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LIGHTER MOMENTS IN THE RAJYA SABHA

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1st Impression : July, 1985

Reprint : August, 1985

Rajya Sabha Library
Acc. No. 4587
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Date 10.11.89

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Published by
Secretary General, Rajya Sabha

P R E F A C E

Humour in Parliament makes an interesting subject of study. In parliamentary democracy based on party system, Parliament often functions under great stress and strain and the atmosphere in the House for part of the day remains surcharged. But even in the midst of confrontation, one comes across instances of wit, wisdom, and amusing remarks. Most of these are made in a lighter vein and serve as oases, as it were, in the dry desert of verbal duels. None of these exchanges are pre-rehearsed or pre-meditated and that is precisely why they are so good. They are the products of lively and vivacious minds reacting instantly to a particular situation; words often uttered by persons who could normally claim no particular ability to be witty. Cutting across the party lines or political differences these crisp observations often serve the purpose of lightening the atmosphere in the House which otherwise could be serious and tension-ridden. Without these, the debate and proceedings of the House would be sterile indeed.

A few such instances of witty, pawky and drolly statements have been culled out from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and included in this booklet. I hope members

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would find them interesting. Members are also requested that in case they are in possession of any interesting instances of humour or wit in the Rajya Sabha, or if they have any suggestion for improvement they may kindly be passed on to Shri M.C. Banerjee, Deputy Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat so that the same could be incorporated in the next issue of this publication which is proposed to be brought out at periodic intervals.

SUDARSHAN AGARWAL,
Secretary-General.

NEW DELHI;
The 1st July, 1985

Advantages Of Not Having A Son Or A Daughter

While speaking on the Appropriation Bill, Shri Bhupesh Gupta made the following observation:-

"Corruption is rampant. I would just give you one instance. I feel very hurt when I have to speak against my colleagues in Parliament, whether they are Ministers or their family members. But public duty is public duty. Since I have no son or a daughter or a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, perhaps I should speak a little like that and I hope my friends will not misunderstand me, even Mr. Morarji Desai should not misunderstand me..."

Vice-Chairman, Shri Lakshmanan, who was in the Chair agreed with him:-

"Dada, in that you are in an advantageous position. Since you do not have a son or a daughter, you are in an advantageous position."
oo

Air Accident Vs. Railway Accident

In question hour when Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railway was answering a Question on the Railway accident, Shri J.P. Mathur made the following remark:-

"So far in our country death in Air accident is to be more profitable than

"Railway accident. Those who die in plane crash get one lakh rupees."

oo

All Fools Day

Shri Chand Ram, Minister of State in charge of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport was answering a question on the plying of mini-buses in Delhi.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Congratulate the Minister because he had decided to make all these changes from the 1st April, which was supposed to be the fools day.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate observed:

"That is keeping you in view."

oo

Ashes From Soda-Ash

In the course of supplementaries to a question about distribution of Soda-Ash Shri Kalyan Roy interjected and satirically remarked:

"A lot of ashes will come out of the Soda-Ash."

The Minister Shri Mohan Dharia paid back the member in the same coin:

"So far as Mr. Kalyan Roy is

concerned, there cannot be anything except ashes.*"

oo

Attracting Attention In The House And Outside

During supplementaries to Starred Question on the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, Shri Piloo Mody addressing the Home Minister said as follows:-

"Do not look towards the Prime Minister. She may be more attractive. Look towards me."

Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi intervened that Shri Mody had no difficulty in attracting attention here or anywhere else.

oo

*The reference to the member had probably been made as he was a very prominent leader of Coal Miners.

Bachelor Father

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Hon'ble Minister should know the family planning thing a little better. Simply because a person is bachelor it does not mean that he is not responsible for babies being produced.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, I never knew this, we will use this contention against him (Shri Gupta)* in the election campaign. oo

Bachelor's Companion

In a debate on Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Bill, 1980 Kumari Saroj Khaparde demanded issue of 'Companion' passes for rail travel to bachelor members like Shri Bhupesh Gupta and herself. Thereupon Shri Gupta reacted in his inimitable style and commented as under:-

"I am almost inclined to sympathise with you, but I have no companion."

It was left to Dr. Bhai Mahavir to have the last word:-

"Both the Hon'ble Members can solve each other's problems." oo

Bachelor's Knowledge About Heart

The House was discussing the Maintenance of Internal Security Bill, 1971.

*Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a life-long bachelor.

Shri Naval Kishore said that he stood with a heavy heart to support the measure in the interest of the country. Thereupon Shri Bhupesh Gupta jocularly remarked that he controverted the member's assertion that he was standing with a heavy heart. He proposed that Shri Naval Kishore may be put to medical examination before he was allowed to continue further. Shri Naval Kishore immediately replied as follows:-

"Mr. Bhupesh Gupta knows nothing about heart. He is a barren bachelor." oo

Beautiful Ladies In Control Of the House

Shri Aruna Aladi *alias* V. Arunachalam while felicitating Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on her election as Deputy Chairman, observed as follows:-

"To control the House successfully and conduct the proceedings comfortably, as far as men are concerned, it is difficult but so far as ladies are concerned, if they are old, it is quite natural that the House will be sympathetic. If they are beautiful and young their radiance will satisfy the House." oo

Bold Burglar

A calling attention relating to the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi was under discussion in the House. An Hon'ble Member, Shri K.P. Subramaniam referred to an attempted burglary in the House of Shri A.K. Gopalan CPM leader and

a Member of Parliament. Shri K.C. Pant, the Minister of State for Home observed as follows:

"My Hon'ble friend referred to some attempt at Shri Gopalan's house. I must say, it must be very bold burglar, who attempted this."

Shri Bhupesh Gupta immediately reacted as follows:-

"Must be people belonging to your department."

oo

Budget Response

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: There will still be a few people who will even criticise beautiful ladies. They will always say that her ear is a little lippy or if her nose had been a little longer, it would have been better or that if her complexion had been a little more fair, it would have been better. Similarly, there are various comments on the budget saying that the income-tax exemption limit should have been raised to 25,000/- rupees. I think it is like saying that a lady is beautiful and fair and if she had been fairer, it would have been better.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Tastes differ from individual to individual.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought you were discussing the budget.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is discussing beautiful ladies and not budget.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Beauty should also be taxed.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Who would be the assessor?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I will be the assessor.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I am happy that the budget has evoked such a hearty response.

oo

Bulk Of The Volume

A copy of the summary of conclusions and recommendations as contained in the report of Shri Justice C.A. Vaidialingam was being laid on the Table of the House. Referring to the demand of Shri Piloo Mody to have the entire report laid on the Table, Mr. Chairman said:

"Mr. Mody, the bulk of that report is very frightening; it would not be possible..."

SHRI PILOO MODY: You know, I have never been frightened by the bulk, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer to the bulk of the volume.*

oo

*Shri Piloo Mody was a fat and bulky member of the House.

Chair Cannot Be Chivalrous

The Deputy Chairman asked Smt. Sumitra Kulkarni, who was speaking on the general discussion on the budget to conclude and without giving any further time to her, he called upon the next Speaker Shri D.L. Sen Gupta to speak. Feeling a little embarrassed, Shri Sen Gupta said:-

"I have to disturb a lady speaker, who was speaking really nicely."

Mr. Deputy Chairman thereupon reacted as follows:-

"I have to regulate the time, I cannot be as chivalrous as the other people are."

oo

Charity Begins At Every Home

The House was considering a motion regarding approach to the 5th Five Year Plan, 1974-79. While making his speech, the Planning Minister, Shri D.P. Dhar observed as follows:-

"We also have to ensure greater efficiency in the formulation of projects, in the implementation of projects and not only that, not only efficiency, but also a greater degree of economy and, if I may say so, parsimony."

Shri Bhupesh Gupta added:-

"And a little honesty too."

This led to the following interesting exchange:-

SHRI D.P. DHAR: A good deal of honesty not a little honesty. I would not accept Bhupesh Babu's suggestion that we should be content with a little honesty. We should be more honest...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Bhupesh Babu is now a very mature man, Mr. Dhar. Sir, I do share his sentiments. But corruption is so much, so monumental and great, that a little honesty will be great blessing.

SHRI D.P. DHAR: I must say that if a crusader like Bhupesh Da yields to despair and is prepared to condone dishonesty, then I think the future of this country is really bleak. We have got to condemn dishonesty wherever it is and we shall not be satisfied with a little honesty...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then, let charity begin at home.

SHRI D.P. DHAR: It has to begin at every home...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do not change the old English idiom: Charity begins at home, not at 'every' home.

SHRI D.P. DHAR: Wherever an English idiom has to be made properly applicable to a set of circumstances, it should be changed. That's why I said not only home but 'every home'.

oo

Coca Cola And Parle

SHRI J.K. JAIN: Sir, there is an important announcement. Mr. Piloo Mody has joined our party and he is sitting in the treasury benches. It is an important announcement. He has joined our party.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Mr. Chairman, how can Coca Cola and Parle go together? Both cannot go together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have them one after the other.

oo

Companions For Bachelors

During a debate on the Railway Budget, Shri P.C. Sethi the Minister of Railways informed the House that there had been representations to the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Railways and the Prime Minister with regard to free railway passes for the spouses of Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

SHRI J.P. MATHUR: What about those who have no spouse?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can have it.

SHRI J.P. MATHUR: That means anyone will be able to travel free with members like me. I am a bachelor. I can take anybody.

oo

Concern For Property

During the discussion over a calling attention relating to deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, when Shri K.C. Pant made some remarks in lighter vein to which Shri Bhupesh Gupta said that he appreciated jokes but:

"Not at the cost of my throat; not at the cost of little property that I have, I like humour but not humour at the mercy of burglars. "

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You do not have any property.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am very glad that he has concern for property.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, of course, I have. I have a typewriter - the highest property that I have.

oo

Daughter-in-law Vs. Mother-in-law

SHRI SHANTI G. PATEL: [Speaking on Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill] I know, the present Labour Minister may be sympathetic with us. He would like to plead that his Ministry has been doing it all along. But his position is just like a daughter-in-law in the House. The real mother-in-law is the Finance Ministry. And mother-in-law rules the house, not the Labour Minister. So the poor fellow cannot do anything.

oo

Dead Chair

When the House was going through the supplementaries to a question regarding black marketing and hoarding of essential commodities, Shri A.G. Kulkarni insisted on showing a paper to the Chair whereupon the latter advised that it should be shown to the Minister because it is the Minister who had to reply. Shri Piloo Mody submitted that questions to Minister could be put only through the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is just because it is a dead chair.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The Chair is dead or alive depending upon the occupant.

oo

Difficult To Control Lady Members

The House was discussing a special mention on the reported move by the ruling party to encourage defections of MLAs in

Maharashtra. Shri Kulkarni wanted to speak but Mr. Chairman had his own problem. He was finding it difficult to control the Hon'ble lady members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, will you give me one minute. I find it even more difficult to control the Hon'ble lady members.

SHRI PILOO MODY: That is the difficulty with all of us. All of us have experienced that difficulty.

oo

Discounting Has Started

The House was discussing a demand for a discussion on the two ordinances promulgated before the commencement of that Session. While speaking on the same, Shri P. Ramamurti said as follows:-

"Unfortunately Sir, on such an important question, people who count, have run away."

This led to the following cross talk between Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Shri Ramamurti:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Dharia counts.

SHRI RAMAMURTI: He counts.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not know when he will be discounted. Discounting has started.*

oo

*Janata Party which was running the Government at the Centre had already started falling apart.

