

Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 23.3.1995; and the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months, with effect from 18th January, 1996.

On 7th December, 1995, the economic situation in the country was discussed under Rule 193 for more than five hours in which fifteen Members from various sectors of the House participated.

As far as the financial business is concerned, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) as well as Railways for the year 1995-96 were presented to Lok Sabha on 28th November and 11th December, 1995, discussed and voted on 6th and 22nd December, 1995 respectively.

Three Private Members Bills were introduced. The debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav to reserve seats for Other Backward Classes in Parliament and State Legislature was adjourned *sine die*. A Bill moved by Shri Syed Shahabuddin to reserve posts or appointments in Government Services and seats in educational institutions for economically weaker sectors of the society was also discussed and the debate remained inconclusive.

Further discussion on the Resolution regarding revival of sick public undertakings moved by Shri Sudarshan Raychaudhuri continued. The Resolution was discussed for about seven hours and as many as 31 Members participated.

On 12th December, 1995, a function was held in the Central Hall to confer outstanding Parliamentarian award on Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister. Functions were also held under the auspices of Indian Parliamentary Group in the Central Hall regarding unveiling of portraits of Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister, Shri N.C. Chatterjee, ex-MP and statue of Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla.

In this Session, on ten days the House could not transact any business. If that would not have happened, we would have been very happy and it would have been better for the institution.

In the past, the problems could be solved with cooperation of all. In the future, let us hope, such problems would be solved with the cooperation of all in an amicable, democratic and legal fashion.

Despite the impasse, it was very obvious that all the Members, belonging to the ruling party and the Opposition parties, cooperated with one another, with me and the

Deputy-Speaker and other chairpersons and officers in the House as well as in the Chamber. The officers and all other employees did their duties in the best possible manner. The media persons cooperated as they have been doing. I would like to place on record my thanks to all other Presiding Officers, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of all parties, Members of all parties, the officers and other employees, and the media persons for all the good they did for this institution, I wish them all, all the best in the days to come.

Dr. Ramesh Chander Bhardwaj, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, would be laying down his office at the end of this month. He has worked in an unbiased manner and has been giving advice after careful thought. Though he maintains a low profile, he is a sincere and hard-working officer. He never tried to impose his views on others. He has made extremely useful contribution to the work of televising the proceedings of this House which will always be remembered. We express great appreciation of the services rendered by him to the Lok Sabha.

I have great pleasure in announcing that Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj will be an Honourary Officer of the House. This we do in recognition of his services to the Lok Sabha. We wish him good health, a productive and meaningful life in future also.

Now, we shall have to make an alternative arrangement to look after the functions of the Secretary-General. I have already decided to ask Shri Surendra Nath Mishra, Senior Additional Secretary in the Lok Sabha Secretariat, to officiate as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha. Necessary orders will be issued in due course.

Now the hon. Members may stand up as *Vande Mataram* will be played.

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14.41 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

*The National Song was played*

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MR. SPEAKER : Wishing you all the best once again. I adjourn the House *sine die*.

14.43 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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