

# The House Laughs

*An Anthology  
of wit and Humour  
in the Rajya Sabha*



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI



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*Edited by*  
**SUDARSHAN AGARWAL**  
*Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha.*



**RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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## PREFACE

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 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.

Encouraged by this success a 'Supplement' to the "Lighter Moments" was brought out in May, 1986 containing instances of wit—ready, quick and nimble—sallies, humour, ripostes, mirthful exchanges and pleasantries during the 135th and 136th Sessions i.e. the monsoon and winter sessions of 1985.



The present issue makes the publication up-to-date covering the period from the First Session of the Rajya Sabha upto the end of 150th Session of the Rajya Sabha. The title of the publication has, however, been changed from the "Lighter Moments in the Rajya Sabha" to the "House Laughs—an anthology of wit and humour in the Rajya Sabha".

I hope members and other readers will find this publication 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 it may kindly be passed on to Shri M. C. Banerjee, Joint 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.

NEW DELHI;  
September, 1989

SUDARSHAN AGARWAL,  
Secretary-General.

### A comment on flights

A comment on the delayed flights and Air accidents—

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is better to be delayed than be dead.

### A concession

When Shrimati Yashoda Reddy was speaking, she was interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta. The Vice-Chairman\* told Shri Gupta that he should not interrupt ladies. Sympathising with Shri Gupta, Shrimati Yashoda Reddy remarked :

"Unfortunately for Mr. Gupta he has no ladies to interrupt him in his house. So he seeks to interrupt on the floor of the House."

This remark of Shrimati Reddy led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA : It is his abnormal behaviour.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: He is quite normal except on occasions. I have seen Mr. Gupta for thirteen years and it is a good period to judge a person.

\* \* \* \*

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The only thing I would ask the lady is, can experienced men only interrupt? She says that I have no ladies at home.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: My comment came because somebody said: 'Do not interrupt ladies.' I said: 'Give him this much of leniency as he has no ladies in his house.' I meant nothing more.

### A cup of good coffee

While Shri R. Ramakrishnan rose to speak on the Coffee (Amendment) Bill the following witty exchange 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.

\* Shri D. Thengari.



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 night and"—pardon me, Madam,—“as sweet as sin!”.

#### Additional qualification

When the House was discussing the Appropriation Bill the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Sir, 'Desais' and 'Reddis'\*\*\* have earned the reputation of being very fine financiers and businessmen ...

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: 'Reddis' are warriors.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: That is an additional qualification.

#### A difficult situation

Much heat was generated in the House when the House took up the motion to consider the Report of the Import and Export Policy Committee. To ease the tension which held a sway over the House Shri Sitaram Jaipuria told the Deputy Chairman:

... I find myself in a little difficult position immediately to speak after the motion has been moved with such a fiery approach.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: You can also have some firing.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: My friend is accustomed to fireworks. I would say that the turn was that of my friend, Mr. Ramamurti, but

\* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\* A booklet on humour published in 1985.

\*\*\* Referring to Shri Morarji Desai, Minister of Finance and Shri B. Gopala Reddy, Minister of Economic Affairs.

when I requested him to allow me to speak first, as I will have to go away early, he readily agreed to it. When I told him how he had so readily co-operated, he said: "I want to fire you also." It appears that firing is going to be on this side and on that side also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*: You have submitted yourself to that.

#### A fast unto death

SHRI B. R. AMBEDKAR: I know that women members are very helpful. I must say that last time when I was on tenterhooks, I called some of the ladies—I mean, the more bulky ones—and I suggested to them that if anyone of them went on threatening a fast unto death, probably we might get the Hindu Code through.

#### A friendly parlour

When the House was discussing the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, the following interesting exchange took place between two members:

SHRI K. B. LALL: As a warning I am saying these words and I submit that although we support this Bill, these points that I have referred to should be taken into consideration before we walk into the parlour of our friends in opposition.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The parlour will disappear at the sight of you.

#### Age is a quality of mind

While participating in a debate on the University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill, Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj, while agreeing with the fixing of 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\*: thereupon quipped :

"Age is a quality of mind."

\* Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.



### A goat or a tiger?

Through a calling attention when the House was having a discussion on the engagement of U.S. agency 'Fairfax Group' by Government of India for the investigation of cases of illegal holding of funds by certain Indian parties abroad, Shri M. S. Gurupadāsawamy said, 'Mr. V.P. Singh has been made a sacrificial goat'. This led to the following exchange in the House between the members and the Prime Minister:

Raising his objection the Prime Minister said:

"Sir, I object to my colleague being referred to as a 'goat'."

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sacrificial goat, not goat. Mr. Prime Minister you are seeing ghost everywhere. I said "goat". But, I say, the Prime Minister is seeing ghost everywhere.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: My objection was to my colleague being referred to as a "goat" by the hon. member.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I said, sacrificial goat.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Shall we call him a tiger?

### A good parlour

Once Shri K.C. Reddy remarked about Shri Bhupesh Gupta:

"It is always very interesting to listen to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. He is very eloquent and a number of points are raised by him on whatever subject matter comes up before this honourable House. I would like to tell him right at the outset that I do not propose to walk into his parlour."

To this Shri Bhupesh Gupta replied:

"Why not? It is a good parlour."

### 'AIDS' defined

Members were putting supplementaries on a question relating to

\* Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

number of AIDS cases reported in the country. When his turn came, Shri Suresh Kalmadi remarked:

"Sir, the AIDS is coming from the USA. The Minister said..."

The Chairman\*, thereupon intervened in a lighter vein:

"There are two different aids. One is the disease and the other financial aid."

### Ali Baba's team

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH: I know democracy is a costly proposition; I quite appreciate that. But it must not be made much too costly for the common people to bear. And in the Central Ministry we find today that the number of Ministers led by Pandit Nehru, our Prime Minister, has practically come up to the number of Ali Baba's classical team\*\*.

### Alive and in one piece

Members were putting their supplementaries to a question relating to opening of a new institute of guerilla warfare by Pakistan. Shri Mahendra Prasad, before raising his supplementary, narrated how narrowly he escaped from the hands of terrorists in Punjab in September, 1985. Shri K.R. Narayanan\*\*\*, who rose to reply, began his speech with the following remarks:

"First of all, may I say that we all rejoice in the fact that the hon. member is here this morning?"

Shri Sat Paul Mittal thereupon added:

"And that too alive and in one piece."

### All colours under tricolour

The Prime Minister† was replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament. To

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Ali Baba and forty thieves.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

†Shri Rajiv Gandhi.



an earlier observation of the Prime Minister that 'red (leftists) has become so pale because of the mixing with all other colours', Shri P. Upendra made the following rejoinder :

"Mr. Prime Minister your own party consists of so many colours. You have got capitalists. You have got socialists. You have got everybody there in your own party. Your party is the most representative of all the shades."

Shri J. K. Jain parried :

"We don't mix up with all."

The Prime Minister, however, had the last say when he quipped:

"But they all come under one tri-colour."

#### All fools day

The 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 fool's day.'

Prof. Madhu Dandavate\*\* observed:

"That is keeping you in view."

#### All for you

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Sir, I only request through you that a friend and a fair lady Renuka in mythology is a very sober lady. She is not a *Chandika*. She should be sober.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: She is sober. Sit down please.

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : आपके लिए तो मैं कुछ भी करूंगी, मैं तो फिदा हूँ।

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : I will do anything for you...I am all for you.]

\*Shri Chand Ram.

\*\*Minister of Railways.

\*\*\*Shri Jagesh Desai.

#### All glory to them

The House was discussing the Special Marriage Bill when Shri Rajagopal Naidu interrupted Shri K. B. Lall who was speaking on the Bill. Shri Naidu wanted to know Shri Lall's views on polyandry. Answering him Shri K. B. Lall said:

"There are, in our society, such people who used to marry even fifty wives in the old days."

This made Shri C. G. K. Reddy quip: "All glory to them."

#### All smiles

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Has the discussion\* begun?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: ...in all seriousness. The Leader of the House is there. He is smiling. Mr. Hathi always smiles. It is good that he smiles, but it is bad as he smiles even when the matter is too serious.

#### Almost pregnant

Shri Jaswant Singh, who asked a question on Pakistan's nuclear programme, made the following interesting comment on the reply given to his question:

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister's statement has quoted the exact words used by the Prime Minister. When asked by the journalists, the Prime Minister has said that in his view the U.S. Government was "Almost" winking at Pakistan's nuclear programme. Now, this is like saying that somebody is almost pregnant — either pregnant or not pregnant."

#### Altruistic burglar

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI\*: ...Somebody mentioned

\*Discussion on document entitled "Approach to the Fourth Five Year Plan".

\*\*Minister of Finance.



about juggler. Well, I can tell hon. members that I am not responsible for calling myself a burglar.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: I said juggler.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I said it.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Somebody called me a burglar. I said, It is all right; it does not matter. I am an altruistic burglar'. Now, if you may say that I have added on to myself the quality of being a juggler also, it does not matter very much. After all, Maha Vishnu had a thousand names; I can have a few.

#### A marriage party

SHRIMATI MONA HENSMAN: ...There is usually coffee and tea served after marriages in this country but in this House we have decided to work the other way, in that we are now having the Marriage Bill\* before us and had the Coffee and Tea Bills passed by the House the other afternoon. Sir, I am grateful to the House for taking so much interest in marriage. It shows that the Ministers have been so happily married that they think of bringing forward this Bill to make others, perhaps less fortunate than themselves happy too!

#### A mistake

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Does the hon. Minister think that the lawyers are a nuisance?

SHRI M.C. SHAH\*\*: No, I am not telling that.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: He himself is a lawyer.

SHRI M.C. SHAH: No, I have left it so many years ago.

SHRI K.C. HEGDE: That is the mistake.

\*The House was having a discussion on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.  
\*\*Deputy Minister of Finance.

#### An expert's advice

Shri Jaswant Singh had asked a question on steps which Government were taking for the promotion of horse-breeding. While members were putting their supplementaries on the questions, Shri Bhupesh Gupta had this to say:

"Having regard to the fact that the hon. Shri Jaswant Singh is very familiar with horses, elephants and buffaloes—he mentions them in his speeches; may I know whether Government has sought his advice in the matter of breeding horses?"

#### A nice company

The House was having a discussion on the international situation. The Prime Minister\* was shortly to go to Belgrade and then to Moscow. Shri Gupta who was speaking in the House on the foreign policy said that he felt when the Prime Minister went abroad on such missions, he should be accompanied not merely by officials but also by some members. Though Shri Gupta ruled out the possibility of any member of his party\*\* being included in the Prime Minister's entourage, he, however, suggested that many members opposite in the Congress Party could be acceptable to the Prime Minister. Replying to the debate later Shri Nehru made it a point to comment on Shri Bhupesh Gupta's suggestion. He said:

"I do not know why he has excluded himself. Perhaps he does not like Belgrade."

To this Shri Bhupesh Gupta replied:

"I like Belgrade. Sometimes you do not like me. I would very much like to go with you."

\*Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.  
\*\*Communist Party.



### Animal which changes complexion

SHRI KRISHAN KANT\*: ...One teacher told me this experience of his. He was teaching some lesson to the class, may be the fourth or fifth class and he asked the students this question:

“कौन कौन से जानवर ऐसे हैं जो रंग बदलते हैं।”

[That is to say, “Which animal changes its complexion?”] And then one student stood up and said, “Masterji, may I tell you?”

उन्होंने कहा, “हाँ बतलाओ।” उसने कहा “विधायक”।

[He said, “Yes, tell.” He (the student) answered, “Legislator”.] This was the moral stature to which we had gone down in Haryana.

### An invitation

SHRI H.P. SAKSENA:...Incidentally, he\*\* compared the Congress both to heaven and hell in one and the same breath. It is hell, according to him now, but it was a paradise some time before, which perhaps was the period when he himself was an active, energetic member of the Congress. I would beg of him to come back to the Congress in order to make this present-day hell of the Congress a paradise and a blooming and living paradise at that.

### Approaching a disability

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI\*\*\*:...But apparently our sense of what may be called punctuality is growing and hon. members would like to see that this is inculcated in the minds of young people.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It does not exist in the Secretariat—this new spirit.

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid I am getting very near the position of hon. member.† I am getting deaf and I do not

\* He was speaking on the Resolution regarding the Proclamation issued by the President in relation to Haryana.

\*\* Reference to another member, Shri S. Banerjee.

\*\*\* Minister of Finance.

† Shri Bhupesh Gupta was hard of hearing.

hear him. The doctor tells me that I cannot hear high frequency voices.

### A prelude

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry, at the outset I was a little away.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: Alright. You are in the House and, therefore, you are entitled to be called. They suspected that you have crossed the floor.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is a prelude, Sir. It is in the offing.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Sir, that is yet to come\*\*.

### A problem of name

SHRI H.C. DASAPPA: May I also follow it up by asking why the sons should not take their names after the name of the mother instead of the father?\*\*\*

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : They do it in some cases.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SEETA PARMANAND: Whoever is more illustrious.

### A question of heart

SHRI H.N. KUNZRU:...Sir, I wish again to emphasise that it would be better for the country if the Finance Minister†, instead of trying to make excuses for States, would tell us what he really feels in his heart of hearts...

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If he has any!

\* Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\* There were reports that the Congress(S) Party to which Shri A.G. Kulkarni belonged was merging with the ruling party Congress(I). The party had since merged with the Congress(I).

\*\*\* The House was having a discussion on the Hindu Succession Bill.

† The House was having a discussion on the Finance Bill.



### Art merges with science

SHRI B.N. DATAR\*: ... The art of administration has almost become a science.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How would art be science?

SHRI B.N. DATAR: Art itself is the best science. I am not going to make distinction between art and science.

SHRI H.C. MATHUR: What a confused mind?

SHRI B.N. DATAR: Thank you, thank you.

### As cool as cucumber

SHRI H.N. KUNZRU: I am not speaking under excitement, as my hon. friend the Home Minister was doing yesterday. I have given adequate thought to this matter and I am speaking calmly and with due deliberation.

DR. K.N. KATJU\*\*: Why does the hon. member say that I was excited? I am always as cool as a cucumber.

SHRI C.G.K. REDDY: That is exactly our complaint—that the hon. Minister is unperturbed under the most exacting conditions.

### A slip of tongue

When the Finance Bill was being introduced in the House, some members raised their objection to the nature of the Bill and held that it was not a Money Bill because it contained extraneous matters. When the debate was going on in the House on the nature of the Bill, Shri K. K. Shah\*\*\* also wanted to speak, though the Bill was being introduced in the House by Shri P. C. Sethi.† When the House was having serious debate on the nature of the Bill, Shri Mahavir Tyagi pointing towards Mr. Shah said: "It is Mr. Shah who has committed adultery."

\*Deputy Minister of Home Affairs.

\*\*Minister of Home Affairs and States.

\*\*\*Leader of the House.

†Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.

The use of the word 'adultery' surprised members and the remarks of Shri Tyagi led to the following interesting exchange easing the tension which was existing in the House:

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE: On a point of order, Sir. He says Mr. Shah has committed adultery. It is a very serious allegation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: He meant adulteration, not adultery. It was a slip of the tongue.

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE: Oh, I see.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Tyagi is better when speaking in Hindustani.

SHRI K.K. SHAH: You can understand what Tyagi means by a particular word. He has got a different dictionary. Why do you want to quarrel with his dictionary?

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Over the question of adultery between Mr. Tyagi and Mr. Shah, I would not like to be a party.

SHRI K.K. SHAH: I know Tyagiji for 40 years.

### Astrology

Once a calling attention led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I hope I shall never be a Congress Minister; I would rather be dead.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: I am not so sure that many people here would not want you to be dead.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta will soon become a Jan Sangh Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: That is astrology, not a parliamentarian's view.

### A suicidal suggestion

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH: ... Then we come to what is

\*Shri Akbar Ali Khan.

\*\*Dr. Zakir Husain.



called coir\*, the coconut's fibrous outer covering out of which ropes are made. Now ropes are very useful things. If any member of the House is thinking of committing suicide by hanging, just to escape from the miseries of this sorrowful vale of tears, then I may tell him that the rope made of coconut fibre will come in very handy.

#### Attracting attention in the House and outside

During supplementaries to a 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."

The Prime Minister\*\* thereupon said that Shri Mody had no difficulty in attracting attention here or anywhere else.

#### Bachelor also responsible for population increase

SHRI M.M. DHARIA: Sir, take our population. Are we prepared to take some drastic decisions about our population? With this growth rate at the rate of 55,000 citizens taking birth in this country every day, how can we solve that problem? I have spoken for ten minutes. Within this span of ten minutes, nearly 900 babies have taken birth somewhere in this country.

SHRI A.D. MANI: Not in this Parliament.

SHRI M.M. DHARIA: Some members of Parliament are also responsible for that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am not responsible.\*\*\*

SHRI M.M. DHARIA: My friend will agree with me that, to be a bachelor is not enough to say that he is not responsible.

\* The House was having a discussion on the Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Bill.

\*\* Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

\*\*\* Shri Chitta Basu is a bachelor.

#### Bachelor father

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon'ble Minister should know the family planning thing a little better. Simply because a person is a 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.

#### Bachelor's companion

In a debate on Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Bill, 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."