Domestic Bliss

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS): Sir, a number of Hon'ble Members were very much exercised about the fact that they were unable to be accompanied by their spouses. The Railway Minister, Mr. Bansi Lal, has taken into consideration the views of the Members of Parliament. In consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, he has issued orders today restoring this facility. I hope this will dispel fears in the minds of members about their future domestic bliss.

oo

Dry Bath

The House was discussing the stoppage of water supply in M.Ps' flats in South Avenue. Shri A.G. Kulkarni made a reference to this matter in the House and related his conversation with the Works & Housing Minister who, he agitatedly told, had advised him to take a dry bath. Shri Piloo Mody interrupted to say that if a person wanted to have a dry bath, he need not go to the bathroom. To this, Shri Kulkarni quipped as follows:-

"Mr. Mody's American system of dry bath must be in bed. We people are Indians. Our bath is in the bathrooms."

oo

Elevation To The Cabinet

Shri Bhupesh Gupta was referring to the need for setting up enquiry against persons in high authority against whom there have been allegations. While Shri Biju Patnaik interrupted him, Shri Bhupesh Gupta reacted as follows:

"Mr. Biju Patnaik is a pastmaster. He himself has been subject of so many commissions of inquiry. He should not be afraid of it. He is the man who has faced commissions of inquiry like a soldier in the Second World War. For him a commission of inquiry means elevation to the Union Cabinet."

oo

Essential Commodity

During a Calling Attention discussion regarding non-availability of essential commodities some members wanted that the Minister ought to have been able to give information about some specific essential commodities. Thereupon Shri Bhupesh Gupta quipped:

"It seems, according to the Minister the only essential commodity is the Minister and that is in abundant supply."

oo

Exchange Of Compliments

SHRI M.S. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am afraid, the Hon'ble Minister is not

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properly briefed. I am sorry to say that.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI (MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE): Sir, I think the Hon'ble Member could not understand my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't exchange compliments. Please answer the question.

oo

Exporting Agent

During the supplementaries to a question on the provision for replacing of tracks and purchase of Railway wagons in the Sixth Five Year Plan, Shri Indradeep Sinha criticised the Government's policy of importing metre gauge rails instead of manufacturing them, because it caused delay. Shri Piloo Mody interrupted to say that the delay was caused not by importing it but by manufacturing it. Shri Sinha retorted as follows:-

"You are not the sole importing agent. There are so many others."

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, he is not an importing agent. He is an exporting agent.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I export ideas on a barren market.

oo

Extras In The Cabinet

During a general discussion on Budget 1971-72, after Shri R.P. Sinha had finished his speech by which he gave an all-out

support to the Finance Minister, another Member, Shri Bhupesh Gupta said:-

"Sir, in the film world we have got extras. I beg to know whether in the Cabinet also we have introduced that system. I would like to know the answer. Because we have got Cabinet Minister, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. Now, I want to know whether you have developed the system of extras as we have known in the film world."

Shri Sinha while expressing his ignorance of what Shri Gupta was aiming at observed that in the film industry there are also jokers.

Thereupon, Shri Bhupesh Gupta retorted thus:-

"That is also the role of the extras. No filmstar gets money by becoming a joker. Therefore, that is a job for the extras."

oo

Fat Persons Have Enough Patience

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: If my Hon'ble friend does not have the patience to listen to me, I am very sorry. I cannot help it.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am supplying you the patience.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: You need not supply. You are patient enough. That is why you are so fat.

oo

Fifteen Thousand Tonnes and Piloo Mody

The Minister for Agriculture, Rao Birendra Singh was answering Shri Piloo Mody who expressed dissatisfaction over the reported export of 15000 tonnes of Sugar.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The quantity of 15000 tonnes, Mr. Mody, compared to your size is very small.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Several things compared to my size are very small, including you.

oo

Files Accumulate And Men Delay

While speaking on the Administrative Tribunals Bill, 1985, Shri R. Ramakrishnan observed as follows:-

"Madam, in this connection, I would like you to be reminded of a famous

quotation of a poet which says:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay;"

I will only make a small change in this famous quotation and say:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where files accumulate and men delay;."

oo

Final And Semi-Final

PROF: C. LAKSHMANNA: Finally - this is final - I have a word about the junior artistes, otherwise known as "extras".

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: His every "Final" is "Semi-final".

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Quarter-final.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is "League system."

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: We will go to the final and win the trophy

oo

Fit For Dancing Institution

The House was discussing the matter regarding the allegations made against Shri

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Kanti Bhai Desai, son of Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister. Shri Manubhai Patel who raised a point of order spoke very feelingly in favour of Shri Desai with a lot of movement of his limbs. Shri Bhupesh Gupta who was watching him closely observed:-

"Sir, I have listened to his point of order. If the movement of his hands, if the movement of his fingers is relevant, he should be sent to some dancing institution."

oo

Fitting Compliments To Minister

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I am not going to ask any questions. But I would only like to compliment him* for the enormous pains he has taken-pains not only in knowing but also understanding at least half the queries we raised. The other half he could get away with, with his charming smile.

oo

*Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

Going To The Orbit

During supplementaries to Starred Question regarding congestion in the Geostationary Orbit in space Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla wanted to know from the Minister what the Government of India was doing to prevent foreign probing satellites which were being put in the Geostationary Orbit. Shri Piloo Mody said that they were going to put Usha* into Orbit.

Smt. Usha Malhotra immediately reacted as follows:-

"I do not mind going provided you come along so that I could leave you there and come back myself."

oo

*Smt. Usha Malhotra, a Lady Member of the Rajya Sabha.

He Does Not Jump But Schouts

The House was considering the Stamp and Excise Duties Bill, 1971. In the course of his speech, Shri S.S. Sanyal said as follows:-

"In this connection, Sir, may I have a very unfavourable matter raised here? I hope my Hon'ble friend Mr. Yajee will not jump up."

Shri A.D. Mani thereupon replied :-

"He does not jump up. He only shouts."
oo

Holding The Baby

During the question hour, Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Housing was answering a question on the facilities for drinking water in the villages. When the Minister informed the House that the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme was in the State sector, the following interesting exchange took place between him and Shri A.G. Kulkarni.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: You are only holding the baby.

SHRI OM MEHTA: That is right, somebody has to hold the babdy.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Why do you accept parentage when you cannot take care of it?
oo

Ignorance Of The Subject

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not think that anybody else can produce anybody else's children.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have shown your ignorance of the subject.
oo

Information, Not Protection

Dissatisfied with the reply given by the Minister of Education, Dr. P.C. Chunder during supplementaries to a question on the number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes students in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Shri Sitaram Kesri addressing the Chairman said that he needed his protection. Shri Piloo Mody thereupon quipped:

"You do not need protection. You need information."
oo

Interested In Chicken

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I am very sorry to say because of the callous attitude of India, because of the indifferent attitude of India, because of the low-key approach, because of the chicken-hearted approach of the Indian Government to the Sri Lankan problem...

MR. CHAIRMAN: People will be interested in chicken.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, I really do not know whether the Hon'ble Member is a vegetarian or a non-vegetarian.
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Last But Not The Least

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, having called me the last Speaker, you have given me an opportunity to say the last word on behalf of the Opposition on this subject.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may not be the least!

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Last Call-girl

During the discussion on a Call - Attention regarding the startling disclosure made by Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former U.S. Ambassador to India regarding payment of U.S. money for election purposes in India, there were frequent interruptions from various sections of the House; particularly Shri Jagjit Singh Anand and Shri Piloo Mody were having an altercation Shri Mody at one stage doubted the knowledge of English of Shri Anand and asked a third Member, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, to read out the disputed portion in Mr. Moynihan's book "A Dangerous Place." Shri Bhupesh Gupta said:-

"It is written here: 'My last call in India was Piloo Mody.' Thank God, Mr. Piloo Mody was not a woman. Otherwise, he would have written 'My last call-girl was Piloo Mody.'"

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Leave Us In Peace

The House was discussing the question of abuse by the Government of the Ordinance making powers of the President under Article 123 of the Constitution. Interrupting Shri P. Ramamurti, who was criticising Government for issuing a large number of Ordinances during the recess of Parliament, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria asked Shri Ramamurti to find out how many Ordinances had been issued by the Government in Kerala and the Government in West Bengal which were under the C.P.M. rule. Shri Piloo Mody stood up and advised Dr. Zakaria as follows:-

"Sir, I would request Mr. Zakaria to become a Member of the West Bengal and Kerala Assemblies simultaneously and leave us in peace over here."

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Looking More Into Faces Than Things

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The trouble with you, Sir, is that you are looking into so many things. I do not know how long I will have to live to have my things looked into. (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I can tell you. I am looking into more faces than things.

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Marriage: Fusion Not Confusion

The House was discussing the Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri S.S. Chaurasia.

SHRI K.K. MADHAVAN: Sir, I think the mover of the Bill himself has been confused. It is a product of confusion, of confused thinking.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: Marriage is also a product of confusion.

SHRI K.K. MADHAVAN: Fusion not confusion. There is a lot of difference between fusion and confusion.

oo

Minister: An Unessential Commodity

Shri Jagannath Pahadia, Minister of State for Finance was replying a question regarding the industrial units. Apparently dissatisfied with his performance, Shri Kalyan Roy observed as follows:-

"Sir, we should also take note of the performance of the Ministers, Mr. Venkataraman* has disappeared."

This led to the following exchange:

SHRI PILOO MODY: Minister is an unessential commodity.

*Refers to the Minister of Finance.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Let him be exported.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many unessential commodities, some superfluous also.

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Minister Is Always Right

The House was discussing a question on the constitution of an International Naval Force Armada for patrolling the Gulf Area. Commenting on the answer given by the Minister in the reply to a supplementary, Shri Piloo Mody said:-

"On this occasion, the Minister is right. Most surprisingly, the Minister is right."

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs told Shri Mody that he would surprise him more and more by being always right. Shri Piloo Mody thereupon replied as follows:-

"You are becoming like your boss. (reference to Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi). She says she is always right. Sometimes to make some mistake is human."

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Minister's Faces On The T.V.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I do not for a moment agree that there is any political interference whatsoever. I have worked in it. Except, when Mrs. Gandhi told me once "Please do not

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show the Ministers too often." She said "If you want to show some programmes in which the Ministers are there, kindly give importance to programmes and do not show the faces of the Ministers too often."

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Ministerial faces are quite entertaining. Do not deprive us. Do not deny us.

SHRI S.W.DHABE: We are not averse to it.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Jaswant Singh and Mr. Dhabe consider that they have been very generous to the Ministers. I put it to Mr. Gadgil that if you want a bigger entertainment, people like Mr. Jaswant Singh and Mr. Dhabe should be shown.

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Missing Minister

The House re-assembled after lunch at 8 minutes passed of 2' O Clock. Some of the Members were agitated because the concerned Minister was not present. At this stage, the Home Minister, Shri H.M. Patel was seen entering the House hurriedly. Seeing him, Shri Bhupesh Gupta Said:-

"Sir, we spent two minutes very anxiously because the Minister was not coming. I was thinking of making an announcement over the All India Radio that the Minister is missing and sending a message to the Police Commissioner. Good heavens he has come. We passed

some anxious moments, what has happened to you."

oo

Moolchand Or Malcolm

While participating in a debate Shri Pattabhi Rama Rao, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, referred to Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, a member of the House, as Dr. Moolchand* S. Adiseshiah. The Minister was immediately corrected by some other member saying that he was not Moolchand but Malcolm Adiseshiah.

