

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Shri P. Kakkan has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 26th March, 1957.

Another hon. Member has also resigned. I have also to inform the House that Shri Nand Lal Joshi has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 28th March, 1957.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

Mr. Speaker: Leader of the House, Leader of the various Groups, and Members of Parliament ! Today's is the last sitting of the Fifteenth Session of the First Parliament under the Republican Constitution. This Parliament which is drawing to a close was elected on the basis of universal adult franchise and came into being on 13th May, 1952. As many as 173 millions of our population were enfranchised and nearly 88 million people went to the polls last time and there was not a single unhappy incident. This in itself is a proof that democracy has taken deep roots in our soil. The working of the first Parliament has reassured our faith in democracy further.

The working of our First Parliament, has earned unanimous acclaim from experienced Indian and foreign observers who have watched its function. They have held that this Parliament deliberates and legislates on questions of national importance in a manner which should characterise a much more mature body than the one which was just five years old. Every Parliament has its parties and is divided into groups. The Opposition usually functions through criticising and opposing proposals of the majority party and it is normal to all Parliaments. But, it is given only to few Parliaments to rise above party considerations in dealing with great issues of national interest and foreign policy. It is a matter of gratification that the parties in the first Parliament of India have on many occasions

subordinated their party considerations to the interest of the nation at large, particularly while debating questions of Parliamentary procedure, foreign policy and constitutional amendments. It is a good augury for the future of democracy and for preservation of the liberty of individual citizens in this country that in our Parliament, respect for the Constitution has not been confined to any one party, but is shared by all the parties and groups.

Among the Members of the first Parliament were men distinguished in law, in science, in Constitutional procedure, in politics, in economics, in agricultural, in social welfare; in short, all subjects that the Parliament of a country may be called upon to consider, deliberate and legislate upon. There were about twenty women Members of the House who have played a prominent role in the activities of the First Parliament, by taking active part not only when social problems were before the House, but also contributing in no small measure to debates on serious political and economic subjects.

The First Parliament has been particularly fortunate in having had a distinguished pilot in the late Speaker, Shri G. V. Mavalankar, who was an outstanding personality and great Speaker acknowledged not only in this country but by experienced parliamentarians in many other countries. He has laid the foundation of many valuable conventions and traditions which are bound to ensure the working of Parliament in which both majority and opposition parties can function with proper safeguards and impartial treatment for all. The most distinguished feature of the First Parliament in India has been the expression of a singularly tolerant and sporting spirit based on the temperament and tradition of the Indian people. Despite heated debates and even during the bitterest attacks on party lines, excellent friendly relations have always existed between the Members of various parties.