#### Bachelor's knowledge about heart

The House was discussing the Maintenance of Internal Security Bill. Shri Nawal 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 Nawal Kishore may be put to medical examination before he was allowed to continue further.

Shri Nawal Kishore immediately replied as follows:

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

\* Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

\*\* Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a life-long bachelor.



### Bachelor thinking of love letters

The House had before it the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, Shri Bhupesh Gupta moving his amendments to the Bill criticised the power of seizure which was conferred by the Bill. Speaking on the power of seizure Shri Gupta said:

"...in that seizure everything is included—statement, document, letters, correspondence, love letters to the wife—everything comes."

This statement of Shri Gupta led Shri Mehr Chand Khanna\* to remark that Shri Gupta had no wife. This remark of the Minister led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Fortunately I have none. And if I had a wife I would hesitate to write to her about the border question, because I know it for a fact that Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri\*\* will be getting hold of that letter through his mechanism and read it, and then put me up for trial. Having written things of this nature to my wife...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: You have no wife.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I think you know that. Sir, in this regime even living alone is hell of a job and to live with another person would be all the more difficult.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Still you are thinking of love letter.

### Beautiful ladies in control of the House

Shri Aladi Aruna *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

\*Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs.

\*\*Minister of Home Affairs.

\*\*\*Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.

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 radiant smile will satisfy the House."

### Be careful about the Greek

SHRI S. MOHANTY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, there is a Latin proverb, "Be careful about the Greek when he comes to you, especially with a present." Sir, when the present Bill\*, with the declared objective of simplifying the election rules or the election procedure, came up before us, I was reminded of this circumspection.

### Bell causing misunderstanding

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: ... Well, Sir, if you ring the bell when I talk of the Ministers, people outside might misunderstand.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*\*: You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know but if you ring the bell when I mention the Ministers, people may misunderstand.

### Between God and man

Participating in a short duration discussion on recent press disclosures on Bofors deal Shri Dipen Ghosh referring to the documents published in the *Hindu* said:

"...To reach God, you may go *via* church, *via* mosque, *via* mandir, temple. The question is to reach God. So, to get at the truth, whether you go *via* the CBI, *via* the Swedish Government or *via* Lars Ringberg, it matters little. Why are you so touchy about the nationality of the enquiring agencies or the enquiring officers?"

\*The House was having a discussion on the Representation of People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956.

\*\*Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.



This led to the following interesting exchange between Shri Sitaram Kesri and Shri Ghosh:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Do you want to go to God?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I want to go to you, Mr. Sitaram Kesri at best because you happen to be the treasurer of your party. I do not know whether your treasury has been inflated because of this.

#### Between two Swamys

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, Mr. Gopalsamy or Mr. Gurupadaswamy?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I am between two Swamys.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not good for you.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: You\*\* have our blessings.

#### Between two Vajpayees

A question was asked in the House on the enquiry into the working of the Minorities Commission which was being replied to by Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.\*\*\* Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee put his supplementary question to the Minister and this led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी बाजपेयी: नहीं, नहीं, माननीय सभापति जी...

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai: No, No, honourable Chairman, Sir...]

श्री सभापति: दोनों बाजपेयियों में बातचीत होने दो।

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Referring to Shri Vajpayee.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Welfare.

[Honourable Chairman\*: Let the two Vajpayees talk to each other...]

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: दो बाजपेयियों के बीच की बात है ना—दोनों बाजपेयियों में झगड़ा है।

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav: It is between the two Vajpayees — There is something at issue between the two.]

श्री सभापति: दोनों बाजपेयियों में हम लोग कैसे बीच में आ जाएं।

[Honourable Chairman: How can we come in between the two Vajpayees?]

#### Between pincers

Speaking on the Children Bill, Dr. K.L. Shrimali\*\* said:

"...Now criticisms of a general nature have been made from two sides, one from the frontal and another from the back. The frontal attack has been made by my friend Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and my friend Mrs. Menon has attacked from behind."

Reacting promptly Shri Gupta commented:

"Then you are between pincers".

#### 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 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 turn 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."

\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

\*\*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education.



### Black faces — natural or made up

When the House was having a discussion on the Fairfax deal Shri Chitta Basu demanded that Government might lay a white paper containing all the information about the deal. This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: White paper is capitalistic.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You can have a black paper also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA\*: We will give you a red paper.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But you have blackened your face already. There is no doubt that you have blackened your face.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: आपके चेहरे तो पहले से काले हैं।

[Shri Kalpnath Rai: Your faces are already black.]

श्री चित्त बसु: अरे हमारा चेहरा तो काला ही है। लेकिन काले धन से काला नहीं हुआ।

[Shri Chitta Basu: Our faces are black, no doubt but they are not black because of black money.]

श्री सुरज प्रसाद: इनका नेचुरल है और आपका बनावटी है।

[Shri Suraj Prasad: Their faces are natural whereas your faces are made up.]

### Bold burglar

A calling attention relating to the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi was under discussion in the House. Shri K.P. Subramaniam referred to an attempted burglary in the house of Shri A.K. Gopalan, CPM leader. This led Shri K.C. Pant\*\* to make the following observation:

"My hon'ble friend referred to some attempt at Shri Gopalan's

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

house. I must say, it must be very bold burglar, who attempted this."

Shri Bhupesh Gupta immediately reacted:

"Must be people belonging to your department."

### 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....

SHRI K. MOHANAN: They are constructing buildings without foundation and so no bottom....

### Bowled out

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Mr. Chairman... I share the joy and pride of every Indian citizen in congratulating and felicitating Sunil Gavaskar, affectionately known as Sunny Gavaskar for achieving the world's greatest feat in cricket of exceeding 10,000 runs. There is a sentimental strain because he started cricket in the same street in Bombay in which I also live.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What happened to you?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: I am here.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What about your cricket?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Well, my cricket was partly bowled out because of the independence movement and the war days.

\*Delhi Development Authority.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.



### Bowled out at duck

On a question on bank deposits Shri N.K.P. Salve was formulating his supplementary when the Chairman ruled that his question was not relevant and called another member to speak. This made Shri A.G. Kulkarni remark:

"Sir, you have bowled out Mr. Salve\* so immediately. He was batting and you have bowled him out."

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Sometimes they go out for a duck.

### 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.

THE 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.

\*He was President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

†Minister of Finance.

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

### Bulk of the volume

A copy of the summary of conclusions and recommendations as contained in the report of 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.\*\*

### Can Salve salvage?

In the course of his speech in the House, Shri Dipen Ghosh made a comment on the Prime Minister. This led Shri N.K.P. Salve to raise his objections to which Shri Ghosh replied:

"Sir, yesterday, in the absence of the Prime Minister, you told the other hon. member when she objected that the Prime Minister is capable to take care of himself. Today, the Prime Minister himself is present. Would you kindly give the ruling to others when Prime Minister remains present, he will take care of himself? Mr. Salve thinks he can salvage the Government but he cannot salvage the Government."

### Car vs. truck

When a 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

\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

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



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. Where is my guru?† He is absent...

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

#### 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."

#### Chairman or Chairwoman

While making his special mention on demand to enquire into the hiring of Fairfax Group afresh Shri Subramanian Swamy addressed

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs.

\*\*\*Shri Mohanarangam was a very hefty member.

† The reference here was presumably to Shri Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh, who is known for his corpulency.

††Shri Godev Murahari.

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla as 'Madam Chairman'. An hon. member objected to this and said:

"She is not the Chairman".

The Deputy Chairman, however, clinched the issue by saying:

"I do not feel anti towards men. You are free to call me "Chairman" or "Chairwoman", anything you like."

#### Chair's eye

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman\*, I am trying to catch your eye.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have caught all our eyes.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: After you, if the Chair allows me, I want to speak, not with your permission, but with the Chair's permission.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why are you concerned with a pair of eyes? So many eyes are on you.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I am only concerned with the Chair's eyes, not with anybody else's.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know that you never like my eyes. What can I do to my eyes?

#### Charity begins at every home

The House was considering a motion regarding approach to the Fifth Five Year Plan. While making his speech Shri D.P. Dhar\*\* observed:

"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."

\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*Minister of Planning.



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 suggestions 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'.

#### Child labour

The Chairman Rajya Sabha informed the House about the notice of breach of privilege which he received from Dr. Bapu Kaldate against Acharya Rajneesh who made the following observations about the members of Indian Parliament which were reported in a Hindi daily:

"Members of Indian Parliament are mentally underdeveloped. If investigations are made, they would be found to have a mental age of 14 only."

On hearing the above remark of Acharya Rajneesh Shri Nirmal Chatterjee quipped: Child labour\*.

\* Under the Indian Constitution, children below the age of 14 years cannot be employed in any factory or mine or in any hazardous employment.

#### Child Minister

During the course of supplementaries on a question relating to appalling working conditions in lock factories and hardware units in Aligarh, the following interesting exchange took place:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, is there any ban that a child below 14 years cannot...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Can there be a child Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: It is a very difficult question. It is for the Prime Minister to answer. Anyway, Mr. Sangma\*\* is not below 14 although he looks like that. He is not below 14.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: He is exactly on 14.

#### Cock and bull government

In the course of his speech Shri Krishan Kant referred to the West Bengal Government as cock and bull government. This was immediately objected to by Shri A.P. Chatterjee who said that it was out of order to refer to a constitutionally constituted government as cock and bull government. Later, intervening in the debate Shri Pitamber Das remarked:

"Sir, there is hardly any point in objecting to what Mr. Krishan Kant has said. Probably what he means is this that the Government is being headed by two persons, one of whom is a cock and other is a bull."

This remark of Shri Pitamber Das led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee is the cock and Mr. Jyoti Basu is the bull.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: Mr. Krishan Kant, you ask your question.

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\* Mr. Sangma the then Minister of State for Labour. He is short in height and looks very young.

\*\*\*Shri B.D. Khobaragade.



SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, we are all bulls against vested interests and cocks against monopoly.

#### Coconut's dynamic approach

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH: I have little more to add. I should like to utter only a word of warning. Let not our dynamic approach to the coconut<sup>\*</sup> lead to tussle between the hon. members of the North and the South. Dynamic approaches are always dangerous and when a coconut makes a dynamic approach towards hon. members' heads, there is every chance of broken skulls being the result.

#### Coloured glasses to Ministers

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH: As part of its programme as a welfare State, does the Government of India intend supplying spectacles free to all those persons who need them just as the Labour Government did in England but which the Churchill Government had decided to discontinue?

SHRI D.P. KARMARKAR<sup>\*\*</sup>: I shall take note of that suggestion.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know whether the Ministers are being supplied with coloured glasses?

#### Comedy of errors

When the House was having before it the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Bill, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

<sup>\*</sup> The House was having a discussion on the Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Bill.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Minister of Commerce.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT<sup>\*</sup>: ...It is surprising that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta quotes Prof. Shenoy, whom even the liberal or moderate economists considered that he is seventeenth century economist, but he has become his gospel economist—I do not know.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have not quoted him. I said Mr. Chinai<sup>\*\*</sup> was smiling there.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Is it Prof. Shenoy? I do not know, but I heard him say that Prof. Shenoy has written that banks are responsible for the rise in prices.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I said Mr. Chinai.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I thought he referred to the economist, Prof. Shenoy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no. I referred to the capitalist patron of yours, who sits next to you.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Comedy of errors.

#### Coming events cast their shadow

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Mr. President, Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN<sup>\*\*\*</sup>: No, no, it is the Chairman<sup>†</sup> here.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may be, the coming events cast their shadows beforehand....

#### Common tea

Asking supplementary on his question on rising price of tea,

<sup>\*</sup> Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Another member sitting in the House, Shri Babu Bhai M. Chinai.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Shri R. Venkataraman.

<sup>†</sup> Under the Constitution, the Vice-President of India is *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. (Shri Venkataraman has since been elected as the President of India.)



Shri Indradeep Sinha wanted to know from the Minister\* as to what are the common teas. Addressing the Chair he said:

"Sir, I seek your protection. The hon. Minister should name the common teas which are available at reasonable prices. Which brand?"

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Dust tea. Dust is meant for common people. I am not going to linger over this. This is not my cup of tea.

#### Companions for bachelors

During a debate on the Railway budget, Shri P.C. Sethi\*\*\* 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. members of Parliament.

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

THE 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.

#### Concern for property

During the discussion over a calling attention relating to deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, 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."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN†††: You do not have any property.

\*Shri Nihar Ranjan Laskar, Minister of State in the Ministries of Commerce and Supply.

\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

\*\*\*Minister of Railways.

†Shri Shyam Lal Yadav.

††Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

†††Shri Godey Murahari.

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.

#### 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\* was speaking, Miss Jayalalitha intervened. Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj 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 pleasantries 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.

#### Concession to bachelors

When the House was having a discussion on the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev\*\*\* assured Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

"Mr. Vajpayee, you are a bachelor; I can assure you that your letters will not be intercepted."

#### Concluding in one sentence

While the House was having a discussion on the Five Year Plan, this interesting exchange took place in the House:

SHRI C.G.K. REDDY:...There are several other resources, but time is short, and I will finish in one sentence.

\*Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh (since deceased).

\*\*Minister of State in the Department of Railways.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications.



MR. CHAIRMAN\*: One sentence? I will watch.

SHRI C.G.K. REDDY: It will have to be a compound, complicated sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Better give it in writing.

#### Consistency vs. inconsistency

SHRI B.K.P. SINHA: Consistency is not the virtue of man.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Inconsistency is the prerogative of a harlot.

#### Constraints of Chairman

During the course of supplementaries to a question on the Poverty Alleviation Programme, Shri A.G. Kulkarni was visibly dissatisfied with the answer given by Shri Ramanand Yadav\*\* in reply to a supplementary and observed as follows:

"Sir, I do not know whether I should cry or laugh."

The Chairman tried to assuage the feeling of Shri Kulkarni, but in vain. Shri Kulkarni went on:

"They do not apply their mind and head. Where is the brain and head behind it?"

Having said so, he observed that he would be satisfied if the Chairman, as an economist, could tell him whether the answer is correct. To this, the Chairman\*\*\* replied:

"Unfortunately, I am precluded from answering many questions of which I know the answers."

#### Contributions of modern science

While speaking on the Appropriation Bill Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem inadvertently addressed the Chair† as "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.

\*Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

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

#### Conversion of heart

When Shri B. Gupta was speaking on the Press (Objectionable Matters) Amendment Bill, he noticed that Home Minister was in conversation with Shri Sundarayya, a member belonging to the opposition. He, therefore, commented:

"Since the Home Minister has come near to us, well, Sir,...

DR. K.N. KATJU\*: I am always with you.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I hope conversion of heart is also taking place.

DR. K.N. KATJU: No, no. I am going away. It is dangerous.

#### Cooking course for husbands

A question was asked in the House about the vacancy of domestic science teachers in Delhi schools. When supplementary questions were being answered by the Minister of Human Resource Development\*\*, the House was led into hilarity by the following exchange:

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The question is about vacancies being filled up. But I can assure the hon. member that in keeping with the new education policy, we have not restricted home science only to girls. I have seen in other countries that catering is a subject in which boys are very well taught and trained.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA\*\*\*: There should be a specialised course for husbands also.

MR. CHAIRMAN†: No Minister can put a question to another Minister.

#### Cricket — a counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie activity

In question hour, when Shri B.N. Datar†† was answering a question on detenus confined and released in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53, the Chairman‡ quipped:

"Will members of Parliament be detained if they indulge in counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie activities like cricket."

\*Minister of Home Affairs and States.

\*\*Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao.

\*\*\*Minister of State of the Ministry of Railways.

†Shri R. Venkataraman.

††Deputy Minister of Home Affairs.

‡ Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.



### Crocodiles changing colours

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Politicians have become like crocodiles changing colours...

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But crocodiles do not change colours.

### Darkness all around

The House was discussing the Defence of India Bill. Shri Bhupesh Gupta was speaking on it. In the course of his speech, Shri Gupta was interrupted by Shrimati C. Ammannna Raja who wanted to be enlightened as to which amendment Shri Gupta was speaking on. This made Shri Bhupesh Gupta quip:

"When there is so much darkness around you, lady member, how can I enlighten that part? Because..."

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: You were creating darkness.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know that you are in the dark. Every time I hear you, I feel that the sun never shines on those Benches. I know it.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA : On your Bench.

### 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 Ministry. So the poor fellow cannot do anything.

### 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, however, 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.

### Dealing with facts or figures

Speaking on a short duration discussion on the functioning of Air India and Indian Airlines Shri Vishvjit P. Singh was commenting on the functioning of the two Airlines. He was interrupted by Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. The Vice-Chairman\*\* noticing the distraction caused to the member asked Shri Singh:

"Are you going to deal with facts or figures?"

Replied Shri Vishvjit P. Singh:

"I am going to deal with the department. The figure Deccan Queen is yours, not mine."

Giving a retort to Shri Singh; Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury remarked:

"Look at this jumbo talking, with all the excess baggage."\*\*\*

### Defeat with grace

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: ... I have with me the report of the Election Commission which was submitted by them in 1984. They have devoted a separate chapter on booth capturing and they say that the State of Bihar is the area where booth capturing is very much prevalent.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is in Gwalior.†

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The people of Bihar have perfected themselves in this. Gwalior is no match at all.

\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

\*\*Shri Anand Sharma.

\*\*\*Shri Vishvjit P. Singh is known for his corpulency.