On this Dr. Bhai Mahavir quipped:-

"I think the Minister cannot do anything without referring to the notes."

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*Shri Moolchand Daga is a member of Lok Sabha.

Mothers Of Confusion

While participating in a debate, a member used a certain expression which was ordered to be expunged. Reacting to this Shri Piloo Mody said that in the English language it is a perfectly acceptable parliamentary expression to say that something is a mother of something else, and the remark was not meant literally in the sense in which some members had interpreted it. He was therefore, the last person to accept expunction of an innocent remark like that from the proceedings of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled on the subject... Mr. Piloo Mody, I find many mothers of confusion in this House.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Now I think they will not ask for expunction of your remarks. You have insulted them much more than anybody here could have.

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My Son's Father

SHRI N.E. BALARAM: In Kerala, suppose you ask a Namboodri lady, I mean a Brahmin lady, what her husband's name is. She will never say that. She will only reply, "The name of my husband is my son's father." Suppose she is asked to recite the *Mantram* of *Narayanaya Namaha* and suppose her husband's name is Narayana, she will say "My son's father Namaha." Like that, the Foreign Minister is like that Brahmin lady in

Kerala. He does not want to say where the danger is coming from.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: If that lady has no son, how will she address?

SHRI N.E. BALARAM: I do not know that. Ask the Minister.

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No Question When Ladies Are Quarrelling

In question hour an altercation took place between Shrimati Usha Malhotra and Shrimati Margaret Alva. At this stage the Chairman called upon Shri Bhandare to put his question.

SHRI BHANDARE: Sir, I cannot put my question when two ladies are quarrelling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Naturally, nobody can. oo

Not Creditable Not To Have A Son

Shri Bhupesh Gupta was speaking in favour of the demand that the correspondence between the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai and the Union Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh regarding allegations and counter - allegations made against each other's family members should be laid on the Table of the House. In this connection, he talked as follows:-

"Why can't you lay it on the Table of the House? What is the difficulty in it? It is because Prime Minister's son is involved? I do not have a son. Mr. Piloo Mody, have you got a son? Well, even being married you do not have a son? It is not a credit on your part."

Shri Piloo Mody thereupon quipped:-

"It is one of my greatest qualifications." oo

Obsolete Landing Instruments

It was during the question hour that some members were asking supplementaries on the question on insufficient landing instruments at airports, when the Minister, Shri A.P. Sharma, informed the House that the landing instruments were not outdated. But his statement was contested by Shri Ramakrishna Hegde.

SHRI PILOO MODY: How old are they? As old as Mrs. Usha Malhotra, for instance?

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Sir, you as a Judge decide whether two decades old technology is obsolete or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know, Mr. Kulkarni, how old are they.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: I say they are two decades old.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They say they are up-to-date.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: I am not mentioning anybody's age here as Mr. Piloo Mody does...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Piloo Mody needs a special instrument. oo

One Baig As Good As Another

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Aiyubbaig. He is interested in the Gujarat floods.

SHRI IRSHADBAIG AIYUBBAIG MIRZA: I am Irshadbaig. ▷

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter. One Baig is as good as another Baig.

oo

One Who Is Present Cannot Represent

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, what about Question No. 303?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member is absent.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, I am present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are present, but you cannot represent.

oo

Pass For Spouse, Not For Spice

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Just one clarification I want to have. Is he talking about the companion or his wife/spouse?

VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): He is talking about both.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: There are bachelors also.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Spouse or companion. Let it be both.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: I have paid Rs. 320 today.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Spouse and companion will not travel simultaneously. It is better to have one.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am reminded of what Mr. Jagjivan Ram said when he was the Railway Minister. He was asked whether this pass would be restricted only for the wife or also for the companion. Mr. Jagjivan Ram answered: "The pass is for the spouse, not for the spice."

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: What is this? There is a difference between the two. We have to pay extra.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: That is what the Hon'ble Member is making a request.

▷

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: "Spices" are not expected to pay.

oo

Preventing Heart Attack

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Leader of the House, while felicitating Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on her unanimous election as the Deputy Chairman observed as follows:-

"Sir, this House, as you know, does not always deliberate; it also fulminates and Sir, you have seen one instance of it. On such occasions I am sure, her presence will be a soothing balm for her research for Ph.D degree has been a research on the anatomy of the heart and I am sure she will not allow us, sitting either on this side or on the other side, to give each other a heart attack."

oo

Private Fight

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, this kind of running commentary by Mr. Mody should stop.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have your private fight outside.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, he is afraid of meeting me outside.

oo

Procurement Of Soft Stuff

The House was discussing a calling

attention on the non-availability of foodgrains in various parts of the country. Referring to the situation in West Bengal, Shri Lokanath Misra expressed his dissatisfaction and stated that some supporters of either the Congress Party or the C.P.I. who own fair price shops do not allow foodgrains to percolate down to the consumers.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta added that it was reported in some papers that two very close associates of Mr. Kashi Kant Moitra* have been arrested in a prostitute's house. Dr. K. Mathew Kurian thereupon observed:-

"They should have been procuring wheat and rice. They were procuring more soft stuff."

oo

Protecting The Country

When Shri Yogendra Makwana, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs was replying to a question on the deportation of foreign nationals from Assam the Chairman intervened. Shri N.P. Shahi got an impression that the Chairman was siding with the Government and told him not to do so but protect the interest of the Members. To this the Chairman replied that he was not protecting the Government; rather he was protecting the country.

▷

*Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the West Bengal Government.

Shri Piloo Mody thereupon remarked:

"If you want to protect the country, we will send you to the borders, Sir. Right now, you protect our interests.

oo

Purchase By Minsiter's Wife

The Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Steel & Mines (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) was replying to supplementaries to a starred question on the price of edible oils. Apparently dissatisfied with the answer, Shrimati Purobi Mukhopadhyay said as follows:-

"Sir, the house-wives like to know whether the Civil Supplies Minister or anybody in the Council of Ministers has visited a market to purchase oil?"

The Commerce Minister quickly replied:-

"So far as this question is concerned, I am glad to answer that at least my wife visits market and she purchase for herself."

Before passing on to the next question the Chairman had the last say:

"I hope after this assurance that the wife of the Hon'ble Minister goes to purchase oil, everything is brought to his notice."

oo

Rabies And The Elections

The House was discussing a starred question on detection of Rabies Disease in Delhi; Shri Purabi Mukhopadhyay asked the Minister when you catch stray dogs, what do you do with them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought, Mr. Piloo Mody, will have much to say about rabies...

SHRI PILOO MODY: I have already said that since the last election* the danger has gone up in Delhi.

oo

Relativity In Time

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We now take up General Budget discussion. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee. May I tell you, Mr. Chatterjee, your party has got 43 minutes, and I expect you to finish in 40 minutes.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We have to remind Dr. Heptulla, the Scientist, that time is a very very relative concept as has been established in the earlier century.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not since I have taken the Chair.

oo

Reversed Roles

Shri Piloo Mody wanted to make some submissions when the Minister was answering

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*The General Elections took place in January, 1980 which returned Congress (I) to power.

a question. The Chairman did not allow Shri Mody to speak and told him that nothing would be recorded while he (Chairman) was standing.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am sitting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am standing.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Unfortunately, the roles are being reversed. The person who should be sitting is standing and the person who should be standing has to sit.

oo

Searching The Bathrooms

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS): Mala Sinha*, not Mala Singh...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not go to films. Therefore, I stand corrected.

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS): So you should not talk about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We saw that in her bathroom Rs. 20 lakhs were found. Well, I do not know how many bathrooms are to be searched. Now this is happening. Therefore, you should go after them but not in the bad sense of the term. I do not ask Mr. Shukla to go after them in the wrong way. I ask him as a tax collector to go after them and collect the money from them.

oo

Sense Of Timing

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Here, the question is, five instalments of DA have become due. What we have said in the statement is that, we have not yet taken a decision on making the actual payment. It would not be possible for me to indicate when exactly or at what point of time it would be possible for us to make the payment.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Just before the elections. I can tell you the timing.

oo

*She is a famous film star.

Signs Of Backwardness

While speaking on the Report of the Commission for Linguistic Minorities, Shri T.N. Singh, a Member made the following speech in his effort to prove how much anglicizing was going on in our national life:

"In my own life in the last 50 years I have seen the Western or anglicized way of life becoming more popular in this beloved country of ours than it was 50 years ago. We want to flaunt that we are modern by indentifying ourselves with the Western way of living. There are people who in their own home call their father "daddy", their mother "mummy" and the child "baby". And if I were to call my wife "Shrimatiji", I will be thought backward."

oo

Sir Versus Madam

The Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Asoke Sen, during his reply to the Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1985, while explaining his repeated slips in addressing the Deputy Chairman, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla as 'Sir', said as follows:-

"Now, Sir... Madam, when a Madam adorns the Chair, we forget our pledge to God to thank him for making us man because we forget that this country is based on equality between the sexes and the Constitution forbids

discrimination on ground of sex alone as on ground of religion. Therefore, you will excuse me Sir... Madam, due to habit we address you as Sir. But the General Clauses Act says 'a male includes a female'. Eve was born out of the very flesh of Adam, that is what the Old Testament teaches us."

oo

Sleeping Not Sitting

During the oral answer to a question on the number of members of the Christian community in Kashmir, Shri Bhupesh Gupta dissatisfied with the reply given by the Home Minister angrily demanded:

"Here is the Prime Minister sitting. Why is he not answering the questions?"

Shri Piloo Mody quietly stood up and jocularly remarked:-

"He is not sitting; he is sleeping."

oo

Soft And Hard Drinks

While replying to a supplementary during question time Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh *inter alia* said that he did not know much about soft drinks because he did not use them. This evoked following mirthful exchanges:

MR. CHAIRMAN: I warn the Minister that on

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this statement of his a supplementary might be asked.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: You go in for hard drinks.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: He means soft drinks also.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: In soft drinks I am only fond of lassi and milk.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Even at this age.

oo

Sound And Fury

The House was considering the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1980. During the course of the discussion, Shri Kalyan Roy referring to the Minister's reply, observed as follows:-

"I know you are very fond of Shakespeare. He writes in Macbeth: 'It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury and signifying nothing'."

Shri Vikram Mahajan, the concerned Minister retorted as follows:-

"That is what Mr. Kalyan Roy normally does."

oo

Speaking Without The Subject

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A.G. KULKARNI): In my college days I remember, there used to be an elocution competition of speaking

without the subject and one could ramble on everything. I think, you are, perhaps, a champion in that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am very glad I am reminded of your college days. One thing you have not said. How many times you have passed and how many times you have failed.

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI A.G. KULKARNI): For your information, I am a graduate in science.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am glad to hear. You look like a graduate. I agree.

oo

Special Interruption

As soon as the Minister of Civil Aviation Shri A.P. Sharma finished reply to a question regarding Feeder Air Service for Himachal Pradesh, and Smt. Usha Malhotra stood up to ask a supplementary thereon, Shri Piloo Mody shouted:-

"Next Question?"

Smt. Usha Malhotra retorted:-

"What do you mean? Since when have you become the Chairman?"

