak on behalf of any of the groups in opposition, but I want to speak on behalf of a new tribe which I want to add to the tribes of this country—the tribe of those who raise points of order is a growing tribe. When I read the old proceedings I find

that you also once belonged to that tribe. It is very difficult for those who raise points of order to drive their point home in this atmosphere, but it is necessary that those who are in the habit of raising points of order—and I am the worst sinner in this respect—should be given all facilities. I have looked into the past history of the House of Commons and found that the precedents and rulings given on points of order have proved a very valuable storehouse of parliamentary procedure. Here you are endowed with police powers and given 'marshall' and for the proper preservation of the order. But, at the same time the greater and larger powers that have been bestowed upon you are the powers of the judiciary the impartiality of which no one can question. The impartial mind, the judicial mind, taking the pros and cons into account and coming to the best decision not in the interest of this party or that party but in the interest of the whole parliamentary democracy as such is of the utmost importance.

Sir, we have been in the slavish habit of quoting the House of Commons. I want this House to develop another line where the Asian countries shall be encouraged to quote the precedents, or the rulings given by the Speaker sitting on its august Chair here. From that point, of view Sir, I would say, those who rise on occasions—even at the cost of being misunderstood—on different points of order are actuated with the best of motives. They want to separate the chaff from the grain. Therefore, in that capacity—as one who has been frequently rising to points of order—I would say that you will be particularly kind to accede to such persons who may for the present or for the particular time seem to be recalcitrant or rebellious. They should be shown better and more sympathetic treatment.

I may bring one more point, Sir, and then close. I have been looking into the procedures of the different parliaments. I find that in the procedure of the House of Representatives in Australia there is a definite rule which lays down that if a ruling of the Chair is not acceptable to any part of the House they can submit the disagreement in writing and then the Chair is pleased to allow the House to debate. The late Shri Mavalankar had introduced many conventions and I expect that you also will rise above party considerations and party conveniences and try to set up

another set of conventions which will eventually safeguard the rights of the House and particularly the rights of the minorities in this House.

With these words, Sir I again appreciate your qualities which eminently fit you for the present occasion and for the present post. I also assure you, though reserving my right to rise on points of order, that I shall whole-heartedly co-operate with you in developing proper conventions.

**Shri Barrow** (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Sir, may I speak on behalf of the only cohesive and homogeneous party in this House—the group of back benchers—and offer you our respectful congratulations? Sir, we are always encouraged when you are in the Chair because we do not have to “catch your eye”. Your sharp and roving eye always spots back-benchers “bobbing up and down”. Therefore, on behalf of the back-benchers I want to be in the forefront with our congratulations.

**सेठ गोविंद दास** (मंडला जबलपुर, दक्षिण) अध्यक्ष महोदय, सन् १९२३ में मैं इस सदन में आया था। उसे यह चौतीसवां वर्ष है। उस समय हम स्वतंत्र नहीं थे। और इस सदन के अध्यक्ष थे सर फ्रेडरिक व्हाइट। उनके पश्चात हमने श्री विट्टलभाई पटेल को अध्यक्ष चुना। मुझे उस समय का स्मरण है जब उनका चुनाव केवल दो मतों के बहुमत से हुआ था। उसके पश्चात और भी अनेक अध्यक्ष इस सदन के हुए जिनको हमने अभी खोया है, श्री मावलकरजी, उनका चुनाव भी केवल दो मतों के बहुमत से हुआ था। जब वे श्री कावसजी जहांगीर के विरुद्ध खड़े हुए थे, पहले पहल, उस वक्त की बात मैं आप से कह रहा हूँ। उसके पश्चात हम स्वतंत्र हुए। स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात हमने पहली स्वतंत्र भारत की संसद को देखा और उस संसद की लोकसभा के अध्यक्ष श्री मावलकर जी सर्वमत से चुने गये। उनका निधन एक दुःखपूर्ण घटना है जो उन्हें जानते हैं वे सदा उन्हें स्मरण रखेंगे। किन्तु उसी के साथ हमें इस बात का हर्ष है कि आप आज इस सदन के अध्यक्ष सर्वमत से चुने गये हैं। कानूनी ज्ञान, और संविधान के ज्ञान के अतिरिक्त मैंने इन ३४ वर्षों में जो सबसे बड़ा आवश्यक ज्ञान अध्यक्ष में माना है वह यह है कि उन में स्वभाव की अत्यधिक मृदुता होनी चाहिए। हर प्रकार के लोग इस सदन में आते हैं, हर दल के लोग इस सदन में आते हैं, और यदि उनका मृदु व्यवहार न हो

तो किसी को संतोष नहीं हो सकता। इस सम्बन्ध में आपका स्थान बहुत उंचा है। मैंने इस सदन में आपके कार्य को देखा है। आपके साथ मैं विदेशों में गया हूँ, कनाडा इत्यादि, और वहाँ भी मैंने आपके कार्य को देखा है। आप में मृदुता है फिर आपको भारतीय संस्कृति से प्रेम है।

मुझे इस बात का दुःख हुआ कि अब तक एक भाषण भी यहाँ पर हमारी राजभाषा हिन्दी में नहीं हुआ। इसलिए मुझे और अधिक प्रेरणा हुई आज खड़े होने की। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप की अध्यक्षता में निष्पक्षता से काम होगा, मृदुता से काम होगा, और जिसे हमने अपनी राजभाषा हिन्दी बनाया है उस हिन्दी को अधिकाधिक प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।

मैं आपको हृदय से बधाई देता हूँ।

**Shri Ramachandra Reddi** (Nellore): Sir, I do not want to say too many words on an occasion like this when formal congratulations have to be offered. I join all the other Members who have offered their congratulations to you so well and for so long a time. I am sure with your long experience in the Chair you will discharge your duties ably and nobly.