†Shri Vajpayee contested Lok Sabha election from Gwalior but was defeated.



MR. CHAIRMAN\*: Shri Vajpayee has accepted the defeat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: And that also with grace.

#### Definition of member of Parliament

While speaking on the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, Shri K. Mohanan stated:

"I am approaching the whole situation from the point of view of a layman."

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee thereupon quipped:

"That is the definition of a member of Parliament."

#### Devil quoting scriptures

While participating in a short duration discussion regarding recent killings of Harijans in Arwal in Gaya district of Bihar, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta\*\* remarked that in his view no person other than Mahatma Gandhi had found a permanent place in the Indian history. Shri Ramanand Yadav expressing surprise over this remark of a Marxist member, quipped:

"Devil is quoting scriptures; Marxist is quoting Gandhiji."

#### Difference between the girl of fifteen and sixteen

SHRI S. MAHANTY: ... I quite conceive that there is a great deal of difference between the girl of 15 and 16.

SHRI D.P. KARMARKAR\*\*\*: Really?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: There is. The hon. Minister knows it better.

SHRI H.D. RAJAH: Within that period one child can come.

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shri Gurudas Das Gupta was a CPI member.

\*\*\*Minister of Commerce.

#### Difference in learning

During the question hour, Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy asked a question on excise duty relief to industries. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee had put a supplementary and said:

"Sir, I am putting it not in your way but in my own way."

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: But your way does not make any sense. To this Shri Nirmal Chatterjee gave the following interesting reply:

"Sir, you learnt your economics when India was not free and the Americans had not come on the scene. I have learnt it a little later."

#### Difficult to control lady members

A special mention was being made in the House on the reported move by the ruling party to encourage defections of MLAs in Maharashtra. Shri Kulkarni wanted to speak but the 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.

#### Difficult to enter heaven

SHRI DEBABRATA MOOKERJEE: I will not be instructed by you even if you promise me a place in heaven.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You can be sent to heaven, but the gods will refuse you.

#### Disadvantages of being non-vegetarian

When members were putting their 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.

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.



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.

#### Disaster development programme

While speaking on a calling attention 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\*\* 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.

#### Doctor good at diagnosis, bad at prescription

When members were asking supplementaries to a 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\*\*\* 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:

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shri Yogendra Makwana.

\*\*\*Shri N.D. Tiwari.

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

A little later, still not satisfied with the Minister's clarifications, Shri Upendra stated that he was convinced about his comments on the Minister. The Chairman,\* however, came to the Minister's rescue and rebutted the member in a lighter vein when he said:

"But the prescription failed, what can he do?"

#### Domestic bliss

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA\*\*: 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 view 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.

#### Don't go to Chandigarh

In order to describe the moral stature of the Minister and the legislators in Haryana, Shri Krishan Kant\*\*\* once narrated the following story:

1662 "One person was standing on the Ambala-Chandigarh road at 7 in the evening when there were no buses going that way. He had to go to Chandigarh. A truck came that way and the man asked the driver, "Will you kindly take me to Chandigarh?" The man was told by the driver, "You please don't go to Chandigarh. They will make you a Minister."

#### Double standard

When the House was having a discussion on the statement made by

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

\*\*\*He was speaking on the Resolution regarding the Proclamation issued by the President in relation to Haryana.



the Minister of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs in regard to the allegation against the Birla Group of Industries, Shri Krishan Kant narrated this story:

There is talk about justice, equity and all that. I will tell you a story which used to be told by Lala Lajpat Rai about the judiciary of the Britishers. It is a simple story. The ox of a *teli* and the ox of a *maulvi* fought and the *maulvi's* ox died. The *teli* went to the *maulvi* and asked: 'Two oxen fought and one died, what do the religious laws say about it?' The *maulvi* said, 'Since the two oxen fought no action can be taken.' After some time the *teli* went to the *maulvi* and said: '*Maulviji*, your ox has been killed by my ox. What do the religious books say?' The *maulvi* said:

"लाल किताब कहती यू,  
तेली बैल पालया क्यू,  
खल खा कर क्यों हुआ मस्ताना,  
बैल का बैल और 500 रु० जुर्माना।"

[Red book says like this,  
Why did oil-man keep the ox,  
Why did it go berserk after eating oil-cake,  
He has to pay Rupees 500 and replace the ox for the dead ox as fine.]

#### Drought of ideas on the opposition side

The House was having a discussion on the statement made by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh\* regarding the scheme of making declaration about foreign assets and holdings by Indian nationals and companies held abroad. The Vice-Chairman, Dr. Bapu Kaldate, who was in the Chair, invited Shri N. Rajangam to speak who started speaking on drought relief. This incongruity was immediately brought to notice by another member, Shri G. Swaminathan, who pointed out to the Chair that the House was having a discussion on the Finance Minister's statement and that Shri Rajangam has given his name for speaking on drought. The Vice-Chairman who got the point invited the Finance Minister to reply the debate. Shri Suresh Kalmadi who was still not very clear about the subject asked:

\*Minister of Finance.

"What is Minister speaking on — the drought or the statement?"

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I am speaking on ideas, of which there is drought on that side and flood on this side.

#### Dry bath

The House was discussing the stoppage of water supply in M.P.'s flats in South Avenue. Shri A.G. Kulkarni made a reference to this matter in the House and related his conversation with the Works and Housing Minister who had advised him to take a dry bath. Shri Piloo Mody interrupted to say that if a person wanted to have 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."

#### Easy time for Ministers

During question hour on a particular sitting as many as six members whose questions were listed for oral answers were absent when called upon by the Chairman\* to put their question. This led the Chairman to comment:

"Ministers are having a very easy time."

#### 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. It looks like that. Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any regrets now?

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.



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

#### Effect of time bell

Shri M.P. Kaushik was speaking on the Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill. As his time was finished, time-bell was rung. 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.

#### Election of Deputy Chairman

On the election of Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha the following interesting and lively exchanges took place in the House:

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Now, we take up the election of the...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, will you notice that towards the end of the question hour, the booths are being captured under the leadership of the Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean the seats have been captured and not the booths.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil as having been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Leader of the Opposition will now ask her to take her seat.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Now, I allow her to cross the floor\*\*\*

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is allotted a seat next to the Leader of the Opposition Parties/Groups in the House and this is located opposite the Treasury Benches.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the Prime Minister...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, for once he is agreeing with the Prime Minister.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Many times in the past we agreed and many times in the future also we will agree when the interest of the nation is at stake.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, she comes from Madras...sorry, Sir;...She comes from Maharashtra...I always think of my State and that is why I said like that.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He has been adopted by the Congress(I) Party and he is also adopting her!

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ...We have another charming lady here Najmaji, who a little earlier occupied the Chair as Deputy Chairman. But there is a lot of contrast between Pratibhaji and Najmaji. Our new Deputy Chairman is like home-spun khadi which she is fond of while Najmaji is fond of American georgette. Pratibhaji is more native and Najmaji is more cosmopolitan...But, of course, appearances are deceptive. A soft-spoken lady can be very tough sometimes, as you yourself, Sir, a soft-spoken person, have proved that you can be tough...She personifies *Pratibha*. She is *Devi*. In her love like a *Devi* let her be impartial in dispensing justice to both the ruling party and the opposition. She is *Singh*. But let her not sing in praise of her leader any more because now she belongs to all of us. She is a *Patel*. I know she will be tough with unruly and recalcitrant elements.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: She was a champion in table tennis in her days, and the House often has ding-dong battles—singles, doubles and mixed doubles and I am sure she will add to the liveliness of the House.

...Lastly Sir, she has a long parliamentary career and experience as a Minister, and I don't know with such experience why they are putting her in the Chair instead of making her an efficient Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: A stepping stone!

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I don't know if it is a stepping stone. We strongly protest because while elevating persons they are again bringing them down and making them Ministers. If they want to make Ministers, better make Ministers, better make Ministers straightaway instead of creating this gap now and then.



SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:....I only. Sir, recommend to her that in this House many well-known ladies had held the post of Deputy Chairman, and it was the late Mrs. Violet Alva who discharged her duties as Deputy Chairman in a real impartial manner. She was a terror both to the Government and to the opposition. And, Sir, I do recommend to her that such type of attitude is required.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL:....I have sat on both sides of the Chair, on the right and on the left, but I have never sat on the Chair. This time...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Now at the centre.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: This time, I have been given this opportunity to sit on the Chair. As a member of the party in power, I know what is their right, their might, their fight and their plight. I have also known what fight the opposition has to put up for their rights. I know what is their might and their plight too. Hereafterwards, I will see all this happening in the House while sitting on the Chair.

#### Elephantine love-making

The House was having a debate on the 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."

#### 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."

#### Eloquence or violence

DR. RADHAKUMUD MOOKERJI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I must say at the outset that I am not yet able to recover from the shock of the eloquence.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Eloquence or violence?

DR. RADHAKUMUD MOOKERJI: ...of my esteemed friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

#### Excessive sex and violence

During the course of supplementaries to a question on the import of films by Doordarshan, Shri Ajit Panja\*, informed the members:

"...So far as sex and violence are concerned, the general rule is to avoid them except those which are allowed by the Committee which is headed by a very learned man. Excessive violence and excessive sex are not presented."

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What is 'excessive'? How do you determine it?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, the question is with regard to the import of TV serials, feature films and documentaries...Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister...the definition of 'excessive sex and excessive violence'. How do you distinguish them from 'sex and violence'?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: How do you distinguish between 'normal sex and violence' and 'excessive sex and violence'?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the first portion of the question is concerned, I have not got the figures as to the percentage of the films imported from the third-world countries. I would require notice. The main question was not on that. So far as the expression 'excessive sex and violence' is concerned, I take it that the hon. member, in his experience, knows what it is.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: He does not know.

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I would like to know what the definition of the term by the Doordarshan and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is.

AN HON. MEMBER: We thought he is more experienced.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: We will refer it to a doctor.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What is the definition of 'excessive sex and violence'.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: My experience is less than that of the Vice-Chancellor because we all got education from him.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He was the Vice-Chancellor.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Not the Chancellor part of it.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the expression 'excessive sex and violence' is concerned, there cannot be any definition. It has to be known by experience. For example, while seeing a film, if it violates a person's feelings or if it violates the present structure of the society, then we consider it as 'excessive' which is not required for the Indian audience.

#### Exchange of mutual sorrow

Speaking on the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill Shri Lal Bahadur\*\* made a passing reference to his party's aligning with other political parties in Kerala to oust the Communist Party's Government in the State. Shri Lal Bahadur said:

"...It was an electoral alliance and we jointly opposed the Communist Party and I say that partly, not wholly, I was responsible for that."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: A good man in bad company.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Shri Govindan Nair, of course, talked

\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

\*\*Home Minister.

about the irony of fate that I should come forward with this Bill. I am very sorry for Shri Govindan Nair.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am sorry for the hon. Minister.

IRI LAL BAHADUR: For Shri Bhupesh Gupta also.

IRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mutual sorrow we are exchanging.

#### Exciting subject

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH\*:...I would like to quote this advertisement and just show you what kind of stuff is being advertised. This is a responsible newspaper, *The Statesman*. And what does it say? It says:

"Hollywood's New Lolita! If this one doesn't excite you, you are already dead! Sexy sixteen seduces naughty forty!"

Just imagine! And there is, of course, a provocative picture.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Do you come under that? Are you under naughty forty?

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I am forty-one, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are entering naughty forties!

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In retrospect!

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: You will not believe it, Sir, last year there was a film which was imported, entitled *Disco Fever*. The advertisements for this film came out in the form of a serial. Every day there was a girl who was shown in the picture and day after day there were less and less clothes on her. Every day! It was carried by magazines also. Finally the advertisement had to be withdrawn because of public protest...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What is wrong in it?...

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I know, my honourable friend would like to see everything, but I would prefer if all this were covered up. This is a very wrong thing. As I said, the first thing is that the Government must have proper guidelines about

\*The member was making a special mention on obscene advertisement of foreign films in newspapers.

\*\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.



the import of these films, to see that none of this kind of material comes in.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He is only jealous of bachelors!

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I am afraid it is a question of nomenclature: I am a *brahmachari*.

#### Exporting agent

When the supplementaries were being asked on 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 rail 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:

"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.

#### Extra in the Cabinet

During a general discussion on the budget, after Shri R.P. Sinha had finished his speech by which he gave an all-out support to the Finance Minister, 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 Ministers, 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:

\*The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

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

#### Extra-ordinary appetite

In the midst of discussion on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri Sitaram Kesri\* requested the Deputy Chairman\*\* 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.

#### Family Planning

Referring to the facility to travel by first class, which was available to the spouses of the members, Shri M.P. Bhargava described it as discriminatory. He said, "Those members who are not married will not be able to avail of this. A woman member without a husband cannot avail of this facility. Therefore, it is again a facility which is discriminatory and any kind of discrimination is not correct."

This led Dr. Bhai Mahavir to comment:

"Encourage people to marry and adopt family planning."

#### Family planning in real sense

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

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.



population seems to be dwindling."

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."

#### Farewell sentiments

On the last day of the Session of Rajya Sabha, some of the members whose term was to expire sometime in June and July 1986 expressed their parting sentiments in the most interesting manner. Shri R. Ramakrishnan quoted Shakespear who wrote about parting in 'Romeo and Juliet':

"Parting is such sweet sorrow that one can always go on saying goodbye till it will be morrow."

Explaining the relevance of 'lung power' in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha Dr. Shanti G. Patel said:

"I entered the House for the first time, a colleague sitting by my side told me what counts in this House is lung power. I haven't ever heard such a thing. I asked him what he meant by lung power. I know as a doctor everyone has a lung and it has only the power of inhaling and exhaling. But this power of the lung was not known to me."

The Leader of the House, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh speaking on the occasion described the beautiful traditions of the House in the following words:

"Some members and colleagues are retiring, and I do hope most of them do come back. As human beings we do develop attachments, and however it is 'Ayes' and 'Noes' in the House, but when we are in the Lobby, it is mostly 'Ayes' rather than 'Noes'. And in spite of all Divisions from the Chair, when we are in the Central Hall there are hardly any divisions amidst us."

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

#### Fear complex

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN\*: ... I might inform the honourable House that we are carrying out an experiment of having a two-tiere third class sleeping compartment in which the lower berth will be used for sitting and the upper berth can be utilised for sleeping at night.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Make them a little broader than what they are.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : I will make them to my size.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Standard size.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : I really cannot understand. Why my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, sees dangers and pitfalls where none exists.

SHRI P.D. HIMATSINGKA : He always sees that.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Fear complex.

#### Feeling of guilt

The House was discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address when the Prime Minister\*\* referring to some member said :

"One member raised, in a very colourful language, I am told, the relationship between the President and the Prime Minister. And I feel it is a very sad thing that the opposition has reduced itself to politicising the office of the President..."

This remark of the Prime Minister led Shri V. Gopalsamy to say :

"No, you have reduced the dignity of the institution of President. You have reduced the prestige and status of the President."

To this the Prime Minister clarified :

"I am very sorry that one particular member is feeling very guilty about it. But like I said, I was not referring to him. If the cap fits both, he is welcome."

\*Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport.

\*\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.



Felicitation to hon'ble Chairman on the occasion of his birthday

PRIME MINISTER\* : ... age is really a frame of mind and I have no doubt that you will be giving this nation many more years of your service. I have also no doubt that the light-hearted and friendly manner in which this question hour has gone is mainly due to your birthday.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\* : I wish every day was a birthday.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a happy occasion indeed not only to you, but to all those who are your well-wishers and friends. Today, you are 76 years.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Or 67 years?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Appearances are deceptive.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir, today, on the occasion of your birthday, while I wish you many happy returns of the day, I remember a few lines which I had read some time ago:

"Age is a quality of mind.

If you have left all your dreams behind,

If hope is cold,

If you are looking longer ahead,

Then you are old.

If in life you keep zest,

And if from life you take the best,

If love you hold,

No matter how the days go by,

No matter how many birthdays fly,

You are not old."

Sir, I think you hold the love of all of us in this House and I take this opportunity to wish you many more things.

\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thank you very warmly for your kind words. But don't make me blush at this age of my life.

### Feudal God

While participating in a debate on a calling attention on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri R. Mohanarangam 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 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?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\* : He had influence there also?

SHRI K. MOHANAN : That is a feudal God.

### Fielding team depending on opposition

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs,\*\* was answering supplementaries to 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.

The Chairman\*\*\* thereupon remarked :

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

The Prime Minister† immediately quipped :

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

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Shri Khurshid Alam Khan.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Shri Rajiv Gandhi.



### Fifteen thousand tonnes and Piloo Mody

The Minister for Agriculture\* was answering Shri Piloo Mody who expressed dissatisfaction over the reported export of 15,000 tonnes of sugar.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The quantity of 15,000 tonnes, Mr. Mody, compared to your size is very small.

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

### Files accumulate and men delay

Speaking on the Administrative Tribunals Bill, Shri 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'."

### 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".

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: Not even Quarter-final.

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

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

\*Rao Birendra Singh.

\*\*Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

### Fit for dancing institution

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

### Fitting compliments to Minister

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I am not going to ask any question. But I would only like to compliment him\* for the enormous pains he had 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.