Mr. Chairman thereupon observed:-

"This is a special interruption for you."

oo

Spill Over The Charm

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, while replying to the felicitations offered to her on her election as Deputy Chairman said as follows:-

"... Mr. Prime Minister has said that I might spill over. So if I have any charm or if I could have developed some influence, I would definitely like to spill over to not only win over the hearts but also the heads of the people near whom you have brought me to sit."*

oo

*When not presiding, Deputy Chairman occupies a seat next to the leader of the largest group in the Opposition.

Thing Of Beauty Is Joy Forever

When the question of election of Deputy Chairman was being taken up and Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy while objecting to the failure of the Ruling Party to arrive at a consensus with the opposition on a mutually agreed candidate for Deputy Chairman, observed inter alia:-

"I know, Sir, a thing of beauty is a joy forever. Dr. Najma is a beautiful Member of the House. If the Ruling Party wanted beauty we also could have given beauty from here." (referring to Opposition Benches).

Mr. Chairman thereupon said:-

"I do not know whether the other side is aware of that."

Subsequently, while felicitating Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on her election, the Leader of the House (Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh) reacted as follows:-

"... Mr. Gurupadaswamy, said if it were a question of beauty, they could also have presented one. If that were to be the terms of negotiations, perhaps I would have entered into it earlier."

co

Understanding Of Marx

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I was studying in the United States in 1949-50...

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Shame.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: In fact, they should be ashamed because they exposed themselves. It was there that I understood how Marx was correct.

oo

Unique Felicitations To Deputy Chairman On His Election

After Shri Shyam Lal Yadav was elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, members belonging to various political parties and groups in the House started extending their felicitations to him. Thereupon the following exchanges between the Chairman and Shri Piloo Mody took place.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to begin with, I must express my regret, that on this occasion you have behaved exactly as Mr. Shyam Lal Yadav in permitting Mr. Sharma, before you allowed me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You represent only 15. He represents so many more.

SHRI PILOO MODY: It does not go by numbers over here. I have been trying to tell you this for a very long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it went by weight, there is another person I should have asked.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I am very conscious of it. And if it went by brains also certainly the Opposition will be first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You would have lost on many fronts then.

SHRI PILOO MODY: As I told you earlier, I have no fronts. I am round. Now with your permission, I beg to move a vote of

congratulations to my friend, Shri Shyam Lal Yadav, on having come and sat with us in spite of being in the bad company of those gentlemen and ladies, yes, I see you Saroj.* Well I never forget you. I have no doubt in my mind that my good friend, Shri Shyam Lal Yadav will continue to be as partisan as he was in the past. But I will only plead with him that now that I have moved closer, I will be able to extend a certain amount of physical control over him, if not moral pressure...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think something of you may get rubbed off.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I hope a great deal will rub off, my regret is that there is no chair next to you...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would not sit here then.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I want to assure my good friend, neighbour and colleague that I wish him very happy times in the Chair with the least amount of acrimony and warn him that if he does not behave himself, when he returns to this Chair, I will sit on him.

oo

Weight Reducing

During supplementaries on a Starred Question Shri A.G. Kulkarni made the following observation:

"I will tell you why particularly my friend Mr. Manubhai Patel is so much interested in Bangalore. Sir, it is because there is a weakness. His wife is going to the weight reducing ashram and Mr. Piloo Mody also goes to the weight reducing ashram. That is why he likes Bangalore.

Mr. Chairman thereupon said:-

"He can refer to Mr. Mody twice over but do not refer to a wife here."

oo

* Refers to Kumari Saroj Khaparde.

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LIGHTER MOMENTS IN THE RAJYA SABHA

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—A SUPPLEMENT

L I G H T E R M O M E N T S

I N T H E

R A J Y A S A B H A

- A Supplement



R A J Y A S A B H A S E C R E T A R I A T

N E W D E L H I

1986

328.31

RAJ-L



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

1982

LIGHTER MOMENTS IN THE RAJYA SABHA

Published by
The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi

1st Impression : July, 1985
2nd Impression : August, 1985
Supplement : May, 1986

Rajya Sabha Library
Acc. No. 4589
Lib. No. 1118
Date 10.11.89

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Published by
Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha

PREFACE TO THE SUPPLEMENT

A booklet entitled "Lighter Moments in the Rajya Sabha" was brought out in July 1985 containing instances of wit and humour culled out from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. The publication proved to be an instant success. It was received enthusiastically by the members and got rave reviews in the press. The popularity of the booklet could well be gauged by the fact that the first print-run was exhausted barely within a month's time obliging us to go in for a reprint.

As promised in the maiden issue, a 'Supplement' to the "Lighter Moments" has been brought out containing instances of wit - ready, quick and nimble - sallies, humour, ripostes, mirthful exchanges and pleasantries from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha during its 135th and 136th Sessions i.e. the monsoon and winter sessions of 1985. These instances, as in the previous edition, have been arranged alphabetically, with suitable headings and appropriate narratives where necessary. Where the key sentences are in Hindi, the original have been reproduced followed by a running English translation thereof.

I hope members will find them tranquilising, equalising, interesting and solvent in which tension in the House is dissolved. If there are interesting instances of humour in the possession of any member or if they have suggestions for improvement, the same may kindly be communicated to Shri M.C. Banerjee, Deputy Director in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for incorporation in the future edition of the publication.

SUDARSHAN AGARWAL,
Secretary-General.

NEW DELHI;
The 12th May, 1986

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

Humour in Parliament makes an interesting subject of study. In parliamentary democracy based on party system, Parliament often functions under great stress and strain and the atmosphere in the House for part of the day remains surcharged. But even in the midst of confrontation, one comes across instances of wit, wisdom, and amusing remarks. Most of these are made in a lighter vein and serve as oases, as it were, in the dry desert of verbal duels. None of these exchanges are pre-rehearsed or pre-meditated and that is precisely why they are so good. They are the products of lively and vivacious minds reacting instantly to a particular situation; words often uttered by persons who could normally claim no particular ability to be witty. Cutting across the party lines or political differences these crisp observations often serve the purpose of lightening the atmosphere in the House which otherwise could be serious and tension-ridden. Without these, the debate and proceedings of the House would be sterile indeed.

A few such instances of witty, pawky and drolly statements have been culled out from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and

included in this booklet. I hope members would find them interesting. Members are also requested that in case they are in possession of any interesting instances of humour or wit in the Rajya Sabha, or if they have any suggestion for improvement they may kindly be passed on to Shri M.C. Banerjee, Deputy Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat so that the same could be incorporated in the next issue of this publications which is proposed to be brought out at periodic intervals.

SUDARSHAN AGARWAL,
Secretary-General

NEW DELHI;
The 1st July, 1985

A cup of good coffee

While Shri R. Ramakrishnan rose to speak on the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1985, the following witty exchanges took place in the House.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am speaking on this Bill for two reasons, Firstly, I represent this August House on the Coffee Board.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can brew it very well.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Thank you very much, Madam, for the compliment.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You can give us some coffee.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I will give you something better now...for the sake of the Secretary-General's *Lighter Moments in the Rajya Sabha*. I start with how President Tito of Yugoslavia described good coffee should be. He said, "A cup of good coffee-it is a cup that cheers—should be as hot as the Sahara, as dark as the new moon light and "—pardon me, Madam—"as sweet as sin!"

oo

A rose remains a rose, call it by any name

During supplementaries to a Starred Question on the recommendations of the Joint meeting of Chief Justice, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers, the following interesting exchange took place: ▷

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:..... And the Government, in its anxiety to find committed judges, are delaying the appointment of new judges. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when will he fill up the existing vacancies so that the heavy pendency of cases in courts may be reduced.

SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN: I am sorry I have not been able to disillusion Mr. Reddy of his committed ideas of having committed judges. I have to say very emphatically...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, let him correct my name.

SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN: I am sorry, I apologise. Mr. Upendra is the leader of his party, I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very serious mistake.

SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN: Yes, it is a very serious mistake and my profuse apologies. But Mr. Upendra remains Mr. Upendra, by whatever name he is called. As Shakespeare has said, a rose remains a rose, call it by any name, and even if we call it by some other name, it remains a rose. And so Mr. Upendra will remain a rose always for us.

oo

Adding and dropping weight

Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, while answering to the point raised by Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh on the statement made (by the

▷

Minister) earlier regarding setting up of Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala (Punjab), advised the latter "to add his weight in the right place."*

Thereupon, the following repartee took place in the House:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought you were suggesting to him to drop weight.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, I would have been open to misunderstanding.

oo

Age is a quality of mind

While participating in a debate on the University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1985, Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj, while agreeing with the age limit of 65 years for the Chairman of the UGC, suggested that the tenure of educationists should be extended upto 70 years of age, provided the persons concerned had been medically declared fit, because with growing years they become more and more accomplished and experts in their respective fields.

The Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] thereupon quipped:

"Age is a quality of mind."

oo

*(Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh is a member with a heavy built)

Application for Ministership

As soon as the Leader of the House, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh had finished introduction of new Minister to the House, the following repartee took place:-

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: The House is full of Ministers. They outnumber the Members. Not even one from this side:

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: You can propose the name; we can consider it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohanarangam might propose his own name.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: You send an application; they will consider it.

oo

Bearded lions

The members were putting supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding purchase of Airbus in place of Boeing 757. Shri Suresh Kalmadi was not satisfied with the reply given by Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State in the Department of Civil Aviation to a certain supplementary and was repeatedly interrupting the Minister to extract a satisfactory answer. The Chairman then put an end to their verbal exchange by telling Shri Kalmadi:

"You must allow the Minister to give his

▷

full answer. After that I will allow you. I have been allowing you, but only after he finishes. You prevent him from giving an answer. It is not correct. You please wait."

Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of State in the Department of Railways, thereupon, quipped:

"Both are bearded* lions."

oo

Bitter to the last

The House was discussing a Calling Attention on the immediate need to pay remunerative prices to sugarcane growers for their produce in view of fall in production of sugar. Speaking on the subject, Shri M. Kadharsha observed:-

"Madam Deputy Chairman, sugar is sweet, so also the Minister, but not the sugar policy of the Government. It is bitter to the last."

oo

Black beauty

While participating in a short duration discussion on the statement regarding report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on "Aspects of the Black Economy

▷

**Both Shri Suresh Kalmadi and Shri Jagdish Tytler sport beards.*

in India", Shri Nirmal Chatterjee remarked:

"Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, despite quite a beautiful couplet in Bengali literature, a free translation of which means -

If black you consider to be that bad, why do you weep, Madam, when your hair turns grey?

black is considered to be beautiful in certain circles in our country. But presently, Sir, the mood of the House seems to reflect that we are all concerned with black income, black wealth and the report on black money and black wealth."

oo

Bottomless construction

During the course of supplementaries on a question regarding construction of defective houses by the DDA, the following drolly interlude took place:

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Madam, there is rampant corruption in the DDA from top to bottom.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why talk of top? We are talking of the bottom... (Interruptions)...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: They are constructing

▷

buildings without foundation and so no bottom... (Interruptions)...

oo

Bulky drug

While putting supplementaries on a Starred Question members were concentrating on the issue of production of various drugs by the IDPL. The Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] called Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh to put the last supplementary thus:

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: The last drug.

This triggered off the following mirthful repartee:

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is a bulky drug.*

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Madam, yes, it is a bulky drug and it is a bulky question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us see how effective it is.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We will get it from the basic stage.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: It is not basic stage. It is an intermediate stage.

oo

*The reference is to Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh who is known for his obesity.