**Mr. Speaker:** I rise to express my grateful thanks to the hon. Leader of the House for having made the motion and choosing me along with other Members, leaders of the various groups and all the Members of this House. It is a unique honour done to me. I started as an ordinary Member several years ago—more than 20 years ago—when we least expected, including our leaders then, that during our life-time we will be able to see freedom for this country.

There were a number of occasions when I was neither able to catch the eye nor the ear of the Speaker. The number of occasions when I had to pocket the undelivered speeches, which were more in number than the delivered speeches, were very many. There were a number of occasions when we had to walk out fighting with the foreign Government. Both inside and outside the House, relentlessly this struggle went on. I am aware that I led the life of a soldier for the cause of freedom and I will certainly continue the old traditions that have been built up after so much

[Mr. Speaker]

of sacrifice. I will constantly place before my eye, both physically and mentally, the figure whose picture I see before me (Shri Vithalbhair Patel) who fought from this Chair and established democratic traditions.

I am equally aware of the great soul who till recently occupied this Chair and built traditions which will stand for all of us and for all time, after freedom was won. As they have been milestones in the path of democracy in our country, so these two persons will be the setters of model for me to follow. I hope and trust that by God's Grace and with your co-operation I will, before I lay down my office, earn the repute that I have not done badly, if not equally well. I do not know whether I will be able to do better.

12 Noon

So far as democracy is concerned, I know the various democratic countries and I know that the various Parliaments in other countries are watching us. I will not let down this country nor this Parliament nor the prestige of this House or that of any Member. I will stand by all the privileges that are legitimately due to the Members. I will try to maintain the dignity of the House and I hope and trust that I will be able to do so with your co-operation.

Reference was made that I should be above parties. Hon. Members of this House have had opportunities to see my work during the past eight years. It is true that when I spoke as a Member of the House from that side I spoke with vehemence. But when I came and sat here, personally, I was convinced, and when I came to occupy this Chair I forgot that I belonged to this party or that party. Possibly there might have been occasions when hon. Members in the Government might have had the impression that I had been a little too lenient to the Opposition. I always erred on that side, and I never tried to stifle them. I am sure the Congress Party, with its numbers and its hold on the country, does not depend upon me to be a partisan in their favour and decide party issues. They are able to take care of themselves and do not want my support for that. I assure every section of this House, and every group and even every individual who does not belong to any particular group, that I will never let down their privileges. A Member's privileges, as a Member, shall be constantly before me. I shall try to stick to traditions, follow the older ones

and wherever new ones have to be established, you may take it from me that I will try to do that.

So far as spiritualisation is concerned, I do not pose to be a spiritual head, and I never attempted it—even if anybody misunderstood—and I leave it to himself to judge and spiritualise himself.

I hope and trust that on this occasion, when you referred to my good work, it is not merely customary but more heart-felt, coming as it does, from all sections of the House, without exception. Let me be judged by my action in the high office to which you have elevated me. It is a unique honour. I did not suddenly come into this Chair. I rose from step to step and you have so kindly elevated me to this important office. My thanks are due to one and all of you. I do not make any difference between party and party. I am obliged to all of you and thank you, and I hope to serve to the best of my conscience.

#### CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTIONS

**The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** With your permission, I wish to correct an unfortunate error which occurred in my replies to Starred Questions Nos. 249 and 279 by my friend Shri Feroze Gandhi, on the 28th February, 1956. The information given in reply to part (a) of the Starred Question No. 249 regarding purchase of one aircraft from Dalmia Jain Airways is not quite correct. Though this aircraft was registered in the name of Dalmia Jain Airways Limited, it was actually owned by Asia Udyog Limited (formerly Dalmia Jain Aviation Ltd.), and so the purchase was made from Asia Udyog Limited (formerly known as Dalmia Jain Aviation Ltd.). The reply given to parts (a) and (c) of Starred Question No. 279 relates to Dalmia Jain Airways Limited and not to Dalmia Jain Aviation Ltd. As regards reply to part (b) of this question, as stated above, the purchase of aircraft was made from Asia Udyog Limited (formerly known as Dalmia Jain Aviation Ltd.). This mistake was due to the confusion caused by the similarity in the names of the two firms "Dalmia Jain Airways Limited" and "Dalmia Jain Aviation Limited." I regret that this mistake could not be detected in time.

So far as Dalmia Jain Aviation Limited is concerned, no aircraft was registered in the name of that firm and no scheduled or non-scheduled air