### Fooling people

While replying to the general discussion on the Railway budget, Shri Madhavrao Scindia,\*\* while referring to the performance of the Janata Government in the railway sector, made the following remarks:

"There is a well known saying that you can fool some people all the time and you can fool all the people some of the time...."

Shri P. Upendra interrupted to say:

"As you are doing now!"

Shri Scindia, however, continued with his remark:

"... but you cannot fool all the people all the time, and the Janata Party learnt this the hard way."

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

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport (Department of Railways).



### Fools indulge in their own paradise

SHRI SHEEL BHADRA YAJEE: You are living in a fool's paradise.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Fools are those who have indulged in their own paradise all these twenty one years.

### Fools seldom differ

Speaking on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj\* made appreciative remarks about Shri Subramanian Swamy.

He said, "That is where we can learn on national issues. Even if we are on this side or that side we can be one. It is a unique example."

This led Shri A.G. Kulkarni to comment, "Intelligent people think alike."

"Wise men think alike. Your voice is his voice," said Shri Chitta Basu.

Differing with all of them Shri Subramanian Swamy said, "Fools seldom differ."

### From Jodhpur to Madras

While making a mention of the continued detention of post-Bluestar suspects from Punjab in Jodhpur Central Jail, Shri Jaswant Singh, a member from Rajasthan said:

"For the past so many years, Jodhpur has been able to contain and absorb that strain and did not let it disturb the otherwise civilised and equanimous pace of life. Now, I think Jodhpur has played host long enough. If the Government is unable to decide this issue, unable to resolve the problem of these 360 suspects, I would earnestly request the Government of India to please transfer all the 360 suspects somewhere in the South."

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madras?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Because the hon. Minister of State comes from there.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Madras also is a secure place.

\* Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Either decide this case early and let Jodhpur remain civilised.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We are eager to receive them but not as prisoners.

### General invective

Making a general comment on the Preventive Detention (Second Amendment) Bill, Dr. K.N. Katju\* had this to say:

"...John Morley was the editor of some daily paper and he had an applicant before him. He asked him at the interview, 'What is your qualification?' He said, 'I can write very well.' Morley asked, 'Then?' He replied, 'I can criticise very well.' Morley asked him, 'Any special line?' He replied, 'General invective.' I was reminded of this passage in Morley's Autobiography. It is the general invective that I cannot stand."

### Giving crackers

SHRI L. K. JHA\*\*: We are not going to be overrun by foreign multi-nationals no matter how many they are.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: The hon. member has taken about 30 minutes. There are other members to speak.

SHRI L. K. JHA: I am winding up.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: He has so much to say. I think, he can privately convey the whole thing to the hon. Minister.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, he is making a very good speech.

SHRI L. K. JHA: I have nothing more to add.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: From the opposition side, we request that he should be allowed more time so that we have more to attack. He is providing us with lot of ammunition.

SHRI L. K. JHA: You are all generous to me and I am thankful to

\* Minister of Home Affairs and States.

\*\* An eminent economist who had been elected to the House as a member of the ruling Congress (I) Party.

\*\*\*Shri G. Swaminathan.



you. Mr. Chatterjee probably wants more ammunition from me. I will give him the crackers.

#### Glasses for the blind

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The opposition is always confused, naturally, and the light comes from that side and we await it always...

SHRI A. C. GUHA\*: Provided the other side has got the eye to catch the light. Light cannot go to the blind.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Glasses may be provided also.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: No, not for the blind.

#### Going back to Adam and Eve

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: ...Sir, if you really want to have a check on the growth of population, my suggestion is that we must go back to Adam and Eve, i.e., we must encourage nudism. Sir, in Germany, before Hitler came to power, there were a number of nudist clubs and they were having a deterrent effect on the growth of population.

#### Going to *swarg* free

SHRI J.R. KAPOOR: ... Formerly it was considered necessary to obtain a sort of passport to attain *swarg* by passing property on to others for charitable purposes. I hope and trust, I am almost sure, that every dying person now will feel obliged to the hon. Finance Minister for imposing upon him by legislation\*\* a sacred piece of piety and *dharmā*.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: He would like to go to *swarg* free instead of buying a ticket.

\* Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure.

\*\* The house was discussing Estate Duty Bill.

#### Going to the orbit

During supplementaries to a 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.

Shrimati 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."

#### Going vertically and returning horizontally

While asking supplementaries on a question regarding degeneration of AIIMS\*\*, 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'."

#### Gold and women

SHRI C.P. PARIKH: ... I think it is their (political leaders') responsibility to tell the masses that the use of gold is not in the larger interests of the country or even in their own interests; in the interests of even the lower income group, it is better to have a dwelling house than silver or gold. That should be explained to them.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Especially to women.

\* Smt. Usha Malhotra, a lady member of the House.

\*\* All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.



### 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 Ministers and one P.A. went to him.

सत्य साई बाबा ने एक मिनिस्टर को तो घड़ी दे दी और दूसरे मिनिस्टर को सोने की अँगूठी दी, लेकिन बेचारे पी०ए० को नींबू निकाल कर दिया। सब लोग गरीबों को नींबू ही निकाल कर देते हैं। मैं सत्यसाई बाबा और रजनीश जैसे लोगों के खिलाफ हूँ। मैं सम्रदायवाद के खिलाफ हूँ।

[Satya Sai Baba gave watch to one Minister and gold ring to another but the poor P.A. got only a lemon. Everyone gives lemon to the poor. I am against persons like Sai Baba and Rajneesh. I am against sectarian beliefs.]

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

उपसभाध्यक्ष: आपने (श्री जाधव) यह नहीं कहा कि नींबू की शिकंजी किसने पी।

[The Vice-Chairman: You (Shri Jadhav) did not disclose who drank the lemon juice.]

### Good bakery

While speaking on the Appropriation Bill Shri Manubhai Shah used the term 'National Cake' in his speech. Shri Bhupesh Gupta wanted to know from Shri Shah as to what that national cake was. Explaining what he meant by national cake Shri Manubhai Shah said:

"That is the national product from the industrial origin and industrial investment. You know all this very well. We want to increase the cake as much as possible..."

\*Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** You have started a very good bakery, I must say.

### Good cook

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Running an economy is like house-keeping. The job of a Finance Minister is like the job of a good cook. The job of good cook is to prepare food without asking for money.

### Good meal and a good sleep

**SHRI O.V. ALAGESAN:** The provision of sleeping coaches is a very far-reaching one and I do not know whether we can use the word "revolutionary" in this connection.\* I do not know whether Mr. Bhupesh Gupta will accept it, because in his dictionary a revolution is always accompanied by the breaking of heads and the shedding of blood.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** It is accompanied by a good meal and a good sleep after that.

### Good place to take refuge

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru was speaking on the Extradition Bill. To elucidate his point Pandit Kunzru said:

"... Suppose my hon. friend, Shri Gupta fearing that he would be arrested and punished under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act passed by Parliament recently, slips out of the country and takes refuge, say, in Pakistan or in South Africa."

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** I would rather try Dr. Kunzru's house, but not there.

### Grateful to God

When Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel was speaking he was interrupted by Shri Arjun Arora who furnished him with some information which he thought, perhaps, would be of some use to Shri Patel in advancing his argument. Since the information furnished by Shri Arora was so

\*Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport.

\*\*The House was having a discussion on the Railway budget.



trivial, Shri Patel quipped:

"Thank you, I know that. Even a child knows that."

This led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I do not consider the hon. member to be a child, much less my child.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I am grateful to God for that. What would have been my fate if I were his child? I am certainly not willing to exchange my position.

#### Great man in opposition

Shri Bhupesh Gupta requested the Prime Minister\* to make a statement on her talks with the Vice-President of the United States of America the next day to which she readily agreed.

This led Shri Gupta to remark: "Great men and great women think alike."

This interesting remark of Shri Bhupesh Gupta led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

AN HON. MEMBER: What a nice company!

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would like to be in that company, but in the opposition.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL\*\*: Does this show the shape of things hereafter?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not at all, there is no change. That I can assure the Swatantra Party.

#### Ground for divorce

SHRI B. GUPTA: ...As far as the speech of Mr. Mukerjee is concerned it is quite amusing...

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: We are always amusing.

SHRI B. GUPTA: ...and he has been able to make speech, married

\*Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

\*\*Shri Patel belonged to the Swatantra Party.

as he is, with the clear assurance that making such speeches constitutes no grounds for divorce\*. I wish him luck.

#### 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 given by members, commented in a lighter 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."

The Deputy Chairman, however, had the last word when she quipped:

"I guillotine him with a smile."

#### Harassment by lady members

While Shri H. Hanumanthappa had started seeking clarifications on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Department of Railways\*\*\* 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, I seek your protection. These five hon. lady members are harassing me.

\*The House was having a discussion on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*\*Shri Madhavrao Scindia.



**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.

#### 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 in 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.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**: Thank you very much for the compliments... 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.

A question was asked on the construction of Karanjuli and Pancheshwar Hydroelectric Project but before the Minister could answer supplementaries Shri V. Gopalsamy, who was already feeling agitated over Sri Lankan issue, rose from his seat and wanted that the House should discuss Sri Lankan issue by dispensing the question hour. Despite repeated requests from the Chairman when Shri Gopalsamy did not stop, the Chairman named him. As a result, the

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

member had to withdraw from the House. When Shri Gopalsamy had left and the House was ready to take up the question, Shri Kailash Pati Mishra said:

सभापति महोदय, सदन काफी गर्म हो गया है।

[Mr. Chairman, Sir, much heat has been generated in the House.]

To this Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee replied:

ऊर्जा का स्वागत है।

[After all, the question is one of energy.]

#### Henpecked husbands' clubs

**SHRI J.S. BISHT**: ...In fact in Europe, in England, in America and other countries there are regular clubs of henpecked husbands and I am sorry there is no such club in this land. Otherwise they would have voiced their feelings very strongly against this Bill\*. Their number must be lakhs and lakhs in the country.

**DR. (SHRIMATI) SEETA PARMANAND**: I hope the hon. member now speaking will be the Chairman of that future club.

Hero from Orissa, heroine from West Bengal

When the House was having a discussion on the resolution on the Nationalisation of Film Industry the following interesting exchange took place between two members:

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA**: Orissa has produced a hero.\*\*

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA**: We have produced a hero who has not got entry into the films yet.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA**: But you have not produced a heroine.

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA**: I think West Bengal will probably supply us with that.

\*The House was discussing the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Bill.

\*\*Referring to Shri Lokanath Misra.



### Hero there and here

While participating in the debate on a resolution on the Nationalisation of Film Industry, Shri Lokanath Misra informed the House that he was an actor himself and had acted as a hero in a film and had been Assistant Director in one film. Another member, Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Talwar, wanted to know the name of the film in which Shri Misra had acted. This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: That film's name is "Lalita". It is an Oriya film and a full length one. In that picture I was the hero.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We would like to know whether he was a better hero there or here.

AN HON. MEMBER: In both places.

### Higher regard for Mr. Bhupesh Gupta

SHRI P.N. SAPRU: ...One thing that I would like to say is this. I do not like one-room tenement. I rather gathered the impression that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta was for one-room tenement for members of the Houses of Parliament.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Members like me, you see.

SHRI P.N. SAPRU: Well, I have a higher regard for him than he has for himself.

### Holding the baby

During the question hour Shri Om Mehta\* 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 baby.

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

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Housing

### House is not school

When Shri Vidya Charan Shukla\* wanted the leave of the House to introduce the Haryana State Legislature Bill, many members raised point of order on the ground that the Hindi version of the Bill was not available to them. Agreeing with members the Deputy Chairman\*\* said that the Hindi translation must come and that the House desired that the Hindi translation must come simultaneously. This observation of the Deputy Chairman led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to comment:

"Ask Mr. Shukla to stand up on the bench."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a school.

### Humbugappa

When Shri Krishan Kant was speaking on the Press Council (Amendment) Bill, Shri Bhupesh Gupta interrupted him by saying:

"Mr. Krishan Kant, what would you say if a newspaper calls Mr. Nijalingappa as just 'Gupta'?"

Shri Abid Ali replying to Shri Gupta said:

"That just means humbugappa of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta."

### Husband must be presentable

Speaking on the All India Services (Amendment) Bill Shri R.M. Hajarnavis\*\*\*, informed the House that the Government had redressed a wrong with regard to the women members of the Indian Foreign Service. Earlier they were not allowed to marry. But they have been now allowed to marry and take their husbands with them to the embassy. Speaking on the anomaly which existed earlier the Minister said:

"I think this was a serious discrimination from which we all the more suffered. If I become Ambassador, my wife will go with

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



me. But if my wife becomes one, then I would not be able to go with her."

**SHRI A.B. VAJPAYEE:** But the husbands must be presentable.

**SHRI R.M. HAJARNAVIS:** Mr. Vajpayee of course should have no grievance on that account. He is richly endowed by nature. I do not think he will be discriminated against on that account. He will be quite eligible.

#### Hyde both sides

**SHRI N.K.P. SALVE:** ...I am on the substantive question of appointment of private investigative American agency of the nature of Fairfax with Mr. Hershman as its chairman.

**SHRI KALPNATH RAI:** Hershman or Harris.

**SHRI N.K.P. SALVE:** Not Harrish. He is Dr. Hershman *alias* Harris. Whether you call him Harris or Hershman, it is not like Jekyll or Hyde. It is Hyde both sides.

#### Hydrogen bomb

Participating in the discussion on Appropriation Bill, Shri B. Gupta was speaking on the outstanding problems in international affairs. When the Deputy Chairman\* reminded him that he had taken 40 minutes, Shri Gupta told the Chair:

"Sir, I do not know whether when the hydrogen bomb falls, you will be there to give the ruling."

To this the Deputy Chairman replied:

"We will all sail together."

#### I am not an MLA

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT\*\*:** ...as you all know Bhiwani is on the border of Rajasthan. It is all desert area and camels are used by the villagers to transport firewood. One evening a shopkeeper there wanted to buy firewood brought by a man on camel and he said, "I

\*Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.

\*\*He was speaking on the Resolution regarding the Proclamation issued by the President in relation to Haryana.

will give you Rs. 5 for this much of firewood." The man agreed and the shopkeeper told him, "I will take the firewood in the morning. I hope in the morning if somebody comes and offers you Rs. 25, you will not give it to him." The villager replied, "No, certainly not. I am not an M.L.A."

#### If wishes were horses

The Prime Minister\* was speaking on the debate on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan. The members of the treasury benches cheered the Prime Minister's reply by repeated thumping of desks. A member from opposition, 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.

#### 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.

#### Illegal gratification

When the House was discussing the Prevention of Corruption (Second Amendment) Bill, Shri J.R. Kapoor wanted to know from the Law Minister\*\*\* whether the offer of a bottle of whisky would constitute as illegal gratification within the meaning of the amending Bill. Answering him Shri C.C. Biswas said:

\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

\*\*Minister of Communications.

\*\*\*Shri C.C. Biswas.



"That depends upon the trying magistrate to decide—if he is very fond of whisky—what value to attach in such a case."

#### Immediate consultation

Speaking on a calling attention to rise in prices of essential commodities and steps taken by Government in this regard Shri Ram Jethmalani said:

"... Go and ask the housewife in the country. The Government may be complementing itself by producing this kind of a ..."

"The Housewife\* is sitting next to you", interjected the Deputy Chairman.\*\*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I assure you, Madam, that I consulted her before I started my speech. And why do you think I have been sitting with her so long?"

#### Impossible in fact but possible in law

SYED NAUSHER ALI: ... In fact nothing done by the Parliament of Britain can ever be challenged as *ultra vires*. And it has been very rightly said that the British Parliament can make and unmake anything except perhaps make a man a woman and a woman a man.

SHRI B. GUPTA: That is also possible in law.

SYED NAUSHER ALI: The question will perhaps arise some day in the near future if the press reports are correct, whether a husband has ceased to be a husband and whether a wife has ceased to be a wife.

SHRI B. GUPTA: If the British Parliament says, it will be so in law.

#### In due course

The Defence Minister\*\*\* was replying a question on the setting up of an electronic unit by the Bharat Electronics Ltd. The Minister told that it had been decided to set up new units but the locations thereof

\*Reference to a lady member sitting next to Shri Jethmalani.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma H. Poonia.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

will be decided in due course. The Chairman\* observed that the term 'in due course' was a very elastic term. Thereupon Dr. Bhai Mahavir observed as follows:

"I am not aware of what 'due course' means in the language of jurists but in the language of a layman 'undue delay' is also covered by the phrase."

#### 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, 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.

#### Influence of neighbour

When the House was taking up the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to amend article 72, Shri Bhupesh Gupta did not view favourably the big size Council of Ministers in various states. Commenting on the big size Council of Ministers in some of the states Shri Gupta said:

"These are bad conventions so much so that what I said in my speech against big-sized ministries even the Prime Minister has supported. I do not say I am a great man. If the Prime Minister and Dr. Sapru had said the same thing, I would have said: Great men think alike. So this is the position."

This remark of Shri Gupta led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The Prime Minister does not like these big ministries. If I remember aright, that is what he said.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, that is exactly what I also say, only I said it before he said it. That is my fault.

\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

\*\*Shri Janardhana Poojary.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.



DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Great minds think alike.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Be it far from me to claim any such distinction. I leave it to other parties who are themselves great or who shine in the reflected greatness of others. I leave this matter there. Now, where is the convention, Dr. Sapru, being a very eminent jurist he has not decided when he should be a Marxist. You see, he is like a lover who has not yet decided when he will consummate his love.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: How do you speak of love?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Because you have been excellent lovers and I am in close proximity to you.

#### Indulgent to babies

SHRI M.A. BABY: ... I hope you will first of all permit me to congratulate you for having been elected as Deputy Chairman. On the day of your election I was away. So, though it is delayed, I hope you will accept my congratulations.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*: Thank you.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Being Deputy Chairman I hope you will be in a position to conduct the proceedings. You are charming and firm too. At the same time I hope you will be indulgent too.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Specially to babies.

#### 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.

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### Inverse geometric progression

The House was having a debate on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill. While allowing Shri P. Upendra to speak on the Bill, the Chairman\* also requested him to be very brief. Shri Upendra, thereupon, assured:

"I will take half the time my predecessor has taken."

The Chairman then commented:

"And the next member will take half the time of yours."

Shri Dipen Ghosh came out with his quick calculations:

"That way, Mr. Asoke Sen\*\* will get zero."

#### Invitation to interruption

When Shri Jaswant Singh was speaking in the House, he was interrupted by Shrimati Amarjit Kaur:

"You are making a speech."

To this Shri Jaswant Singh said:

"I would request my charming colleague from the opposition—from my opposition—to bear with me for a minute, even if it is a speech. If my speech warrants an interruption from her, I will continue to speak."

#### Lack of soul

Shri H.C. Mathur asked a question on the recommendations of the Chopra Committee on the indigenous system of medicine. Putting his supplementary on the question he said:

"May I know if the Government of India have come to any decision regarding the indigenous systems of medicine? I want to know whether they have themselves any faith in this system of medicine or not?"

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Union Minister of Law and Justice who was piloting the Bill and who was to reply to the discussion at the end.



Before the Health Minister could reply, the Chairman\* made this interesting comment:

"Governments have no souls and so are not capable of faith or lack of faith."

#### Lacking knowledge of sweethearts

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I think, I have an open heart. I do not conceal my heart. Mr. Nanda\*\* has become the sweetheart of some people.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: You have the liberty to use any expression you like, but the expression 'sweetheart' does not suit you, because you know nothing about sweethearts.\*\*\*

#### Lady friends

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: ... My lady friends here are more impatient than my friends on the opposition side to get this legislation† hurriedly passed. But they are very selfish. I must say that they are very selfish.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, may I ask the hon. member kindly to withdraw the expression "my lady friends", because it has not a very good meaning in English?

SHRI D.P. KARMARKAR††: It may not be so in a technical sense.

#### Language trap

On November 18, 1986 when the Minister of State for Commerce††† was replying in English to a supplementary put in Hindi, Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh demanded that questions in Hindi should be replied in that language only. The Chairman‡ advised the members not to raise the language controversy in the House stating that the Minister was entitled to speak either in English or in Hindi.

\*Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

\*\*Home Minister.

\*\*\*Shri Gupta was a bachelor.

†Hindu Marriage & Divorce Bill.

††Minister of Commerce.

†††Shri P.R. Das Munshi.

‡Shri R. Venkataraman.

After Shri Das Munshi finished replying the supplementary in Hindi, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee said:

"Sir, it is exported in Hindi and imported in English."

The Chairman advised Shri Chatterjee to put a question in Bengali which, he assured, would be replied in that language. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee thereupon quipped as follows:

"Then, the Prime Minister will rush into the House and say that you do not believe in one nation. Let me not enter into that kind of a trap."

The Chairman, however, had the last say when he assured:

"Bengali language is a national language."

#### Last call-girl

During the discussion on a calling 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 a wordy duel. Shri Piloo Mody at one stage doubted the knowledge of English of Shri Anand and asked another 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'."

#### Lathi vs. Hathi

Speaking on the calling attention on the closure of the Delhi Cloth Mills and reported indiscriminate lathi-charge by the police on the workers of the Mills, some members wanted to know the details of the lathi-charge on the workers from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs\* and put their demand in the following way:

\*Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi.



SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know something about the lathi part of it?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yes, the lathicharge part of it.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: As for the lathi part of it ...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not the Hathi part, but the lathi part.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: Yes, yes, the lathi part of it.

#### Lawyer's instructions

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: You are ensuring that you will speak till five?

SHRI H.C. DASAPPA: I am not sure, Sir, but it all depends. We take our instructions. Being a lawyer it all depends upon the instructions which, in technical parlance, are the fees that a lawyer can get.

SHRI KISHAN CHAND: You are not then speaking from conviction? You are speaking only as a lawyer.

#### Lesson in chivalry

The House was having a debate on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill. After Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Mahishi had spoken on the subject, the Chairman\*\* called upon Smt. Kanak Mukherjee saying:

"I am going to give preference to all ladies now."

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee thereupon quipped:

"Sir, you have been chivalrous. The Government should learn from you how to approach the problems of women."

#### Living among animals

While participating in a calling attention on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the

\*Shri V.K. Dhage.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

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 the Deputy Chairman might not be aware of.

Thereupon, the Deputy Chairman\* quipped:

"मैंने पशुओं पर ही पढ़ाई की है।"

[Animals have been my subject of study.]

Shri Yadav retorted:

"आप तो उनके बीच रहती ही हैं।"

[You do live among them.]

#### Long foreword

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS\*\*: Madam,\*\*\* the hon. member is in the habit of putting his question with a long foreword.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it to be a long backward then?

#### Looking after the Minister

SHRI B.C. GHOSE: You go to Bengal, you will find that every Bengali family in West Bengal is burdened with one or more refugees, whom it is supporting.†

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are looking after the displaced Minister also.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA††: But I come from West Pakistan.

#### Looking differently

PROF. A.R. WADIA: Madam Deputy Chairman, usually I am not lucky enough to see eye to eye with whatever Mr. Arora says....

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I must say I was very unfortunate.

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education.

\*\*\*Addressing the Deputy Chairman, Shrimati Violet Alva.

†The House was discussing a resolution re. Appointment of a Committee to Enquire into Conditions of Refugees from East Pakistan.

††Shri Khanna, Minister of Rehabilitation was also a refugee.



### Looking directly and seeking protection

During the course of supplementaries on a question relating to theft of idols, the following interesting exchange took place between the Chairman\* and Smt. Sushila Rohatgi\*\*:

SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I seek your protection. Sir, is the question relating to breaking of idols or stealing of idols?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you want to answer, you can answer. If you look at the Chair and answer, you won't be diverted.

SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI: It is only because I am directly looking at you that I am seeking your protection, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am really grateful to you.

### Losing the thread

SHRI A.C. GUHA\*\*\*: I think I have lost my thread...

SHRI B.C. GHOSE: Government has no thread on anything. All the threads are with us.

SHRI A.C. GUHA: All the threads have gone to them to make ropes to get them hanged.

### Lovable husband

Shri Bhupesh Gupta† was speaking on the Constitution (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, which conferred power on Parliament to vary or revoke the conditions of services of the officers who were appointed by the Secretary of State or Secretary of State in Council to a Civil Service of the Crown in India and continued to serve after Independence. Commenting on the ICS officers Shri Bhupesh Gupta said:

"Once you are an ICS Officer, you must be an efficient man, a very

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

\*\*\*Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure.

†Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a life-long bachelor.

eligible groom in the marriage market, an excellent father, a lovable father-in-law and sometimes perhaps not so lovable a husband, because many of the ICS people believe in the permissive age."

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of information, Sir. How did my friend develop this knowledge of lovable husbands?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Because you are one and I am in proximity to you.

### Love letters

When the Interception of Message and Postal Articles (Removal of Power) Bill was being discussed, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: ... If I write a love letter, it is purely an affair between me and my wife. But somebody may be interested to know what type of syllables are used and what type of expressions are used.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: He would like to know whether she is your wife or not.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Normally love letters are not written to wife.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a very interesting point. But since I have written love letters only to my wife and nobody else...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: Mr. Gopalsamy, is that your experience?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: That is the experience of the society, not mine.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Anyhow, Sir, as far as I am concerned, I have written love letters only to my wife. Therefore, if you look at my love letters written to my wife ...

\*Shri Jagesh Desai.



THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: I believe in you.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, he is affirming his allegiance to his wife.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I think, I need no platform to affirm my close allegiance to my wife.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: To bring it on record.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: There is no need for it.

#### **Loving sons and naughty daughters**

MISS MARY NAIDU: ... Indians always had a great reverence for their mothers and that is the reason why they so lovingly chose a mother\* to rule them. Now, they have chosen a mother to rule them. They must, like loving sons, be at all times ready to help her to see that the Government is a perfect success.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it loving son or naughty daughter?

MISS MARY NAIDU: Naughty daughters also must be taken care of, by loving brothers.

#### **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\*\* 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:

\*Reference to Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

\*\*Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

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

#### **Maiden retirement**

When the House was bidding farewell to the retiring members, Chairman called Shri Nirmal Chatterjee to speak. When Shri Chatterjee rose to speak, Shri P.N. Sukul wanted to raise a point of order. To this Shri Nirmal Chatterjee reacted in the following words:

"Sir, this is my maiden retirement from Parliament. And also it is a genuine one unlike the spurious ones like that of Advaniji or Mr. Sukomal Sen\*\*. Quite often these farewell speeches partake of obituary notices. Only good things are said, but the important difference is forgotten that the departed is not there to listen, but in the case of farewell, persons are present."

Hearing this Shri Parvathaneni Upendra advised him:

"You can take the same thing to be repeated."

#### **Maiden's reply**

Shri J. P. Goyal had asked a question on the non-availability of medicines in the Central Government Health Scheme. Kumari Saroj Khaparde rose to reply the question. It was perhaps her first reply as Minister which prompted Shri Suresh Kalmadi to quip:

"Maiden reply".

Shri Jagdish Tytler immediately added:

"Maiden's\*\*\* reply".

#### **Marriage ending in separation**

When the House had before it the Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill, Shri D. P. Karmarkar† in the end answered the points raised by the members and concluded his speech in the following words:

\* 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.

\*\* They got re-elected to the Rajya Sabha.

\*\*\* Kumari Saroj Khaparde, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (now Minister of Textile) is a spinster.

† Minister of Commerce.



"I must once again express my appreciation, because even at this third reading stage, whatever has been done is by way of what friends do at the end of a marriage; all their friends and relatives bless the bride and the bridegroom, and some of them, inquisitive enough, however, give them some suggestions, sometimes relevant and sometimes not necessary at all. But the basic thing is that they all wish them well. So, I take it that all the speakers including Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and others have wished us well, and I am quite sure that their wishes also will be a source of strength to us."

This led Shri B. Gupta to comment:

"I hope the marriage will not end in a seductive separation."

#### **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 is 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.

#### **Marriage itself is diplomacy**

A question on the elimination of married women from higher service led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SEETA PARMANAND: Are married women excluded from the diplomatic service in other countries?

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: No, they are not excluded even here.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI\*\*: Marriage itself is diplomatic.

#### **Married vs. Bachelors**

Putting supplementaries to his question on the Indian Ambassador in Spain, Shri Man Singh, the Maharaja of Jaipur, Shri Bhupesh Gupta charged the Government of political consideration in

\*Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

\*\*Minister of Defence Organisation.

appointing him the Ambassador. This was promptly denied by Sardar Swaran Singh\*:

"We have not been swayed by political and party considerations in making appointments of Ambassadors."

Still not satisfied with the reply of the Minister Shri Bhupesh Gupta asked:

"What was the consideration? Because he has a beautiful wife? If you read books on diplomacy and other things, you will find in many books written in England that it is advantageous to have an Ambassador who has a beautiful wife. Therefore, I am not asking any irrelevant question. That is why I am asking you."

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: A bachelor is not entitled to ask that question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I see. He said a bachelor is not entitled to ask that question. Then do I understand that only married people have the right to know everything about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Do not go into this.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We know a bit more about it than the bachelors.

#### **Matter of reciprocity**

When the House was having a discussion on the motion moved by Shri Bhupesh Gupta regarding the statement on visit of Finance Minister abroad the following exchange took place between Shri Gupta and Shri Morarji Desai\*\*\*:

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: My hon. friend assumed that, when I called him a friend, I expected that he also considered me a friend.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: He knows very well that he does not consider me a friend, and that is obvious. He never misses an opportunity of having a dig if he can...

\*Minister of External Affairs.

\*\*Dr. Zakir Husain.

\*\*\*Minister of Finance.



**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Would you miss?

**Member advised to have lunch**

When Shri Pranab Mukherjee was speaking on the debate on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri F. M. Khan interrupted the proceedings by addressing the Deputy Chairman\* 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."

**Member putting his hand in other's pockets**

The House was having a short duration discussion regarding use of money power in the recent biennial election to the Rajya Sabha and the implications thereof on the working and preservation of parliamentary democracy. Shri Akbar Ali Khan who participated in the discussion wanted to know whether there was any solution to the problem. Shri Mohan Lal Gautam suggested that leaders of different political parties might sit together and put their heads together and evolve some solution. The suggestion of Shri Gautam led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to comment:

"There is only one trouble with that solution. If all political leaders sit together, some of them at any rate may pick each other's pocket."

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam referring to Shri Gupta remarked:

"But he\*\*\* has nothing in his pocket. Still he is afraid of his pocket being picked. You are always putting your hands in other's pockets."

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*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.

\*\*\*Shri Gupta was a communist member.

**Member turns bard**

The House was considering the Appropriation Bill. The otherwise staid proceedings on this item had its refreshing moments too when Dr. Rudra Pratap Singh welcomed the Bill and congratulated the Minister of Finance\* whom he described as wise with character and conviction. The member concluded his speech 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 कहां 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.]

**Men's interest**

On a question on the beauty treatment for Air hostesses many members were eager to put supplementaries. This made the Deputy Chairman\*\* remark:

"Mr. Dharia.\*\*\* There are many interested in these beauties."

Shri Arjun Arora added from his side:

"Only men are interested in women's beauty."

**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

\*Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*\*A member, who wanted to put his supplementary.



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?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE\*\*: I have to do with stopping the peddling of drugs, not with the peddling of drugs.

#### Minister cultivating humility

On his question on discontinuance of the Emergency, Shri Bhupesh Gupta put a very long and winding supplementary. Listening to what Shri Gupta had said Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi\*\*\* remarked that Shri Gupta had asked a long question. An hon. member added that it (Shri Gupta's supplementary) was a speech. Hearing this, Shri Hathi said, "During question hour, even if he (Shri Gupta) makes a speech in my humility I will call it a question". This elated Shri Gupta who expressed his happiness in the following words:

"I am glad that you are cultivating some humility."

#### 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 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† told Shri Mody that he would surprise him more and more by being always right.

Shri Piloo Mody thereupon replied:

"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."

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

\*\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

†Minister of External Affairs.

#### Minister not sleeping

When Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy was speaking in the House, he made a reference to Shri H.K.L. Bhagat; Shri Subramanian Swamy noticed that Shri Bhagat was perhaps sleeping. He, therefore, told Shri Gurupadaswamy:

"He is asleep. He does not know what you are speaking."

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: He is covering up his eyes by dark glasses. He is very much awake.

#### Ministers are always honourable

When the House was having a discussion on the Press (Objectionable Matter) Amendment Bill, Shri B. Gupta made the following interesting comment on Dr. Kailash Nath Katju\*\*:

"Now Sir, there is the paper, the *Bombay Chronicle* which writes an editorial on the 12th of March entitled: 'Drop Katju's Press Bill'. That is the advice. The editorial is entitled — I am not mentioning it — 'Drop Katju's Press Bill'. Presumably it means the hon. Dr. Kailash Nath Katju sponsoring this Bill here. Sir, I won't use this word without the prefix 'honourable'. After all, all Ministers are honourable, and they are honourable even when they bring up most dishonourable measures."

#### Ministers can afford to be robbed

During the discussion on a calling attention relating to the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs\*\*\* said that while members were creating unnecessary fuss about theft here and there, there was a theft in a very senior Minister's house recently which the members might not have heard.

Dr. Bhai Mahavir reacted as follows:

"Ministers can afford to be robbed."

\*Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

\*\*Minister of Home Affairs.

\*\*\*Shri K.C. Pant.



### Minister's cap

DR. K.N. KATJU\*: I was reminded that there is something like a 'white lie'.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: And that exactly is the colour of the hon. Minister's cap!

### Ministers' 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 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 Minister. I put it to Mr. Gadgil\*\* that if you want a bigger entertainment, people like Mr. Jaswant Singh and Mr. Dhabe should be shown.

### Ministers in uniform

The House was discussing a question on a well organised postal racket being run by some P & T employees. Shri N.P. Nanda suggested that the postal authorities should enforce the wearing of uniform by all postal employees so that they could be identified.

Shri Piloo Mody got up and quipped:

"From the minister onwards."

\*Minister of Home Affairs and States.

\*\*Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### Minister should run faster

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance\* 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 Poojary 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:

"We saw him running."

Shri P. Upendra, however, had the last say when he said:  
"You should run faster."

### Minister's reply and the bikini

During the question hour, while asking supplementaries on a question regarding Maruti Ltd., Dr. Mathew Kurian dissatisfied with the Minister's answer, observed as follows:

"Sir, the answer, given by the hon. Minister can be compared to the bikini. Sir, like the bikini, he has revealed everything but concealed the most important thing."