Car Vs. truck

When a Starred Question regarding restrictions on resale of vehicles was being answered in the House, Shri R. Mohanarangam enquired from the Minister whether there was any proposal on the part of the Government to lift the ban and give an opportunity to the Members of Parliament to register their names for the purchase of Maruti vehicles. The Chairman observed that although the supplementary was not relevant to the main question, he would allow the same as it might be of interest to the members. The following repartee, thereafter, took place in the House:

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I do not know if Mr. Mohanarangam will be personally interested in the Maruti car which is a small car.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No deals can be struck here.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, I know fully well that the Maruti car will not accommodate me*... Even the Ambassador car will not accommodate me. (Interruptions) Where is my guru?** He is absent...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please supply Mr. Mohanarangam with a truck.

oo

**Shri Mohanarangam is a very hefty member.*

***The reference here is presumably to Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh, who is known for his corpulency.*

Change of Portfolio

While participating in the debate on the Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill, 1985, Shri R. Ramakrishnan inadvertently referred to the Education Minister as Home Minister. This led to the following exchange:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Education Minister. Do you want him to become Minister for Home Affairs?

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I am sorry, yes, Education Minister. I hope he will get a change of portfolio after he delivers the goods.

oo

Coffee at tea time

As soon as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Supply (Shri P.A. Sangma) finished his speech moving the motion for the consideration of the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1985, the following pleasantries were exchanged:

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: There are only two persons who take coffee and both are Ministers. Therefore, this may be passed without any discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Though it is tea time, we do not mind having coffee.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let the Ministers serve coffee.

oo

Comedy of errors

In the course of supplementaries to a Starred Question, a member, Shri Kailash Pati Mishra sought to put a supplementary on floods. The Chairman did not permit him to put his question on the ground that the main question related to drought. The member was supported by another member who argued that as per the Hindi version of the question, it pertained to 'floods'. Thereupon, the following mirthful exchange took place:

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a comedy of errors. The English version of the question deals with drought, and the Hindi version, I am told, deals with floods. Therefore, the question I have before me is about drought. I do not know in what language it was put originally. About floods you can put a separate question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Fully submitting to your ruling, we are prepared for floods also.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Shall I put my supplementary on drought or on flood?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of all the noise that has been made, you may put supplementaries on flood, fire, drought, everything.

oo

Concentrating too much on lady Member

The House was having a short duration discussion on the statement on textile policy. While Minister of Supplies and Textiles, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was speaking, a member, Miss Jayalalitha intervened. Another member, Shri Ramchandra Bhardwaj raised a point of order on this. The Minister replied that, although no member has the right to intervene while the Minister is speaking, he wanted to give this right to the lady member.

Thereafter, the following pleasantaries were exchanged:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I am referring to the hon. lady Member. You are trying to compete with the hon. lady Member.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: If you want to compete, I will leave the field open for you. You are capable.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You are concentrating too much on the lady Member.

oo

Contributions of Modern Science

While speaking on the Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 1985 Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem inadvertently addressed the Chair* as

**The Deputy Chairman, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla, had been presiding over the House when Shri Quasem had started his speech.*

"Madam" when the Vice-Chairman Shri Chimanbhai Mehta was in the Chair. The following exchange came as a sequel to that inadvertence.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not 'Madam', but 'Sir'.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: This is one of the contributions of Modern science - the transformation of sex. oo

Debate on Sports or Madhavrao Scindia

During the course of supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding new talent in sports, Shri N.K.P. Salve enquired whether Government were willing to give financial help to good cricket associations such as the one in Madhya Pradesh under the presidentship of Madhavrao Scindia so that they could find new talent. Shri S.W. Dhabe commented that those associations did not need money. One member thereupon quipped:

"Madhavrao Scindia does not need any money."

The Chairman wittily commented:

"Mr. Salve, you are a lawyer. If they give to Madhavrao Scindia, they will say, according to law, a fraudulent preference."

Later on, Shri Salve remarked that not a rupee of support has been given to ▷

cricket. Smt. Margaret Alva, Minister of State in the Departments of Youth Affairs and Sports and Women's welfare retorted as follows:

"Cricket does not need it. We are talking about those who need it. (Interruptions) The hon. Member would also agree that Madhavrao Scindia does not need money to sponsor sports in Madhya Pradesh."

Shri Madhavrao Scindia had the final say in the matter with the following trump card:

"Is sports being debated or is Madhavrao Scindia being debated?" oo

Dinner and breakfast for Members

The House was having a combined debate on the Futwah - Islampur Light Railway Line (Nationalisation) Bill, 1985 and the Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 1985. After a member had finished his speech, the Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] proposed to scrap the lunch recess in order to enable the House to dispose of the long list of business slated for the day. This led to the following mirthful exchange:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not having lunch today. ▷

SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Then you can give me more time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are scrapping lunch time in order to sit till 9 O'clock.

SHRI D. HEERACHAND: You take away lunch time and don't give more time...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not mind if you want to have your dinner here...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, ladies are food givers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will provide you dinner as well as breakfast if the House sits for longer time. oo

Disadvantages of being non-vegetarian

During the supplementaries to a question on the subject of fish caught by foreign chartered trawlers, the following interesting exchange took place:

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am a strict non-vegetarian.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't say that. Otherwise you will be denied vegetables in our dinners and lunches.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: If those are replaced by non-vegetarian things, I have no objection. oo

Disaster Development Programme

While speaking on a Call Attention Motion on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy pointed out a discrepancy in the statement of the Minister of State in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Shri Yogendra Makwana) in the following words:

"However, while reading the statement, I have found an expression which is rather very amusing. In the same page — page 5 — in the last paragraph, the statement says that there is going to be a "Disaster Development Programme!" What is this "Disaster Development Programme?" I do not understand."

This led to the following witty exchange:

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is Drought Prone Area Development Programme.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Here it is "Disaster Development Programme."

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is a mistake.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am glad it is only a mistake! oo

Doctor good at diagnosis, bad at prescription

In the course of supplementaries on a

Starred Question regarding review of performance of public sector undertakings, Shri P. Upendra was trying to hammer home a point that while the Minister of Industry (Shri N.D. Tiwari) identified the reasons for the losses incurred by some enterprises, he did not suggest anything to solve them. In this context he characterised the Minister's statement thus:

"The Minister sounded like a doctor good at diagnosis but bad at prescription."

A little while later, still not satisfied with the Minister's clarifications, Shri Upendra stated that he was convinced about his comments on the Minister. However, the Chariman came to the Ministers' rescue and rebutted the member in a lighter vein thus:

"But the prescription failed. What can he do?"

oo

Doing things the wrong way

While participating in the debate on the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Cess Bill, 1985, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav was trying to hammer home a point that the various welfare projects launched by the Government for the farmer did not serve their cause because the personnel responsible for implementation were elitist and have absolutely no idea about the

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problems faced by the farmers. In this context the member sarcastically remarked:

"... दूध की रखवाली कभी बिल्ली नहीं करेगी, बकरी का चरवाहा कभी बाघ नहीं हो सकता है। लेकिन सरकार उल्टा करते हैं। वह दूध की रखवाली में बिल्ली को लगाते हैं और बकरी का चरवाहा बाघ को बनाते हैं...।"

[A cat can never be relied upon to guard against pilferage of milk nor can a tiger play a shepherd to the goat. But the Government has the tendency of doing things in the wrong way. It engages cat for protecting milk and makes tiger tend to goat.]

oo

Double century by Minister

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Madam, before you adjourn the House (for lunch), I wish to compliment the honourable Minister.* I know he is a cricketer. Yesterday he was the opening batsman. He piloted this Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Overnight he continued in the Question Hour. Now he is continuing with this and after lunch he is going to move a motion on the UPSC reports. So he is making a double century. So I want to compliment him on his achievement.

oo

*Shri K.P.Singh Deo, Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Culture.

Easy time for Ministers

During Question Hour on a particular sitting a number of members (as many as six) whose questions were listed for oral answers, were absent when called upon by the Chairman to put their question. Thereupon, the Chairman quipped:

"Ministers are having a very easy time."
oo

Easy way to prosperity

During the course of supplementaries to a question regarding alleged favouritism shown by some banks in granting loans to a near relative of the Haryana Chief Minister, the following witty interjection took place:

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is very easy to become prosperous in this country if one is lucky to marry the daughter of a Chief Minister. (Interruptions). It looks like that. Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any regrets now?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I and you are ruled out because of age...
oo

Effect of Time Bell

Shri M.P. Kaushik was speaking on the Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill, 1985. As his time was finished, time-bell
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rang out. Shri Kaushik requested for three more minutes, to which the Deputy Chairman assented. The following exchange, thereafter, took place:

SHRI M.P. KAUSHIK:..This bell gives a complete full stop, not even a semicolon.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wish it has the same effect on everyone. For some people it acts as an incentive!
oo

Elephantine Love-making

The House was having a debate on the present international situation. While participating in the debate Shri Jaswant Singh characterised the debates on foreign policy in a lighter vein as follows:-

"... I cannot help reflecting that whenever I have been a witness to discussions and debates on any foreign policy — and I have had occasion to say this earlier — I am reminded of love-making between elephants: it is always conducted at a very high level, it is accompanied by a great deal of noise, and we don't come to know of the results for at least two and a half years!"
oo

Extra-ordinary appetite

In the midst of discussion on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri Sitaram Kesri, Minister of State in
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the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs requested the Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] not to adjourn the House for lunch-break and to continue the discussion. This led to the following interesting exchange between the Deputy Chairman and Shri Nirmal Chatterjee:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So this is agreed. So, Mr. Chatterjee, there are three minutes left out of your time which I give you.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Instead of going for lunch, I consume the lunch hour here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I never knew you had such an appetite. oo

Fair in Beauty & Treatment

During the course of discussion on the Punjab Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 1985, the following exchange took place:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam, I thought you are fair not only in beauty but in treatment also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am very fair. I will give you five minutes. oo

Family Planning in real sense

While intervening in the debate on the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Prime Minister, ▷

Shri Rajiv Gandhi humorously remarked:

"One of our biggest problems still is that of population. Of course, it does not affect our friends across the Benches because their population seems to be dwindling." (Interruptions).

Shri Sat Paul Mittal, thereupon, quipped:

"They are implementing one programme at least."

Shri Rajiv Gandhi added:

"At least in the two Houses."

Shri P. Upendra had the last say in the matter when he retorted:

"Today's results* indicate otherwise." oo

Feudal God

While participating in a Call Attention Motion on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri R. Mohanaragam who was trying to bring home the point that it was not possible for the Government of Tamil Nadu to stop the devastating rains and cyclonic storms and ▷

*The reference is to results of the elections held in Assam and bye-elections in several parts of the country on 16th December 1985.

warn all the people living near the numerous lakes to vacate the areas, remarked that even Lord Varuna — the rain-god did not forewarn them in their dreams. This led to the following exchange:

SHRI K. MOHANAN: God is cruel.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: God is cruel with the blessings of our Mohanan. What to do?

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has influence there also?

SHRI K. MOHANAN: That is a feudal God.

oo

Fielding team depending on opposition

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Khurshid Alam Khan, was answering supplementaries to Starred Questions relating to Foreign Secretary's visit to Sri Lanka and Thimpu talks on the Tamil issue. Shri Jaswant Singh took objection to it saying that the Prime Minister, being there, may handle awkward questions himself rather than fielding the junior team.

Chairman thereupon remarked:

"It is for the Ministers to decide. You cannot say who should answer."

