

[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

operations were ever undertaken by that firm. I deeply regret this unfortunate error and apologise to you, Sir, and to the Members of the Lok Sabha.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareilly Distt.—East): I just want a clarification after this clarification made by the Minister. When this question came up for answer on the 27th last, the House was adjourned on that day. The next day, when I got the answer, the answer said—as is said here—“To be substituted for the copies of the answer already supplied.” This correction is a substitute of the answer which, in turn, is a substitute for another answer. I looked at the files in the Notice Office. I find that the original is missing. I would like to say that the original also may be placed on record for which all these are substitutes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as these names in these questions are concerned, we in the Ministry of Communications originally got notice of the question in respect of the Dalmia Jain Aviation, Ltd. Later on, the question, as it was first admitted, referred to the Dalmia Jain Airways Ltd. The same set of persons have been masquerading or functioning under different names and styles, and I am sorry we could not check that up earlier.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, I beg to announce the programme of dates for general discussion of the General Budget and the order of voting of Demands for Grants for the various Ministries.

The general discussion will commence on Tuesday, the 13th March and conclude on Friday, the 16th March.

Discussion on the Demands for Grants Ministry-wise will begin on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1956, in the following order: Defence; Communications; Transport; External Affairs; Rehabilitation; Irrigation and Power; Food and Agriculture; Health; Works, Housing and Supply; Labour; Natural Resources and Scientific Research; Production; Home Affairs; Education; Iron and Steel; Commerce and Industry; Finance.

The actual dates and the allocation of time for these will be shown in the Parliamentary Bulletin as usual.

For the Demands of the Ministry of External Affairs, four additional hours have been provided to allow for a discussion on the situation in West Bengal consequent on the continued migration of population from East Pakistan.

It is also proposed to bring forward the Life Insurance Corporation Bill for reference to the Select Committee of this Sabha on the 19th and 20th March.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): I take it that, so as to enable us to frame our own programmes, we shall not sit on Saturdays, when there are five working days in the week.

Mr. Speaker: We are not sitting on Saturdays, as I have already said, except on occasions when during the course of the week there is a holiday which was not anticipated.

Shri Kamath: Five working days are enough. No Saturday sittings.

Mr. Speaker: It has already been decided so. That is the convention.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—RAILWAYS

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the Demands for Grants in respect of Railways. Demand Nos. 1, 2, 3, 14 and 15 were under discussion, for which five hours have been allotted. Out of this, about 2 hours 10 minutes have been availed of yesterday, and 2 hours 50 minutes now remain. After the disposal of these Demands, the next group can comprise Demands Nos. 4 and 5 for which four hours have been agreed to. I may even suggest that so far as Demands Nos. 4 and 5 are concerned, hon. Members, even from now on, may send the numbers of the cut motions which they want to move, in order to save time.

Shri Lakshmayya (Anantapur): Today, I am overwhelmed with joy and happiness on this occasion of your becoming the Speaker. Before I proceed to speak on the railway budget, please permit me to offer my humble and respectful felicitations, on behalf of the people of Andhra in general and poor Rayalaseema, in particular to you on your unanimous election to this high office. By this, the Members of Parliament and the leaders have shown magnanimity, nobility and largeheartedness to the Andhra's claim. We, are, indeed grateful to the leaders of all parties and