The Minister replied\*\*:

"Sir, I am not in the habit of looking at bikinis and, therefore, the hon. member's allegation that my answer looks like a bikini, I do not know."

### Minister's watch

Once the Minister of Scientific Research\*\*\* was late by three minutes in reaching the House due to the slow running of his watch

\*Shri Janardhana Poojary.

\*\*Shri T.A. Pai.

\*\*\*Shri Humayun Kabir.



for which he apologised to the House. Taking advantage of the situation Shri Bhupesh Gupta had a dig at the Minister—

"Madam,\* I am very sorry that the hon. Minister of Scientific Research should have a watch which does not give the right time."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyway, it will be set right now, we shall have to wait and watch.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would wish to present him with a watch which gives him the right time.

AN HON. MEMBER: From Russia?\*

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If he pleads inability to produce one here.

### Misfortune

Shri Bhupesh Gupta was speaking on the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 1962. Wanting him to finish his speech, the Deputy Chairman\*\*\* told Shri Gupta that she thought he had made himself quite clear on that amendment. This led to the following hilarious exchange in the House:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made it very clear.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: To you, Madam. If you give your vote in my favour I am prepared but I want to convince other members because I must pursue this matter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you sure you will be able to convince?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We live with good hopes just as you live with hopes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us hear the Minister then.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You seem to be very fond of hearing the Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You said you live in hopes and...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know the Ministers are charming and

\*Addressing the Deputy Chairman, Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a communist.

\*\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

very nice to hear but we are sometimes also not so uncharming and not so unpleasant to hear.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your charm is known all round.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Madam. This is one of my misfortunes that I cannot charm the Chair.

### Modern Hanuman

Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra prefaced his speech on the debate on the international situation by paying encomiums to Shri B.R. Bhagat\* in the following words:

"...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\*\* thereupon quipped:

"He is a Hanuman."\*\*\*

### Monkeys and Rama Rajya

A question on the export of monkeys which was being answered by Dr. P.S. Deshmukh† led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

SHRI B. GUPTA: How can he think of the Congress *Ram Rajyatva* when the monkeys are being exported?

DR. P.S. DESHMUKH: There are many more available, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN††: Not in this House.

\*Minister of External Affairs.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

\*\*\*Monkey-god in Hindu mythology.

†Minister of Agriculture.

††Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.



### Monogamy

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: I was asked about monogamy.\* I welcome this provision no doubt because polygamy was prevalent in India hundred years ago but today I doubt if any of the 700 members of Parliament have got more than one wife...

AN HON. MEMBER: Some have no wife.

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: Some members have no wife at all.\*\*

### Monopoly over wisdom

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अब तो वाजपेयी जी भी यहाँ हैं। हमने अखबारों में यह पढ़ा है कि उन्होंने भी इस मांग को छोड़ दिया है कि बरनाला सरकार को फौरन डिसमिस किया जाए। लगता है उधर से भी अक्ल की शुरुआत हुई है। इससे कठिन समस्या को सुलझाने ...

[Shri Chaturanan Mishra: Now Shri Vajpayee is also here, we have read it in the newspapers that he too has abandoned the demand for immediate dismissal of the Barnala Government. It appears wisdom has dawned from that side. That is a good beginning, it may help in solving the ticklish problem of...]

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, ऐसा लगता है कि सारी अक्ल का ठेका चतुरानन मिश्र जी ने ले लिया है।

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Mr. Chairman, Sir, It appears that Shri Chaturanan Mishra has monopolised over wisdom.]

श्री बूटा सिंह :\*\*\* इसलिए वे चतुरानन हैं।

[Shri Buta Singh: That is why, he is Chaturanan (i.e. four-headed person).]

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: अगर चतुरानन में ज्यादा अक्ल हो गई हो तो वे दशानन कहीं न हो जाएं।

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: If Chaturanan has more wisdom, I am afraid he may become Dashanan†also.]

\*The House was discussing the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

\*\*Perhaps reference here is to Shri B. Gupta who was a bachelor.

\*\*\*Minister of Home Affairs.

†Ravana is said to have had ten heads.

### More poisonous than poison

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Madam Deputy Chairman\*, a Congress member has given me a tablet. Kindly examine whether it is a poison.

SHRI ABID ALI: Eat it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If it comes through you, it must be poison. Kindly send it for medical examination.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Today you are so poisonous, I think, that it will not affect you.

### More than a boy

SHRI B.C. GHOSE: If the Rehabilitation Minister were here, he would be in a position to reply.\*\* I do not know whether the Finance Minister would be in a position to answer many of the points.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We have got only a boy on the burning deck.

SHRI B.C. GHOSE: He is not a boy, he is more than a boy.

### More yielding

The House was having a discussion on the general economic situation in the country. Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy pleaded with the Finance Minister\*\*\* that he should depend for resources not so much on indirect taxes but direct taxes and narrated the following anecdote:

"I am reminded of an anecdote, a story, which I will just tell for the benefit of the House and for the benefit of the Finance Minister. Those were the days of Disraeli in England, the later part of the 19th century. He was the leader of the opposition. Disraeli said to Gladstone: 'Mr. Gladstone I would like you to tax the rich

\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*While discussing Appropriation Bill, a member raised a discussion on Ministry of Rehabilitation.

\*\*\*Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.



people and leave the poor; do not rely upon indirect taxes.' For that the classic reply given by Gladstone was: 'Look, both direct and indirect taxes are like two charming sisters. I love them both. Though, in the family parlance it may be called immoral and bigamous. Because they are both charming, I love them both. But in this I give a little more love to indirect taxes, the second sister, because she is more charming, she is more yielding and she is more welcome for exploitation. Therefore, I depend upon this source, though, I do not give up the other source'."

AN HON. MEMBER: You are charging him with bigamy?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I would like Mr. V.P. Singh not to rely upon indirect taxes. I want him to reverse this. Indirect taxes have a tendency to set an inflationary trend in the economy. Therefore, Sir, let him resort to raising resources from direct taxes.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: The other sister has been more yielding...

#### Mother and son

During the course of the discussion on the resolution regarding observing 1975 as an International Women's Year, Shri Subramanian Swamy said that it was difficult for him at times to distinguish between a man and a woman. In this connection, he narrated the following personal experience:

"Once I met two hippies and I did try to make an identification. I said to one of them, 'You must be his girl friend.' The reply came, 'No, this is my son.' I said, 'So, you are his father.' 'No, I am his mother, the reply came."

#### Mr. Baby

SHRI P.N. SUKUL: When you are called to speak, you speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: Mr. Baby, I request you not to become an interrupter.

SHRI M.A. BABY: If the railway freight is increased, how will the prices come down?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Leave it to your party leader.

SHRI P.N. SUKUL: Mr. Baby, don't behave like a baby.

#### 'Mr.' Renuka Chowdhury

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: Now Mr. Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, you called me 'Mr.'!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh! From the masculinity of your voice I thought it was Mr.

#### My lord and my lady

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla who had resigned\*\*\* from the post of Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, was thanking the Chairman and other members who had made kind references to her while bidding her farewell. Speaking on the occasion Dr. (Smt.) Heptulla alluded following remarks to Shri Asoke Sen† in a lighter vein:

"I had some of the very enlightened moments in the House which I remember such as our Law Minister, Mr. Asoke Sen, who once said that in the other House, he forgets sometimes and calls the Speaker as 'My Lord'. Now, I won't be in the Chair to give him opportunity to call me 'My Lady'."

\*Shri Anand Sharma.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Resigned on January 20, 1986.

†Minister of Law.



### 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.

### Need to change specs

The House was discussing the international situation. Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy\* who was speaking in the House had all praise for India's foreign policy. This made Prof. M.B. Lal comment:

"Congratulations on self-praise".

This comment led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is not self-praise. It is there for you to see, my dear friend. It is there. The whole world sees it today. How can you not see it? You are a Professor in addition.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: He stands in need of changing his specs.

### Neither cat nor queen

While speaking in the House Shri Humayun Kabir was looking at Shri Bhupesh Gupta. Shri Gupta did not like this and in turn requested Deputy Chairman\*\* to ask Shri Kabir to look at the Chair. Though, Deputy Chairman advised Shri Gupta not to be so

\*Belonged to the ruling Congress Party.

\*\*Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.

touchy, Shri Gupta still holding to his position said, "When you are there why should he look at me? He should look at you."

To this Shri Humayun Kabir remarked: 'I am reminded of an English proverb that even a cat can look at the Queen. I hope I am not a cat'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not a Queen either.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I am sure he is not a Queen but in any case...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But you are approaching the Queen by occupying the throne.

### Neither common nor sense

Shri K. Santhanam, who was speaking on the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, was interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta. This was objected to by Shri Santhanam. Justifying himself Shri Bhupesh Gupta said:

"I am not a lawyer at all. It is common-sense."

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: I am strictly on the legal interpretation of it. You have no business to interrupt. I think it is neither common nor sense.

### Never too late to correct one's mistake

The Prime Minister\* had made a statement in the House regarding visit of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Speaking on the statement of the Prime Minister Shri A.G. Kulkarni said:

"Finally, Sir, I want only to say that I am really very very happy that the youthful Prime Minister of this country has risen to the stature of a world statesman..."

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is for the home-coming, I think\*\* ... Warm welcome for the home-coming.

\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

\*\*There were Press reports that Congress(S) Party was merging with the Congress (I) Party. Mr. A.G. Kulkarni was a member of Congress(S) party which merged with Congress (I).



SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Sir, the opposition not only opposes, but also it has a bias towards all good things in life. I am very happy that the Prime Minister rose to the occasion and brought himself on to the forum of world statesmen which I really want to encourage and which people like me, people of my age, would really encourage. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you will protect me from the remarks of my friends on this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*: Mr. Kulkarni, I am protecting you by saying that it is never too late to correct one's mistake.

#### New Chairman

As the Marshal announced the arrival of the Chairman in the House, Shrimati Margaret Alva\*\* stepped out of the Chairman's Chamber and entered the House 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.

#### News coverage on mass media

During question hour a question was asked about the news coverage of political parties on mass media.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, according to the statement opposition parties are getting more time and coverage...

This led to the following interesting exchange:

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Three times.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: ...both on the radio and the television. You will agree with me that this is not very fair. I would

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

like to know what the hon. Minister proposes to do to allot some more time to the ruling Congress Party.

SHRI AJIT PANJA\*: Sir, the suggestion is well noted.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI\*\*: Sir, if I may take it up from the point that Atal Bihariji has made perhaps, with his co-operation we can divide the time in the proportion of the representation in the House.

#### Nine months is the natural period

Shri V.M. Chordia, who moved a motion in the House to discuss the Fourth Annual Report of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), expressed his surprise over the fact that the Report in question was laid nine months after the close of the year and went on criticising the functioning of LIC.

Replying to him the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance\*\*\* said that the Report had been submitted within the stipulated time limit of 9 months and that if the Report could not be submitted within one or two months, it did not mean that the LIC is inefficient or it could be blamed for the delay.

To help the Minister Shri Akbar Ali Khan said:

"And nine months is the natural period."

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Well, the House was very wise in putting that period.

#### No excitement

Concluding his speech on the Constitution (Fourteenth Amendment) Bill, Shri N.M. Anwar spoke:

"... We are wedded to democracy, wedded to freedom and wedded to integration."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You may be wedded to anything but do not get excited.

\*Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

\*\*Prime Minister.

\*\*\*Shri B.R. Bhagat.



### No Krishna without Prem

During the question hour, a question was asked about the complaints against DDA\* for poor construction. Putting his supplementary Shri A.G. Kulkarni wanted to know from the Minister: "... how much harassment has been done to the people who have paid monies. There was one Mr. Krishna Kumar who was a Chairman or a Managing Director ..."

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Prem — Prem Kumar.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Vajpayeeji\*\*, you can talk of *Prem*, I cannot talk of *Prem*...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: How can you talk of Krishna without *Prem*.

### No nationalisation of wife

Speaking on the Resolution on the Nationalisation of Film Industry Shri Lokanath Misra said about the nationalisation, "If you start nationalising culture, art and all that, there may be a doubt in the minds of a section of the people in India that you may nationalise anything."

Hearing this, Shri Sheel Bhadra Yajee quipped:

"Except wife everything should be nationalised."

### Nonsense means without sense

SHRI B. GUPTA: ... Sir, that kind of nonsense should be put a stop to.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is the word 'nonsense' a very parliamentary word?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: 'Nonsense' means 'without sense'.

\*Delhi Development Authority.

\*\*Shri Vajpayee is a bachelor.

\*\*\*Shri B.C. Ghose.

### Noose round the head

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI\*: Unfortunately, my friend\*\* runs off. I do not have the power in my legs to run with him. They do not really respond. I am old and I cannot walk along with him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Your head runs faster.

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It might. I hope when the noose is put round my head, it would probably be free first.

### Not head but shoulders

When the House was discussing the Press (Objectional Matter) Amendment Bill, the following exchange took place in the House leading to hilarity:

DR. K.N. KATJU\*\*\*: Take another case, the tram strike business in Calcutta. I think it will be accepted without any offence that the Calcutta Press went off their heads ...

SHRI B. GUPTA: I protest ...

DR. K.N. KATJU: Then I don't say heads, they went off their shoulders.

### Not influenced by wife

Speaking about the influence the Government machinery exercises on the voting, Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel narrated this personal experience:

"My wife was a candidate in Saurashtra and I asked members who were sitting on that side at that time to come forward and challenge it; I said I would prove how the Polling Officer was telling the illiterate voters, 'Come on, I will vote for you' and he cast the votes, not one but several of them. There were witnesses. When we said, 'We will register a complaint', the Polling Officer went and fell at the feet of my wife saying, 'I have got eight children. What will happen to them?' My wife is a more kindly

\*Minister of Finance.

\*\*Reference to Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

\*\*\*Minister of Home Affairs and States.



person; she has not been hardened in politics as I have been. She said, 'Let him go'."

After listening the story Shri Bhupesh Gupta commented:  
"But her kindness has not softened you very much."

#### Not maiden every time

The Parliamentary Secretary\* to the Prime Minister gave his maiden answer to a question regarding INSAT-IC. Afterwards, when for the second time he was replying 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."

#### Not only charming but harming also

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: ... Now, I must confess that a warrior-like stance of the very charming member\*\*\* has left me unmoved.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Have you heard what she has said?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: I will read it tomorrow.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: She says "charming lady is moved by a man like you".

श्रीमती रेनुका चौधरी : मैं चर्म्मिग नहीं, हर्म्मिग हूँ।

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury: I am not charming, I am rather harming.]

#### No undesirable husbands

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: ... By development in all spheres I mean a

\*Shri Arun Singh.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Reference made to Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

society where there will be no unemployment, where there will be no want.

SHRI B. GUPTA: And where there will be no undesirable husbands!

SHRI B.K. MUKERJEE: Whether Mr. Gupta is married or not. I don't know, but he is certainly not a very desirable husband.

#### Old furniture in a new place

Immediately after the lunch break some members wanted to know whether the Home Minister would be making a statement on the students' march. Not finding the Home Minister in the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to know where the Minister was. Though, Shri P.S. Naskar, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs was in the House and the Deputy Chairman\*\* assured the members that the Home Minister would be coming. Shri Gupta had the following interesting exchange with Shri Naskar:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Let us have a look at the new Home Minister.\*\*\*

SHRI P.S. NASKAR: You have already had a look at him, Mr. Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Old furniture in a new place.

#### Oldies too have heart

When Shri Subramanian Swamy was speaking on the Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill, he was interrupted by Shri A.G. Kulkarni. Commenting on this Shri Kamal Morarka said that Shri Kulkarni could not participate in a discussion on eve-teasing. Protesting against this Shri Kulkarni said:

"Is age a bar to participate in such a lively and romantic discussion? Sir, these youngsters feel that it is their own field.

\*The House was having a discussion on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*\*Shri Gulzarilal Nanda was relieved of the charge of the Home Minister and Shri Y.B. Chavan had recently taken over.



Don't think that the oldies are devoid of heart. We also have heart."

The Vice-Chairman\*, however ruled that Shri Kulkarni could speak on the matter. Shri Kamal Morarka then commented in a lighter vein:

"You can also participate in eve-teasing, 'Sir.'"

#### Old in age and young in spirit

Shri A.G. Kulkarni was putting supplementaries on a question relating to States affected by drought and famine. Shri Kulkarni reacted strongly to replies given by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation.\*\* Looking at the mood of Shri Kulkarni, Shri Makwana commented:

"I do not know why this old man is so agitated over this?"

This comment of Shri Makwana led to the following humorous exchange in the House:

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: ... Mr. Makwana, who told you that I am old?

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: I certify that Mr. Kulkarni is very young.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is an old young man.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Old in age and young in spirit.

#### Once more please

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN†: I am ringing the bell, Mr. Saksena.

SHRI H.P. SAKSENA: Yes, I have heard the bell but I was waiting for another bell, if you don't mind.

\*Shri Jagesh Desai.

\*\*Shri Yogendra Makwana.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.

#### Operation successful but patient died

During the course of supplementaries to a question 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.

#### Opposing tooth, nail and tail

SHRI BANKA BEHARI DAS: Madam Deputy Chairman,\*\* I oppose this Bill\*\*\* tooth and nail.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA†: Add tail also.