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The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi immediately quipped:

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, the team we field depends on the opposition we face."

oo

Flood of agitation

The House was discussing the flood situation in the country. While speaking on the same, the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri B. Shankaranand commented:

"An Hon'ble Member asked about the floods in Gujarat. His complaint was: There is drought in Gujarat. Where comes the flood? I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member has ever known what has happened on the 19th of July in Ahmedabad and Baroda. I hope they are in Gujarat."

Shri Shankar Sinh Vaghela, thereupon quipped as follows:

"I was in Gujarat. There is no complaint about flood. But agitation flood is there."

oo

Foundation less Houses and Heartlessness

During the course of supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding construction of

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defective houses by the DDA, the following witty exchange took place:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: These houses are without foundation. Please don't be heartless. These are foundation-less houses.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR: I am sure I am not going to break your heart because hon. Khushwant Singh is also sitting here and he will take note of it. Therefore, I am not going to do that. oo

From Himalayas to Ooty

Shri G. Varadaraj put the following supplementary on a Starred Question regarding development of some parts of the Himalayas as Tourist Resorts:

"Madam Deputy Chairman, while my colleague was mentioning about the Himalayas, I am more concerned about Ooty which is a place of very scenic beauty."

The Deputy Chairman [Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla] quickly rebutted the member in a lighter vein:

"That supplementary does not arise out of this. We cannot go from the Himalayas to Ooty. It takes some time." oo

Gandhis Everywhere

While taking part in the debate on the Government Motion on the Reports of the Commissioner and Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Shri Chaturanan Mishra inter alia stated that in Bihar Harijans are being killed everyday by the private armies and he felt that if this situation continues there would be no other alternative for the Harijans but to take up arms. He then commented with sarcasm:

“कमी कमी मैं सोचता था कि इस देश में एक और महात्मा गांधी की जरूरत है और एक और डा० अम्बेडकर की जरूरत है, लेकिन इस बार जो डा० अम्बेडकर आयेगे उनको हथियारबन्द होना होगा। बिना आर्म्ड अम्बेडकर के इस समस्या का हल शायद नहीं हो सकता।”

(Sometimes I used to think that this country needs another Gandhi, another Ambedkar. But the new Ambedkar will have to be armed. An unarmed Ambedkar would not be able to solve the problem.)

Shri Kalpnath Rai tersely commented:

“और गांधीजी कैसे होंगे?”

(What will Gandhiji be like?)

Shri Chaturanan Mishra replied:

“मैं उनके बारे में कुछ नहीं कहता।
वह आ जायें तो कोई दूसरी बात होगी।
वह मैं भासक पार्टी पर छोड़ता हूँ कि
वे कैसे होंगे।”

(I do not wish to say anything about Gandhiji. If he comes back it would be a different story. I leave it to the ruling party to determine how he would be like.)

An honourable member had the last say when he commented in the same vein:

“अब तो गांधी हो गांधी है सब तरफ।”

(Now-a-days one could see Gandhis everywhere.)

oo

Going vertically and returning horizontally

While asking supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding degeneration of A.I.I.M.S., Shri Jaswant Singh remarked sarcastically:

"I am fortunate that I have not had the opportunity to visit that Institute but it is quite commonly said in Delhi that you go vertically and come back horizontally."

The Chairman, thereupon, cryptically remarked:

"I suppose 'alive'."

oo

Gold for Minister, Lemon for P.A.

In the midst of a discussion on a Private Members' Resolution for establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan regions in Maharashtra, the following digression served as a humorous interlude:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Our people are going mad after this Bhagwan Rajneesh and Satya Sai Baba. These people are having crores of rupees. I do not know where Satya Sai Baba has gone. I will give you an example of Satya Sai Baba. Two Minister and one P.A. went to him.

* सत्यसाई बाबा ने एक मिनिस्टर को तो घड़ी दे दी और दूसरे मिनिस्टर को सोने की अँगूठी दी, लेकिन बेचारे पी.ए. को नौबू निकाल कर दिया। सब लोग गरीबों को नौबू ही निकाल कर देते हैं। मैं सत्यसाई बाबा और रजनीश जैसे लोगों के रिक्लाफ हूँ। मैं सम्प्रदायवाद के रिक्लाफ हूँ।*

I request that in a secular country we should not go to these mad caps of heaven. They have not come from heaven.

“उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री पवन कुमार वांसल): आपने यह नहीं कहा कि नौबू को शिकंजी किसने पी।”

(You [Shri Jadhav] did not disclose who drank the lemon juice.)

oo

*(Sai Baba gave watch to one Minister and gold ring to another but the poor P.A. got only a lemon. Everyone gives lime to the poor. I am against persons like Sai Baba and Rajneesh. I am against Sectarian beliefs).

Guillotine with a Smile

During the course of a Calling Attention discussion on the delay in assenting to Bills passed by State Legislatures and reserved by Governors for the consideration of the President, some members suggested a time-limit to be prescribed in the Constitution within which the President should give his assent. When Shri V. Gopalsamy was about to start seeking clarifications on the Minister's statement, the Deputy Chairman taking a cue from the suggestion referred above, commented in a lighter ~~from~~ vein:

"While we are discussing the time-limit on the Bills, we will have to put a time-limit on the speeches."

Piqued by it Shri Gopalsamy said:

"If you want me to speak, I will speak. Whenever I rise, immediately you say something and I lose the mood to speak. It happens everyday. It happened last time also when I took only five minutes (Interruptions)."

The Deputy Chairman had the last word. She quipped:

"I guillotine him with a smile."

oo

Harassment by lady Members

While the Hon. Member Shri H. Hanumanthappa had started seeking clarifications on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Department of Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, regarding setting up of Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala (Punjab), some lady members had gathered together behind the Minister's seat. They were talking amongst themselves which distracted the Minister's attention, and thereupon the following repartee took place:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has not finished yet.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, I seek your protection. These five Hon. lady Members are harassing me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would request the Hon. lady Members to go to their seats.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Fortunately, a lady Member is in the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think because of the lady Members the Minister wants to run his train faster.

oo

Healthy Trend

After the Law Minister moved a motion for concurring in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee on the Lok Pal Bill, 1985, some members expressed concern over the non-inclusion of a lady member on the Joint Committee. In the midst of the discussion the following interesting exchange took place:

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN : Madam, I just want to say that the House has got a beautiful Deputy Chairman in you and we have got a beautiful Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in Mrs. Margaret Alva, but still they forget ladies.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the compliments.... (Interruptions) I am very happy to note that not only the lady Members but the gents also are bothered about the representation of ladies. It is a very healthy trend.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Lip sympathy.

oo

How to earn rebate

The Minister of Communications was answering to supplementaries to a Starred Question relating to disconnection of STD facilities. Referring to STD calls, Shri Indradeep Sinha observed as follows:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Apart from the

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general complaint of paying thousands of rupees every year for excess calls, there are two instances when money was deducted from my salary. In the first instance I was informed that 'You have made a phonogram call to Bombay costing Rs.124/-I asked them to send me the text. They did not do this. I went on writing and they quietly sent me a cheque of Rs.122/- after deducting Rs.2/-On the second occasion again Rs. 52/- was billed against me and the amount was deducted from my salary. I made a protest and again after deducting Rs.2/- they sent me a cheque.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You seems to be very lucky.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what action has been taken in pursuance of my specific complaints against specific officers of the department.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:.....As regards giving him rebate on a number of occasions, I can assure him that we will continue doing so whenever he makes a complaint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not only to him; you must give to others also.

oo

If wishes were horses

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was speaking by way of intervention to the debate on a Government motion on the

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Seventh Five Year Plan. The members of the treasury benches cheered the Prime Minister's reply by repeated thumping of desks. A member, Shri P. Upendra interrupted the Prime Minister by saying:

When you are here, they get all the vigour."

This led to the following witty exchange:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: You get confused because of our thumping?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I wish it were a little more.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Well, if wishes were horses, I do not know what you will be.

oo

Increasing Ministers' Salaries

Dr. Shyam Sunder Mohapatra put the following supplementary on a Starred Question regarding schemes for welfare of children:

"Sir according to the Minister's reply, every child gets Rs. 150, then oil, then soap and what not. I do not know if the Minister's own grandchildren have so much in these days of poverty."

▷

The Chairman, thereupon, remarked:

"That is why their salaries are being increased. You have to vote it today."

An Hon'ble member retorted:

"You are also included in that."*

oo

Influence of Narcotics

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance sought to move the motion for consideration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill, 1985 amidst lot of interruptions and commotion in the House. At this point the following repartee took place:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, is this a walk-out on the Narcotics Bill or what?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Under the influence of narcotics.

oo

Interested in Zoo

While seeking clarifications on the

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*On this day (20-12-85) the House passed a batch of five bills increasing inter alia the salaries and allowances of Ministers and Officers of Parliament.

statement made by Shri B.R. Bhagat, Minister of External Affairs on Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam and Japan, Shri Jaswant Singh made the following introductory remarks:

"Madam, among other things which I want to say about the Prime Minister's visit, which have been underlined by various other colleagues on this side, is about his visit to the Tokyo Zoo. From the statement of the hon. Minister for External Affairs it appears that he did not actually visit the Zoo. So, I would have liked to ask the Prime Minister how he found the zoo and how those two baby elephants are doing? How are Asha and Daya, because it forms part of the Minister's statement."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN [DR.(SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA] thereupon commented:

"Well, I would be interested in it as a Zoologist."

Pat came the reply from Shri Jaswant Singh:

"Yes, indeed. I am charmed by what you say."

oo

Liberal when not hungry

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, five more minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: At times I may take more. ▽

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Five minutes I agree (Interruptions)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: She is very liberal when she is not hungry.....(Interruptions)....

oo

Living Among Animals

While participating in a Call Attention motion on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri Ramanand Yadav stated that in the flood affected areas, animals die within one hour of consuming the grass carried by flood waters, which fact the Deputy Chairman might not be aware of.

Thereupon, the Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] quipped:

“जैसे पशुओं पर ही पढ़ाई की है।”

(Animals have been my subject of study)

Shri Yadav retorted:

“आप तो उनके बीच रहते ही हैं।”

(You do live among them)

oo

Luxury of having lady Members behind

While replying to the clarifications sought by members on the statement made by him regarding setting up of a Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala (Punjab), the Minister of State in the Department of Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia said:

".....Madam, I would like to thank the hon. Members because it is a luxury which I enjoy on very rare occasions that in the Railway Ministry everyone is congratulating the Government..... I would like to extend my warm thanks and gratitude to all the hon. Members....."

Thereupon the Deputy Chairman quipped:

"I thought you were referring to the luxury of having five lady members behind you."*

oo

Member free to have lunch

When Shri Pranab Mukherjee was speaking on the debate on a Government

*Earlier, when a member (Shri H. Hanumanthappa) was seeking clarifications on the statement made by Shri Scindia, some lady members had gathered together behind Shri Scindia's seat and were talking amongst themselves.

Motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, a member Shri F.M. Khan interrupted the proceedings by addressing the Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] in the following manner:

"Madam, I want to say something. I want to place a few facts before the House. You know I have been on a hunger-strike."*

The Deputy Chairman retorted:

"You then go and have your lunch. Do not disturb the proceedings."

oo

Member turns bard

The House was considering the Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 1985. The otherwise staid proceedings on this item had its refreshing moments too when a member Dr. Rudra Pratap Singh welcomed the Bill and congratulated the Minister of Finance (Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh) whom he described as wise with character and conviction. The member concluded his speech

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*The member was on a hunger strike on the Boat Club lawns protesting against some alleged irregularities in the bye-election to the Lok Sabha from South Delhi Parliamentary constituency held on 16th December, 1985 which the member fought as an independent candidate.

with the following Hindi couplet:

“दीप से जलना न सीखो, दीप से मुस्कान सीखो ।
सूर्य से ढलना न सीखो, सूर्य से उत्थान सीखो ॥
सोचना है हम स्वयं इस चित्र में अंकित कहाँ हैं ।
राह से चलना न सीखो, राह का निर्माण सीखो ॥”

(Learn not to burn with the Lamp,
Learn to smile from it.

Learn not to set with the Sun, Learn to
rise from it.

One ought to ponder, Where one is
placed in the nature's canvas.

Try to be an explorer, And not a
treader of beaten track.) oo

Member smokes Indian brand

During the course of supplementaries on
a Starred Question regarding foreign trade
marks in foreign collaborations, Shri Suresh
Kalmadi inter alia made the following query:

"Has the Government given permission
to the makers of Rothman and
Chesterfield cigarettes to have a brand
name, and if you have not given the
permission, I would like to know what
action you propose to take; are you
going to cancel their licence?" ▷

The Deputy Chairman [Dr.(Smt.) Najma
Heptulla], thereupon, remarked in a lighter
vein:

"He is not bothered about the blades,
because he grows beard.*
(Interruptions) I wonder if he smokes.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi replied in the same
coin:

"I do like smoking, of Indian brands."

Shri N.K.P. Salve then commented:

"Madam he smokes also!" oo

Minister and drug peddling

Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare
was making a special mention on the menace
of drug trafficking in the country. The
following repartee then took place:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE: Madam Deputy Chairman, I want
the hon. House to share with me the grave
concern and anxiety at the growing menace
of drug trafficking in our country. I am
particularly gratified that the hon. Finance
Minister is present in the House because he
has a lot to do with this peddling of drugs
and smuggling of drugs...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you saying? ▷

* Shri Suresh Kalmadi sports a beard.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I have to do with stopping the peddling of drugs, not with the peddling of drugs.

oo

Minister should run faster

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Janardhan Poojari) was not present in the House to lay papers on the Table of the House. As soon as he came, the Chairman called upon him to apologize for not being present in the House at the appropriate time. Shri Poojari thereupon remarked:

"I am sorry, Sir, I came late. Starred Questions were there in the Lok Sabha and so, I am very sorry, I could not come. I came running. I take the Parliamentary work very seriously. I came running also."

Shri R. Ramakrishnan commented thereupon:

"We saw him running."

Shri P. Upendra had the last say:

"You should run faster."

oo

Minister with many nomenclatures

While asking supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding a 'no-industry

▷

district' in Maharashtra, Shri Suresh Kalmadi complimented Shri N.D. Tiwari, Minister of Industry as follows:

"The no-industry district policy has been entirely the baby of Mr. N.D. Tiwari. In Maharashtra he is called not as Mr. N.D. Tiwari but he is called Mr. N.I.D. Tiwari."

In reply, Shri N.D. Tiwari stated that as far as his nomenclature was concerned, whatever he was, he was at the mercy of his young colleague.

Thereupon, the Chairman, in a humorous tone, sought to give his interpretation to Shri Kalmadi's compliments in the following manner for which Shri Tiwari thanked him as having given the correct interpretation:

"You should thank him. He says you are National Industries Development Minister."

oo

Minister's ignorance not greater than member's

During supplementaries to Starred Question regarding measures to control floods in Assam, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta enquired whether the two factors, namely high rate of siltation and constant failure of the authorities to clear the silt and sediment were being taken into consideration while formulating the so-called Master Plan about

▷

which the Minister seemed to be ignorant.

Shri B. Shankaranand immediately reacted as follows:

"Sir, I cannot claim to have any greater ignorance than the honourable Member. (Interruptions)."

MR. CHAIRMAN: A Good reply! oo

Modern Hanuman

Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra prefaced his speech on the debate on the international situation by paying the following encomiums to Shri B.R. Bhagat, Minister for External Affairs in the following words:

"Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Bhagat, has added many feathers to his cap. One feather he added in London, another in Bahamas, the third in Washington, the fourth in Oman, the fifth in Tokyo and then; of course, the last but not the least, credit goes to him for the India-China official level talks."

Shri Sitaram Kesri, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs thereupon quipped:

"He is a Hanuman." oo

New Chairman

As the Marshal announced the arrival of the Chairman in the House, Shrimati Margaret Alva, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs stepped out of the Chairman's Room and entered the Chamber to be followed a few seconds later by the Chairman. There was laughter in the House in which the Chairman also joined. The following brief exchange took place:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Some intruder.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I thought she was promoted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some day in future. oo

Nobody's baby

While replying to the combined debate on the Futwah-Islampur Light Railway Line (Nationalisation) Bill, 1985 and the Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 1985 the Minister of State in the Department of Railways made the following humorous remarks:

"I would like to clarify here that hardly anywhere in the world is the suburban transport the responsibility of the

railways. But here we have been landed with a baby no one wants to claim. So we have been forcibly made the father of the baby. I would like to say that our full attention — now that the baby has been given to us — will be given..."

oo

Non-venomous snake

The House was having a debate on a Government Motion on Reports of the Commissioner and Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. While speaking, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, caustically remarked:

“मैं भाग्यवादी नहीं हूँ, भाग्य पर मुझे विश्वास नहीं है, लेकिन ऐसा लगता है इस रिपोर्ट पर हुई चर्चा देखने से कि यह रिपोर्ट इन्तजार कर रही थी कि वर्तमान समाज कल्याण मंत्री महोदय राजेन्द्र कुमारी बाजपय्य जी आर्येंगी तभी इसका उद्धार होगा, इस रिपोर्ट को उनके हाथों से निकलना था, तर्कदीर्घ मैं शायद यही लिखा था। महोदय ऐसा लगता है कि जो कमिश्नर है इसके दाँत नहीं हैं। बिना दाँत के कोई काम नहीं किया जा सकता।”

(I am not a fatalist, I do not believe in fate. But it seems from the discussion as though this Report was waiting for the present Minister of Social Welfare, Smt. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai to come to the scene and salvage it. Perhaps it was predestined that the Report would be taken care of by her. Madam, I feel that the Commissioner is without teeth and he cannot be effective without that.)

▷

One Hon'ble Member retorted:

“नकली दाँत लगा सकते हैं।”

(Artificial teeth can be put on.)

Shri Chaturanan Mishra replied:

“नकली दाँत सदन लगा सकता था, लेकिन सदन भी असमर्थ रहा।”

(The House could have fixed the artificial teeth, but it also failed.)

Immediately thereafter Shri Mishra made the following allusive remarks with reference to the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes:

“साँप भी दो तरह के होते हैं : एक जिसका विष निकाल देना होता है और दूसरा साँप डोडहा साँप होता है, वह काटेगा तो भी विष नहीं होगा। यह कमिश्नर डोडहा साँप है, पहले तो काटने के लिए दाँत नहीं हैं और काटे तो कुछ होने वाला नहीं है।”

(Snakes are of two types. One which are poisonous and whose venom is extracted out. The others are non-poisonous Dodha snakes. This Commissioner is like a Dodha snake who has neither the teeth to bite nor venom to poison its victims.)

oo

Not maiden every time

Shri Arun Singh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister gave his maiden answer to a Starred Question regarding INSAT-IC. Afterwards, when for the second time he replied to another

▷

question, Shri P. Upendra commented "Maiden answer". Thereupon, the Chairman quipped:

"This is his second answer. The maiden answer was given earlier. You cannot go on calling him a maiden every time."

oo

Operation Successful but patient died

During the course of supplementaries to a Starred Question on HEC, Ranchi, the following witty interjection took place:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, the Honourable Minister's statement reads like a doctor's report that the patient is very healthy except that he suffers from cancer, tuberculosis, heart-attack and diabetes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Operation was successful but the patient died.

oo

Over-pollution

Quite a number of members had put supplementaries on a Starred Question relating to Ganga Basin Conference. The Chairman then called for the next question. Some more members wanted to put supplementaries on the question. The Chairman humorously ruled out further supplementaries thus:

"No, there has been too much of pollution."

oo

Pilot piloting Bill

The House was discussing the National Airports Authority Bill, 1985. When his turn came to speak, Shri M. Kadharsha unwittingly made the following introductory remarks:

"Madam Deputy Chairman, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the New Minister for Civil Aviation*. He is not only young and energetic but experienced. He is himself a pilot and we can rightly say that a pilot is piloting the Bill. Madam, this Bill has been brought forward at a time..."

To this the Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] wittily observed:

"Are you a pilot, Mr. Tytler. Or, Mr. Kadharsha, are you confusing him with Mr. Rajesh Pilot?** In any case every Minister is a pilot some time or the other."

oo

Planning the Family

During a short duration discussion on the situation arising out of steep rise in the prices of essential commodities, Shri Ashwani

* Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State in the Department of Civil Aviation.

** Minister of State in the Department of Surface Transport.

Kumar was trying to hammer home the point that Government always put the *alibi* of increase in population to justify price rise and that the Government's family planning policy was faulty. This led to the following mirthful exchange:

श्री चतुर्जन मिश्र : "माननीय सदस्य ने फैमिली प्लानिंग के बारे में कहा कि वह प्लानिंग क्या करेगा?"

(What planning will the Hon'ble Member*, do when he has not got a family?)

श्री अश्वनी कुमार : "हम इसमें बहुत बड़ा योगदान दे रहे हैं, यही तो जेश कहना है।"

(My submission is precisely this that we (bachelors) are making a great contribution in the process of arresting population.)

उपसभापति : "बाकी लोग प्लान करते हैं, यह फैमिली प्लान करते हैं।"

(Others make plans, but he plans the family)

oo

Plurality of God

While participating in the debate on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee made the following remarks:

"...For God's sake, or for the Prime Minister's sake if he is your God, give consignment tax and..."

* Reference to Shri Ashwani Kumar who is a bachelor.

This led to the following interesting exchange:

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Your God is in China.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: By God I have the Chinese figures but I am sitting right now in India, if you don't mind.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Or your God is in Russia.

oo

Poverty, not poverty line

During the course of supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding people living below poverty line, the following amusing exchange took place between a member and the Chairman:

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: What are the concrete steps taken by the Government to erase completely the poverty line?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not the line but poverty.

oo

Price rise, not price fall

A short duration discussion on price rise ended on a humorous note, as follows:

SHRI S.W. DHABE: I would like to tell the Minister that in Kerala the prices of coconut

▷

have come down and they have come down from Rs.4/- to Rs.2/- per nut.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He is dealing with price rise and not fall in prices!

oo

Rare visitor to the house

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I want to know whether the Textile Policy discussion will conclude today and the Minister's reply will be tomorrow. Yesterday also, this point came up. The Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is not there. Last week

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : I am here.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I am sorry. You are a rare visitor to the House. That is why I did not notice you.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I think you are used to Lady Minister only.*

oo

Reddys Ready to speak

While replying to the debate on the

**The reference presumably was to Shrimati Margaret Alva, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.*

Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1985, Minister of Education, Shri K.C. Pant inadvertently referred to Shri Babul Reddy as Shri Madhav Reddy. As a result, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

SHRI K.C. PANT: Madam, the hon. Member, Shri Madhav Reddy spoke about....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Babul Reddy.