#### Orientalisation of ball-room dance

Speaking on the budget Shri R.D. Sinha Dinkar touched upon the cultural needs of the people and made the following comment:

".... In fact I feel that the very ball-room dancing should be orientalised and we shall have no objection if the Indian ladies and gentlemen dance, frolic and jump to Indian tunes."

To this, immediately came a comment from Shri Kailash Bihari Lall:

*Ras Lila.*

Agreeing with Shri Lall, Shri Dinkar then said:

"Yes, *Ras Lila* could provide the basis."

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.

\*\*\*Essential Service Maintenance Bill, 1968.

†Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



### Painful heart

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with a painful heart, I would like to say...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO\*: Do not say anything about heart. The Health Minister is sitting here.

### Pain killer not human killer

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, this Dextropropoxyphene is a killer basic drug, and the hon. Minister herself\*\* has admitted...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO\*\*\*: It is a pain killer, Sir, not a human killer...

### Pass for spouse, not for spice

Speaking† on the Railway budget Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj mentioned that earlier the members could travel with their companion in the same coach. Now it has been made that only the member can travel by ACC and his companion will go either in the chair car or first class or second class. Adding that companion is companion and the wife is wife and if she cannot go with the member, whom can he leave her to, Shri Bharadwaj pleaded with the Minister that either he should allow members to travel by the first class or permit her to travel by ACC. Shri Madhavrao Scindia†† perhaps did not get fully what the member wanted to say so he asked Shri Bharadwaj whether he was talking about the companion or his wife/spouse?

This led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

\*Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

\*\*Kumari Saroj Khaparde, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

\*\*\*Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

†Spoke in Hindi.

††Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: 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.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: That is what the hon'ble member is making a request.

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

### Personal questions not allowed

Shri Humayun Kabir\*\* was replying a question on flying training to M.Ps when Shri Bhupesh Gupta put this supplementary question to him:

"What will be the cost of such training (flying training), assuming that the trainees possess the intellectual and physical qualities of hon. Minister?"

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Personal questions are not allowed...

### Pilot piloting Bill

The House was discussing the National Airports Authority Bill.

\*Shri R. Ramakrishnan.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications.



Speaking on the Bill 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\*\* 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."

#### 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..."

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.

#### Political patient

Not knowing what made Shri Raj Narain impatient Shri Krishan Kant said:

"I do not know why he got a little impatient. What I was saying was..."

This made Shri M.M. Dharia quip:

"He is not impatient. He is a political patient."

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

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

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

#### Posting with interruptions

When Shrimati Lakshmi Menon\* was frequently interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta in her speech, she objected and requested him not to interrupt her. Answering her in lighter vein Shri Bhupesh Gupta remarked:

"I am posting you with good interruptions."

#### Poverty, not poverty line

During the course of supplementaries on a 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.

#### Present but 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.

#### Preserving chastity

During supplementaries to a question relating to the permission to import bullet-proof jackets by the Uttar Pradesh Government, the following mirthful exchange took place in the House:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I appreciate very much the ever vigilant efforts of the Government to give

\*Deputy Minister of External Affairs.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.



maximum security to our VVIPs by getting these bullet-proof jackets, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will try to get bullet-proof pants also? If so, I would like to know whether the bullet-proof pants and the bullet-proof jackets which they are already going to purchase, will be covered by Khadi cloth or polyester cloth.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM\*: Sir, the hon. member, with great respect to him has not read the answer. These bullet-proof jackets are being got ready for police personnel deployed on high-risk duties and not for VVIPs.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: The thrust of the question is not whether you will provide bullet-proof jackets only but whether you will provide bullet-proof pants.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I sincerely hope that hon. members are not ridiculing the idea...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am not ridiculing. I am very serious in my question.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI\*\*\*: Sir, if I may interrupt, I appreciate very much the worries of the hon. member and I will definitely ask the Home Ministry to get a bullet-proof pant made for the hon. member.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: It is not necessary for Mr. Gopalsamy. It is necessary for you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What will he do with pants, without a jacket?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: It may preserve his chastity.

#### Preventing heart attack

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

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Prime Minister.

†Leader of the House.

"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."

#### Prime Minister, party president and price rise

While speaking on the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Jaswant Singh made the following humorous remarks mixed with a dose of satire:

"I talk to you about the price rise, about President Rajiv and Prime Minister. Prime Minister Rajiv announces price rise. President Rajiv, of the Congress Party, telephones Prime Minister Rajiv and says: reduce the price rise. Is this the functioning of the Government?"

#### 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 CPI who owned fair price shops did 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\* had 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."

#### Promises to keep

After a prolonged discussion on supplementaries to a question

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



relating to achievement of targets for firewood and fodder plantations, the Chairman ended the debate by remarking thus:

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep but I have promises to keep the question moving."

#### **Purchase by Minister's wife**

The Minister of Commerce\*\*, Civil Supplies and Steel and Mines was replying to supplementaries to a question on the price of edible oils. Apparently dissatisfied with the answer, Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay said:

"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 purchases 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."

#### **Rabies and the elections**

The House was discussing a question on detection of rabies disease in Delhi.

Shrimati 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.

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

\*\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

†Shri M. Hidayatullah.

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

#### **Railways as dutiful housewife**

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: The hon. Minister, while speaking in the other House, likened the railways\* to a dutiful housewife who was asked to discharge many responsibilities...

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: I think he compared the Railway Minister with a good housewife.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: ...Well, I think I will just concede this also to the ladies, to a good housewife, to a beautiful housewife.

#### **Rain of words**

When Shri P.N. Sukul was speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, he was interrupted by Shri Moturu Hanumantha Rao who said:

"You must congratulate the rain that has come to our aid."

To this replied Shri P.N. Sukul:

"I want to avoid the rain of your words — the verbal rain."

#### **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†: 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.\*\*\*

\*The House was having a discussion on the Railway budget.

\*\*Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad.

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



### Re-enacting Mahabharata

Once speaking in the House Shri Arjun Arora referred to Mrs. Yashoda Reddy as Mrs. Subhadra but immediately retracted by addressing her correctly and made this comment to explain the cause of the slip:

"Being Arjuna I always think of Subhadra.\*"

This led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to comment:

"You are making a speech like Krishna. Hence you think of Yashoda.\*\*"

### Red turns pale

During the course of his reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Prime Minister\*\*\* was trying to drive home a point that there was lack of reaction on the part of the opposition members (particularly the leftist members) to various schemes launched and measures taken by the Government. In this context the Prime Minister had the following dig at the leftist members :

"The question that is worrying me is how can ideologies be forgotten in this way? What is worrying me is what has happened to all our red-blooded leftists?"

Shri Dipen Ghosh thereupon joined issues with the Prime Minister and the following exchange ensued:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Prime Minister, they are tired of hearing your platitudes. Your grandfather was much more expert in making platitudes.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Perhaps that red has become so pale because of the mixing with all the other colours. It has become so pale that even when they blush, you cannot see the pink.

\*Subhadra was the wife of Arjuna, who was the hero of the Mahabharata war.

\*\*Yashoda was the foster mother of Lord Krishna.

\*\*\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

### Reddys ready to speak

While replying to the debate on the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, Minister of Education\* inadvertently referred to Shri Babul Reddy as Shri Madhav Reddy. This led to the following interesting exchange 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.

### Relativity in time

THE 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 very very relative concept as has been established in the earlier century.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not since I have taken the Chair.

### 'Reputed' terrorists

While answering supplementaries on a question relating to opening of a new institute of guerilla warfare by Pakistan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs† informed the House:

\*Shri K. C. Pant.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

†Shri K. R. Narayanan.



"Already there are about seven people, very reputed terrorists (in Pakistan)."

Shri Dipen Ghosh enquired in a lighter vein:

"Are terrorists reputed?"

The Chairman\* thereupon clarified:

"He meant disreputable terrorists..."

#### Reverse alimony

When the House was having a discussion on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

SHRI B. GUPTA: ...I know, in the other House, there is a lady member who possesses a crore of rupees. I do not grudge if, in such a case, the husband were to demand a little bit of alimony.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is her name?

SHRI B. GUPTA: I cannot give the name of an hon. lady. You see, generally, ladies' names and age should not be mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*\*: Ladies or gents, you can't give their names.

#### Reversed roles

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

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao.

\*\*\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

#### Roses and 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 pleasantries 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.

#### 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\*\* 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."

#### Sanyas and sanyasi

When members were speaking on a short duration discussion on Bofors gun deal, the following interesting repartee took place between members in the House:

\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.



SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: ...Even if Shri V.P. Singh takes to *sanyas*, it will still remain a mystery as to who had received that commission which you have admitted.

SHRI K. C. PANT\*: ...Sir, the one thing Shri Dipen Ghosh will never understand is *sanyas*.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: ...Because, he will get away with the money and I will take to *sanyas*; that will never happen. It will never happen. I will not allow him to take away that money by going to *sanyas*.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: ...Mr. Chairman, Sir will he answer a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: ...You are already a *sanyasi*.

#### Searching the bathrooms

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: Mala Sinha†, not Mala Singh...

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

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: 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.

#### Secret ambition

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, he†† talked of Ministers mixing with *Yogis*. Sir, one of the hallmarks of a *Yogi* is *Brahmacharya* and to that extent, I think my hon. friend comes within the classification of *Yogis* and so, we †† mix with him freely.

\*Minister of Defence.

\*\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

\*\*\*Shri Banka Behary Das.

†She is a famous film star.

††Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, if I am a *Yogi*, how is it that not even one Minister comes to me to ask whether he shall be a full Minister or a Deputy Minister or the Prime Minister. Why don't they bring bananas to me? Why don't they worship me? They can bring mangoes and other such things.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, if we knew that it was his secret ambition, we will consider it even now.

#### Secret of getting first priority

A question regarding Chakma refugees was the first question which was listed in the name of Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. Last week also there was another question which was listed in her name and was the first question in the list of starred questions. This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH\*: Sir, I am very impressed by the facility with which Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury manages to get the first question. This is the second week in succession that she had done so.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*: You do not mean to say that you are charmed by her, others are also.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, if this is the case, then kindly let us know about that secret so that we will also get the same opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You first acquire the charm that she has got.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, if that is the case, then all of us will have to pray for becoming charming.

श्री के० नटवर सिंह: मैं यह कह रहा था— जब खुदा हुस्न देता है, तो किस्मत खुल ही जाती है।

[Shri K. Natwar Singh: I was saying—When God gives the charm; luck also becomes warm.]

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Sir, the secret of becoming charming should be made known to all the members.

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

\*\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.



MR. CHAIRMAN: You meet her and get the secret.

### Seeing directly and speaking indirectly

Members were asking supplementaries on a question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. Shri Vasant Sathe\*, was replying on behalf of Shri N.D. Tiwari.\*\* The Minister's reply to a supplementary from Shri Vishvijit 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."

### 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.

### Sex appealing perfume

During the discussion on a private member's Bill for amendment of the Constitution, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav submitted that while there was unemployment and under-employment in the country, he found that sex-appealing perfumes were being sold in the market.

\*Minister of Energy.

\*\*Minister of Industry.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Shri R. Venkataraman.

††Minister of Food and Civil Supplies.

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

Interrupting him, Shri A.G. Kulkarni observed as follows:

"This sex appealing perfume is only for youngsters and not for people like you and me."

### 'S' for Scindia

While participating in the general discussion on the Railway Budget, Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav complimented the Railway Minister\* for presenting a very good budget in the following manner:

"Sir, I would like to congratulate the honourable Railway Minister who has presented a very good budget and I would like to say in one sentence that, the honourable Railway Minister has made three S's in his Budget—this is not a slogan—and these three S's stand for Sense, Service and Sacrifice, and Sir, with these three S's, I am sure, the honourable Railway Minister, Mr. Scindia, will definitely succeed and will go ahead. Thank you, Sir."

Shri Scindia thereupon quipped:

"Sir, I stand for the fourth 'S'."

### Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

The House was discussing the statement on flood situation in the country. While replying to the discussion the Minister of Irrigation and Power\*\* 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.

Shri Shankaranand thereupon observed as follows:

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

\*Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

\*\*Shri B. Shankaranand.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

†Refers to Shri Shanti Tyagi and Shrimati Shanti Pahadia who had taken part in the debate.



### Sharing a bench and a chair

The House was extending felicitation to Shri Shyam Lal Yadav on his election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman\* called upon Shri Yadav to reply. Shri Piloo Mody submitted that Shri Yadav should reply from his existing seat\*\*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will reply. He is already in bad company.

SHRI PILOO MODY: He may be sharing a bench with me, but he is sharing a Chair with you.

### Showing back to the Chair

Supplementaries were being asked on a question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. While a member was formulating his supplementary, the Chairman noticed that Shri M.C. Bhandare, was talking to another member slightly bending which made it appear as though he was showing his back to the Chair. This led the Chairman\*\*\* to remark:

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

### Shrimati or Miss

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN†: We take up further discussion on the Budget (General). Shrimati Jayalalitha Jayaram had not completed her speech yesterday. She may continue now.

MISS JAYALALITHA JAYARAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to thank you for permitting me to continue from where I left yesterday on the General Budget for 1987-88. By the way, I am 'Miss' and not 'Shrimati'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even Miss can be called as Shrimati.

MISS JAYALALITHA JAYARAM: I didn't know it.

\*Shri I. Hidayatullah.

\*\*The Deputy Chairman used to be seated next to Shri Piloo Mody who was the leader of the largest group in the opposition.

\*\*\*Shri A. Venkataraman.

†Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

### 'Sir' includes 'Lady'

When Vice-Chairman, Shrimati Maya Devi Chetty was presiding, Shri B.N. Datar\* repeatedly addressed the Chair as 'Sir'. Noticing this slip, Shri Bhupesh Gupta said:

"On a point of order, I think that when a woman is in the Chair the fact should be acknowledged by addressing the Chair as Madam. In these days of emancipation of women it should be acknowledged in the address, but the hon. Minister is insisting on 'Sir'."

To this Shri B.N. Datar replied:

"After all 'Sir' includes 'Lady'."

### Sir includes madam

When Shri Abdul Ghafoor\*\* started replying to a question regarding defective construction of houses by the DDA,\*\*\* he addressed the Chair as 'Sir' while the lady Deputy Chairman† was occupying the Chair. This made Shri R. Ramakrishnan remark:

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.

### Sir vs. madam

Shri Asoke Sen,†† during his reply to the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Bill, while explaining his repeated slips in addressing the lady Deputy Chairman††† 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

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

\*\*Minister of Works and Housing.

\*\*\*Delhi Development Authority.

†Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

††Minister of Law and Justice.

†††Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.



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."

### Sitting on a spring

The House was discussing the statement made by the Prime Minister\* 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.

### Sirsasan

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH:.... I would have suggested that Ministers be given training in *sirsasan*, a practice to which I understand our respected Prime Minister\*\*\* is very much addicted, and which, if results be any test, has produced excellent effect so far as his health is concerned, though it might have produced some sort of topsyturviness in his general outlook on things mundane.

SHRI B.K.P. SINHA: What about the experience of the hon. member?

PRINCIPAL DEVAPRASAD GHOSH: As to myself, I seem to be in the happy company of the Prime Minister, for I have had hardly any serious illness in my life, though I do not practice *sirsasan* and have thus been able to retain a normal outlook on affairs in general.

\*Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*\*Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

### Sisterly indulgence vs. brotherly cooperation

The repeated use of the word 'indulgence' caused much laughter when the House was discussing labour unrest and unemployment through a calling attention. While speaking on the subject Shri Gurudas Das Gupta sought the motherly indulgence of the Deputy Chairman\* for permitting him some more time. When the next speaker, Shri Sukomal Sen, stood to speak on the subject Shri Nirmal Chatterjee, another member wanted him (Shri Sukomal Sen) to seek the sisterly indulgence of the Deputy Chairman. To this Deputy Chairman quipped by observing that she sought the "brotherly cooperation" of the hon. member.

### Smart, smarter, smartest

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, the hon. Minister\*\* has tried to be very smart in his answer...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO\*\*\*: He is smart all round, not only in his answer.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I know he is smart but no amount of smartness can conceal the ugly facts in this question.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: He wants to suggest that he is smarter.

AN. HON. MEMBER: But the Minister is the smartest.

### Soft on words and hard on facts

During question hour Shri K. Natwar Singh†, was replying to a question on the supply of U.S. AWACS to Pakistan, when he was told by the Chairman:††

\*Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

\*\*Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of Railways was answering a question on the import of electric locomotives by the Railways.

\*\*\*Minister of Human Resource Development.

†Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

††Shri R. Venkataraman.



"You are talking very mildly. He (the questioning member) wants you to raise your voice."

This remark of the Chairman led to the following interesting exchange between Shri Suresh Kalmadi, member, who was asking his supplementaries and the Minister:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, the only emotion a diplomat is allowed is controlled indignation and hence I do not want to raise my voice.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: You are no more a diplomat. You are a Minister now.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Even as a Minister, I would like to be soft on words and hard on facts.

#### **Solving the problem under the sun**

A question asked on the assessment regarding power requirement led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRI VASANT SATHE\*: ... I want to say this, again very emphatically, that the ultimate solution of the power problem lies in the sun, the sun power. Unless, we are through the sun, by the sun, and for the sun, we cannot solve the problem.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Under the sun.