SHRI S.W. DHABE: Mr. Madhav Reddy is in Lok Sabha.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Yes, Shri Babul Reddy. I stand corrected. There are many Reddys in both the Houses.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are many ready to speak.

SHRI S.W. DHABE: Here also we have got more than one Reddy.

oo

Research in Corruption

While making a special mention regarding alleged racketing in allotment of telephones in Delhi, Shri Raoof Valiullah made the following sarcastic remarks:

".....All the corrupt officials who are thrown out of the Telephones Department are accommodated in research centres. I do not know what

>

research the corrupt official will do except research in corruption perhaps."

oo

Roses & thorns

During the course of Half-an-Hour discussion on a Starred Question regarding erection of barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border, the following pleasantaries were exchanged between the Deputy Chairman and Shri Jaswant Singh:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Indeed, I will attempt to confine myself...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ... within the barbed wire fencing. I am just reminding you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: From you Madam Deputy Chairman, the last thing I expected really was the barbed response.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The roses are always accompanied by some thorns.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As long as I have the roses, I will put up with the thorns.

oo

Running with the hare and hunting with the hound

While replying to the clarifications sought by members on a Calling Attention on the immediate need to pay remunerative prices to the sugarcane growers, Shri K.P.

▷

Singh Deo, Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies cryptically remarked:

".....In fact, I was a bit worried that just only ten days back, we had a Calling Attention here. The same very Members were waxing eloquence against the price rise and the same very members have been again saying that more remunerative prices should be given..... So, it is running with the hare and hunting with the hound."

oo

Seeing directly and speaking indirectly

Members were putting supplementaries on a Starred Question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. Shri Vasant Sathe, Minister of Energy was replying on behalf of Shri N.D. Tiwari, Minister of Industry. The Minister's reply to a supplementary from Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh was punctuated with several interruptions. The Chairman, coming to the rescue of the Minister, advised him:

"Mr. Minister, you should see me and speak. You are seeing them directly; that is why you get into trouble."

Shri Sathe, thereupon, quipped:

"I see them and speak through you."

oo

Seeing Mr. Chairman in every member

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please address me. If you address him, you will go on replying to him.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I see you in every Member. You are pervading the whole House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the very reason why I say that you should see me, and not others. The subject is very sweet.* Therefore, every member wants to speak.

oo

Shanti Shanti Shanti

The House has discussing the statement on flood situation in the country. While replying to the discussion the Minister of Irrigation & Power, Shri B. Shankaranand observed that the question of water management and development of water resources had been raised by two members - two *Shantas*. The Deputy Chairman corrected him to say that it was not two *Shantas* but two *Shantis*** who had raised the issue.

▷

*The subject matter of the question was review of the policy of partial decontrol of sugar.

**Refers to Shri Shanti Tyagi and Smt. Shanti Pahadia who had taken part in the debate.

Shri Shankaranand thereupon observed as follows:

"I am sorry. If another Shanti had been there I would have said: Shanti Shanti Shanti" oo

Showing back to the chair

Supplementaries were being put on a Starred Question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. Interrupting a member who was putting his supplementary, the Chairman addressing Shri M.C. Bhandare jokingly remarked:

Mr. Bhandare, You are too handsome, do not show your back.....

oo

Sir includes madam

When Shri Abdul Ghafoor, Minister of Works & Housing started replying to a Starred Question regarding defective construction of houses by the DDA, he addressed the Chair as "Sir" while the Deputy Chairman, [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla], was occupying the Chair. Thereupon, the following repartee took place:

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: (a) Yes, Sir.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I am in the Chair. ▷

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: I am sorry. (a)
Yes, Madam.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Very often in this House many Ministers and other Members forget that you are adorning the Chair. It must hereafter be resolved, everytime anybody says 'Sir', it includes 'Madam' like under the General Clauses Act.

oo

Sitting on a spring

The House was discussing the statement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in respect of elections in Punjab. While replying to the point raised by Shri Dipen Ghosh, the Prime Minister quipped:

"You seem to be sitting on a spring because you keep on bouncing up and down."

Thereupon, the following witty exchange took place:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I do not take off like him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He only sometimes crashlands.

oo

Sound sans light

During interpellations on a Starred Question regarding 'Sound and Light' show at Sun Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, the

▷

House witnessed the following exchange of repartees:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: I would like to know from the Minister of Tourism as to in how many cases this Light and Sound in other words *Son Et Lumiere*, programme has been introduced. Question No. (b)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, No.

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Sir, not (b), but Whether it has been introduced in Orissa...

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, he is making only sound but throwing no light.

oo

Superfast question hour

On a particular sitting of the House as many as 10 questions for oral answers were disposed of as against an average of 4-5 questions. Three questions went off without any supplementaries being put. Starred Question No. 133 was the last question to be put and the question hour ended on the following hilarious note with Shri Madhavrao Scindia (Minister of State in the Department of Railways) being called in to speak by the Chairman, remarking:

"I am afraid, we are going at a superfast speed."

▷

MR. CHAIRMAN: We want the trains to be as fast as we are going.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I wish, at the superfast speed I did not end up with an accident. oo

Taking lessons properly

As soon as Shri Arun Singh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister had completed his maiden answer to a Starred Question regarding INSAT-IC, the following witty exchange followed:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be very brief, lest I should be stopped by you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am glad you are taking lessons properly. oo

Time-limit vs. price-limit

After the members had spoken on a Short Duration discussion on price rise, the Vice-Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Mahishi] called the Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies (Shri K.P. Singh Deo) to reply to the debate. The Minister enquired of the Vice-Chairman how much time did he have to reply.

This led to the following repartee:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: If you can reduce the prices you can have as much time as you like.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: That I cannot guarantee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: There is no restriction for you. ▽

SHRI S.W. DHABE: How can there be a time limit for you?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: We only want a limit for the prices. oo

Too many "lastly"

Dr. Shanti G. Patel had spoken at length on the Seventh Five Year Plan. As he was about to conclude, he said:

"And lastly, I would like to ask..."

Prior to this when the member tried to conclude he had used the expression "lastly".

The Vice-Chairman (Shri M.P. Kaushik) interrupted him and jokingly remarked:

"How many "lastly" you want to have?" oo

Unique Birthday greetings to Chairman

The Rajya Sabha felicitated its Chairman, Shri R. Venkataraman, on his 76th Birthday (which fell on 4th December, 1985) with a dash of solemnity and humour and he responded with his own wit. The following pleasantries were exchanged during the course of the felicitations:

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, you are 75 today, if I am correct.

SHRI HARI SINGH NALWA: He seems to be thirty.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He is 75, but he looks like 35.

▷

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, you have reached your 76th Birthday today, having already completed 75 years. Just a week back I completed 51 years, you have completed 75 years today and I am going to see you when you reach 100 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can fairly be my son.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, I join the Leader of the House and my other colleagues in wishing you many happy returns of the day. You have already completed three quarters of a century, and definitely, we are sure that you will finish the century.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: May we wish you a long and useful life in the service of the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope it is a judgement. #

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you all very much warmly and sincerely. I think everyone of you would wish that I had a birthday every day, because I have been liberal in calling everybody which I do not do otherwise. ▷

This remark was made by the Chairman presumably due to the fact that Shri Mitra is a former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Otherwise, nothing will go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today everything said will go on record...

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the members and said in all humility:

"It is good to remember a person of my age of the balding pate, tottering legs, diminishing vision and hearing." oo

Visit to a Zoo

Shri B. R. Bhagat, Minister of External Affairs was replying to the clarifications sought by members on his statement on the visit of Prime Minister to Vietnam and Japan. In reply to a point raised by member (Shri Jaswant Singh) regarding visit of the Prime Minister to UENO Zoo in Tokyo, the Minister was trying to explain that the two baby elephants *Asha* and *Daya* gifted by India to Japan, were extremely popular amongst Japanese and they were symbols of hope, compassion and friendship between the people of the two nations. Shri J.K. Jain at this stage intervened to remark jokingly:

"Our Members have no love and affection for human beings; how can they have love for animals?" ▷

Professor C. Lakshmananna retorted:

"We know you have so much love for animals instead of human beings."

Shri B.R. Bhagat went on to elaborate further that the Prime Minister's visit to the Zoo was shown on their TV network and was watched by millions of people and the impact the visit had on relationship between the Japanese and Indian people had to be seen to be believed. The Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] interrupted the Minister by saying:

"Mr. Jaswant Singh should be included in the visit to a zoo!"

This led to the following exchange of repartees:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would only be delighted to visit an international zoo. So far as visiting a zoo is concerned this is your suggestion and the suggestion is coming from the Chair. I would only be delighted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am a zoologist and so, I said.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Anyhow, Madam, visits to the zoo by the Government of India is particularly appropriate. oo

Unique interruption

Members were seeking clarifications on ▷

the statement made by Shri B.R. Bhagat, Minister of External Affairs on Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam and Japan. The Deputy Chairman [Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla] called Shri Jaswant Singh to seek clarifications. This led to the following witty exchange:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, would you stop me from saying whatever I wish to say?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am not stopping.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You are interrupting.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That I have to.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Would you permit me to continue uninterrupted or permit me to finish?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After you finish. I will interrupt?" oo

Weighty question

While Shri Vishwajit Prithvijit Singh* stood up to put his supplementary on Starred Question regarding installation of ▷

* Shri Singh is a member with a heavy built.

'Quinghao' antimalarial plant in India, the Chairman after calling him, remarked as follows:

"... He is putting a weighty question."

oo

Willing to go to Sri Lanka
if provided with weapons

During the course of a short duration discussion on racial riots in South Africa affecting the people of Indian Origin when Shri V. Gopalsamy was called to speak by the Vice-Chairman (Shri R. Ramakrishnan), the following hilarious exchange took place:

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Last but not the least, Shri Gopalsamy.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Firebrand Mr. Gopalsamy!

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, are you willing to deport me to South Africa?

SHRI S.W. DHABE: Then you can fight better!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): You will be the right person to fight.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: He would prefer to go to Sri Lanka. ▷

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes, definitely, if I am provided with weapons by the Minister.

oo

Wordy duel

Sarvashri V. Gopalsamy, M. Kalyanasundaram and R. Mohanarangam made special mentions regarding police firing on agitating fishermen in Madras. During the mention the House witnessed repeated acrimonious and heated exchanges between Shri Gopalsamy and Shri Mohanarangam. Immediately after Shri Mohanarangam completed his submission Shri Gopalsamy commented:

"He is justifying the killing."

Shri Mohanarangam retorted as follows:

"Madam, I was not justifying the killing. He is instigating the killings."

The Deputy Chairman [Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla] then cryptically remarked:

"I can well understand how terrible it must have been, looking at the small sample here."

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Wordy pollution

During Question Hour Shri S.W. Dhabe had put a supplementary to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Z.R. Ansari) regarding ▷

pollution caused by thermal power plants located in urban areas. Not satisfied with the reply of the Minister, the member stuck to his stand. This led to quick exchanges between the member, the Chairman and the Minister. Thereupon the member put a further supplementary to the Minister:

"What is acid rain? The hon. Minister should enlighten the House about this also."

The Chairman then commented:

"Both of you are talking at the same time and you do not understand each other."

At that point another member Shri Jaswant Singh expressed his desire to ask a supplementary. This led to the following witty exchange:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us first dissolve this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It would not be dissolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This pollution has to be dissolved.

The Minister thereafter made some clarificatory observations which promoted the Chairman to advise Shri Jaswant Singh as under:

"Let us not pollute the atmosphere further, Mr. Jaswant Singh."