#### **Some stones can be thrown**

Hearing Shri Bhupesh Gupta who was speaking on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to amend the first schedule, Chairman commented that Shri Bhupesh Gupta had come to the point but in a roundabout way.

To this Shri Bhupesh Gupta replied:

"I had to make an excursion in order to come to the point because he\*\* invited it. If he had not talked about the autonomy of the States, I would not have spoken on this subject. One who is in a glass house should not throw too many stones at others."

\*Minister of Energy.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri R.M. Hajarnavis.

SHRI A.B. VAJPAYEE: Some stones should be allowed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Some are allowed. How can our Home Ministry live without throwing stones at somebody or the other? Perpetually it throws stones at others. I only say, do not throw too many stones.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: One stone is enough.

#### **Soul in peace**

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI\*: He\*\* must hold his soul in patience.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: But he does not believe in soul.

SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It does not matter; he has a soul nevertheless.

#### **Sound sans light**

During interpellations on a 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 VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH†: Sir, he is making only sound but throwing no light.

\*Minister of Finance.

\*\*Reference to Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

\*\*\* Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Minister of Finance and Leader of the House.



### Speaking without the subject

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: 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.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: For your information, I am a graduate in science.

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

### Spicy debate

After the House had adopted the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chairman announced that Minister of Commerce and Food and Civil Supplies\*\* would move the Spices Board and Spices Cess Bills. Shri P. Upendra thereupon quipped:

"After the spicy debate\*\*\*".

### Sterilising the discussion

SHRI B.C. GHOSE: Sir, it appears that the hon. members are suffering from the incurable habit of continuously speaking on this subject†. Now the proposal is to sterilise this discussion itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN††: So you want the question to be put.

\*Shri A.G. Kulkarni.

\*\*Shri P. Shiv Shanker.

\*\*\*Reference to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

†The House was discussing a Resolution regarding sterilisation of adults suffering from incurable diseases or insanity.

††Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

### Stronger than the tiger

Shri Kamalendu Bhattacharjee, a ruling party member from Assam was speaking on a calling attention to the agitation by All Bodo Students' Union for a separate State in Assam and the steps taken by the Government in the matter. Shri Bhattacharjee expressed himself clearly against violence whether perpetrated by individuals or State. When Shri Bhattacharjee was speaking he was continuously interrupted by Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty who also hails from Assam and belongs to the AGP. Commenting on her interruption Shri M.M. Jacob\* said:

"It is a cricket match with a running commentary."

Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty also informed the Deputy Chairman\*\* that during the Assam movement she was banished to the jungle infested with tigers, lions and bears. On hearing this the Deputy Chairman asked whether she had been thrown to the tigers.

Shrimati Chakravarty answered the Deputy Chairman in the affirmative. The Deputy Chairman thereupon remarked:

"Then you are stronger than the tiger to come back to Rajya Sabha."

### Substitute for a calculator

While answering a supplementary question on Railway's failure to earn profits from scrap Shri Madhavrao Scindia\*\*\* said:

"Sir, I would like to inform the honourable member that the procedures have been fairly tightened up in the last year and-a-half and that is the reason why the scrap sale which was Rs. 150 crores in 1984-85 has risen to as much as Rs. 208 crores in 1985-86 which is a rise of — Sir, you have been the Finance Minister and I think you can calculate it about — thirty to forty per cent".

MR. CHAIRMAN†: Do you carry a calculator in your pocket?

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

\*\*\*The Minister of State of the Ministry of Railways.

†Shri R. Venkataraman.



SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, when you are in the Chair, why do I need a calculator?

#### Sugar for speeches

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh\* was answering supplementaries to a question on the consumption and import of sugar when Shri B. Gupta asked this interesting supplementary :

"May I know the amount of sugar consumed for sugar coating the speeches of the Food Minister?"

Equally interesting was the reply of the Minister :

"It is all for the benefit of the opposition."

#### Sukulism

When Shri P.N. Sukul was speaking on the Hospital and other Institutions (Redressal of Grievances of Employees) Bill, a member wanted to know from Shri Sukul as to what he meant by socialism. While Shri Sukul was giving his definition of socialism, he was interrupted by Shri Dipen Ghosh thus:

"Socialism means 'Sukulism'."

#### 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. The next question was pertaining to the Railways which was answered by Shri Madhavrao Scindia\*\* who in the end also made the following interesting comment on the fast pace with which the questions were disposed of:

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

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

\*Minister of Agriculture.

\*\*Minister of State in the Department of Railways.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

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

#### Survival after injection

During the course of supplementaries to a question relating to the Safety Committee to review toxic effect of drugs, Shri Virendra Verma enquired :

"माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि यूनीकैम जो गाजियाबाद की फर्म है उसका एक इंजेक्शन मैंने मंत्री जी को दिया था, जो भी इसी प्रकार का डेंजरस ड्रग था जिसमें फारेन मैटर था, उसके सम्बन्ध में आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है?"

[Would the hon. Minister please state as to what action has been taken with regard to the injection of Unichem, a Ghaziabad firm, which I had given to him, and which was a dangerous drug containing foreign matter.]

The Chairman\* thereupon quipped:

"He has survived after your injection."

#### Swamy and Gurupadaswamy

Speaking on the short duration discussion on Bofors gun deal Shri K.C. Pant\*\* remarked:

"Each one of us has to look within. Sometimes it is good to look within also and not always look without and my friend, Shri Gurupadaswamy has sufficient spiritual resources to be able to look within. I would not say that for everybody."

Quickly came a comment from Shri Subramanian Swamy:

"Kindly look into your own self."

Shri K.C. Pant, however, had an edge over Shri Swamy when he said:

"All Swamys are not like Gurupadaswamy."

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of Defence.



### Taking lessons properly

As soon as the Parliamentary Secretary\* to the Prime Minister had completed his maiden answer to a 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.

### Tax, throttle, kill

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Do you know what big business speak of T.T.K.\*\*\*? They say it means "tax, throttle, kill."

### The Pope and the Swamy

Once Shri Subramanian Swamy was narrating a story in the House when the following mirthful exchange took place among members :

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: When Pope went back to Italy, he was asked what struck you the most about India? And he said : "I am surprised how this country has continued. It has no Pope, it has no church, it has no book and still that country has continued this way."

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : We have you.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The *Swamy* is all over. But they are all decentralised *Swamies*. They are in the districts. There is no one Pope.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : But there is one Swamy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN† : There are two *Swamies*. One is

\*Shri Arun Singh.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Reference is to the Finance Minister, Shri T.T. Krishnamachari.

†Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

behind him.\*

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : No, no, he is a gentleman.

SHRI BUTA SINGH\*\* : One is grand-father of the other.

### They also serve who sit and keep quiet

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have been told that they also serve who stand and watch.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*\* : Also who sit and keep quiet.

### Thing of beauty is joy forever

When the question of election of Deputy Chairman was being taken up, 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."†

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††† 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."

### Things means persons

The House was having a discussion on the Annual Reports of

\*Reference to Shri Gopalsamy, another member.

\*\*Minister of Home Affairs.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Referring to the opposition benches.

††Shri R. Venkataraman.

†††Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.



Air India and Indian Airlines Corporation. Addressing Shri Raj Bahadur\* who was answering the points raised by the members Shri Arjun Arora said:

"I praised your air hostesses, charming things as they are. I praised their pronunciation of English. I only lament that they do not understand Hindi at all. A smattering of Hindi will do them some good. I do not say that they should give up their pronunciation and that instead of speaking the convent type of English they should speak Babu English which I speak. I never said that. I praised their pronunciation. I again repeat that they are pretty things and very considerate for passengers."

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA : I want to know what are the "things" you are referring to.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I mean the persons.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Pretty young ladies, for example.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA : I protest against this light talk about women whenever something is referred to about women.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Let us go to the other point. It is not at all light talk. What I suggest is that they should know a little Hindi. That will make them appear more Indian. As far as women are concerned, I have a preference for lighter women and not heavyweight ones.

#### Throat vs. brain

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : You wait... Your leader has taught you only to make noise, not to apply your brain.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I am putting a pointed question: 'Are you agreeing with the findings of the Commission\*\*?' Don't think that you only know things. We also know things.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : The anatomy of human beings does not

\*Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport.

\*\*Justices Thakkar-Natarajan Commission of Inquiry into Utilisation of Fairfax Group Inc.

contain only the throat. There is another anatomy which is above the shoulder.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : You are not using that.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : In some cases that part of the anatomy seems to be the dullest.

#### Ticketless travel, only facility

While participating in the general discussion on the Railway budget, Shri R. Ramakrishnan was hammering home a point that ticketless travelling in general was less in the Southern States than in the North. In this context he made the following observation:

"Definitely in the South, ticketless travel is much less than in the States in the North, particularly, if I may say, in the State from which my hon. friend, Mr. Jagadambi Prasad Yadav comes,..."

Shri Jagadambi Prasad Yadav\* quickly retorted:

"This is the only facility they are getting."

#### Too many eggs to lay

Delay in laying the document entitled "Approach to the Fourth Five Year Plan" on the Table of the House was thus commented upon by two members:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is the first time it has been laid on the Table of the House. The Government should explain why it was not possible for them to lay it on the Table of the House earlier.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: They have got too many eggs to lay.

#### Travelling with Minister

In a question hour a member wanted to know whether the Railways had received a request for running a special train for teaching *Sadachar* from the Bharat Sadhu Samaj. Supplementaries

\*Shri Yadav hails from the State of Bihar.



to this question were quite interesting and led to laughter. When Shrimati Yashoda Reddy wanted to know the meaning of *Sadachar*, she was told by the Chairman, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan that it was "exactly the kind of conduct which you are expected to adopt in Parliament." When the House was informed by the Deputy Minister of Railways\* that the Railways had received a request from Air Freight (Private) Limited, Bombay for organising a 'Charitra Nirman' special and the Northern Railway are making arrangements for running a special train, Shri Bhupesh Gupta remarked:

"An elegant name has been given 'Charitra Nirman' — character building train — character will be built on special trains. May I know in that case whether the Minister will also travel in that train?"

This led Shri Jagjivan Ram\*\* to comment:

"I might request the party to accommodate my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta."

But Shri Gupta did not want to travel alone so he remarked: "If the Minister travels, I am prepared to travel with him."

#### Troubled waters

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is this deep sea fishing done in smooth waters or in troubled waters\*\*\*.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI†: This experiment is not being carried on in U.P. Therefore it is not in troubled waters.

#### Understanding of Marx

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

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN††: Shame.

\*Shri Shah Nawaz Khan.

\*\*Minister of Railways.

\*\*\*The question was on the equipment for deep sea fishing.

†Minister of Food and Agriculture.

††Shri R. Ramakrishnan.

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

#### Unique birthday greetings to Chairman

The Rajya Sabha felicitated its Chairman, Shri R. Venkataraman, on his 76th Birthday with a dash of solemnity and humour and he responded with his own inimitable 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

\*This remark was made by the Chairman presumably due to the fact that Shri Mitra was formerly the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.



birthday every day, because I have been liberal in calling everybody which I do not do otherwise.

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."

#### Unique compliments to retiring members

The Chairman\* on behalf of the members and on his own behalf bade farewell to all those members who were to retire in 1986 after completion of their term of membership. The Leader of the House, Leaders of parties / groups and other members associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and offered their compliments to the retiring members, each in his own way. During the course of the proceedings the House had exuberant experience when it was treated to a feast of incisive wit and humour, sallies, ripostes, sobriquets and also had moments of hilarity bubbling out of the all too impressive sense of buoyancy and camaraderie.

The following rhapsody illustrates some such instances that took place during the proceedings of the House while bidding farewell to the retiring members.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:...We will also be missing what should I say, charming ladies or noisy charming ladies. At least, two of the noisy charming ladies we will be missing. Sir, I offer my good wishes to all the retiring members.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI\*\*: ...You should say, very active charming ladies.

\* \* \*

\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: ...Sir, how can we forget the sweet voices of Mrs. Najma, Mrs. Margaret Alva?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are discriminating.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But you won't be missing some of the beauties here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Khushwant Singh, of course, we may miss him in Parliament. But we will not miss his dishes, sweet and sour which every week\* he is providing us... Mr. Mohanarangam\*\* of late has been demanding, through you, a direct flight from Madras to Delhi. But I think because of his overweight the flight has to get a stop-over at Hyderabad. Whenever I see him I am really dazzled at how he moves in a lightning speed with his great size. He delivers his speech also at a lightning speed. Whenever I see him I am reminded of the famous film actor, Bud Spencer.

\* \* \*

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE:...Dr. Samuel Johnson is said to have said of the politician that politics is the last resort of the scoundrels.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: No.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I do not know how much we know of scoundrels, because I thought scoundrel is a scoundrel wherever he is. Sir, you have been with us for quite some time, and if you were to see us here, you may have an opinion about us. But if you see us in the lobbies and the Central Hall devouring *Rasogullas*, *Gulabjamuns*, *Ballushais*, the camaraderie and the fellowship that you had seen there would surely impel you to feel that we are the greatest gentlemen existing on the earth.

\* \* \*

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:...Our elderly statesman, Mr. Lal Krishna Advani, used to speak in fine English and for the past three or four days, after getting elected as the President of the BJP, he has started speaking in Hindi, of course, very fine Hindi, which I cannot understand, as Mr. Ghosh cannot understand my

\* Perhaps reference here is to his weekly column appearing in a daily under the title with *Malice towards one and all*.

\*\*Shri R. Mohanarangam was among the retiring members.



English. He is a very good speaker and I have read two books written by him two or three years ago. We cannot forget Mr. L.K. Advani.

...I have to mention something about Mr. Gopalsamy, not that he mentioned about me here. I used to cross swords with him. My sword is a fine sword. His sword is also fine but his sword cannot beat my sword. Mr. Jain is here. I am told he is not coming back. How could it be? He is having a double-throat. He is having a mike in his throat. He wants to shout down the opposition parties. By shouting them down he wants to wipe out the opposition parties. He is imagining he can do so. But it is an impossibility. Anyway, I hope he will definitely come back. Now I turn to my *guru*, Mr. Kalpnath Rai; *guru*, in the sense he is of my size.\*

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: ...Then sitting next to me was the lovely Nargis Dutt, at one time the sweet-heart of the country. With her went a lot of irrepressible charm from this House. Sitting on my other side was the poet Bhagwati Charan Varma, a man of great peace. He used to turn up only after the zero hour or the question hour was over and spent the afternoon comfortably sleeping. I mention these names, particularly the last two, because, Mr. Chairman, you might have noticed that one sat on my right side and the other sat on my left. Now, most members are reluctant to sit on either side of me because of what happened\*\* to my predecessors.

...And I think it is only people like you who could keep my friends like Kalmadi and J.K. Jain and Usha Malhotra under control as nobody else could. And I may suggest to the Government that there should be an award called Akhil Bhartiya Anti-interruption Visist Seva Medal which could be given to you. However, I must add one caveat to this, Mr. Chairman, I notice that you are very anxious to ring the bell when it came to another members. But when it came to Jayalalitha, you were always looking somewhere else. At first...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Local patriotism.

\*Both Shri Mohanaragam and Shri Rai are known for their corpulency.  
\*\*Both of them are deceased.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I thought, perhaps, you had a soft spot for people coming from your part of the world. But when I noticed that the same latitude was not extended to my friend Mohanaragam or Gopalsamy, then I felt better because at least there is one enthusiasm...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair should not be exposed. The Chair is above criticism.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: There is at least one enthusiasm that you and I share together... And, finally, Sir, just one request because this is my last one to you. When it comes to the time when you have to read my obituary. I hope, you will not keep your eye on the watch and see when the minute is over. I hope that you can reduce it to ten seconds, but do it with a sigh or a tear.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, I cannot also forget Bhupeshda. He would always look at me when I interrupted him and the Chair would continuously call out and say: 'Please look at me, and not the lady' and he said 'I cannot resist it'.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:...I do not know what magic you have applied in doing away with the 'zero hour'. I feel that 'zero hour' used to be the most interesting part of the proceedings of the House. Although you said yesterday that you want to be a headmaster, we want you here in this House not as a headmaster but as a Presiding Officer of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A benevolent headmaster.

AN HON. MEMBER: Either head or master, but not both.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: I also had the privilege of witnessing very interesting incidents in this House. Particularly, I saw the lady members rising from their seats simultaneously and in a chorus they protested to certain remarks of the opposition members and then the Chairman used to call them the 'women brigade' of the House. Not only were the opposition members afraid but even the Chairman was scared of that 'brigade'.



trained me and I used to look at my watch, at the electric clock to see that I did not go beyond 60 seconds. And now at this stage I find it is difficult because I trained myself to 60 seconds, and you are giving me all the time in the world. Yes, this is what the Englishman calls 'comedy of errors'.

#### 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 number 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...

\*Shri M. Hidayatullah.

\*\*Refers to Kumari Saroj Khaparde.

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.

#### Unique felicitations to Deputy Chairman on his election

After the Chairman\*\* declared that Shri M.M. Jacob has been elected Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, as is customary, the Leader of CPI(M), Shri Dipen Ghosh\*\*\* and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh†, escorted Shri Jacob to the Deputy Chairman's official††seat. At that point an hon. member remarked:

"Sir, he has now crossed the floor."

\* \* \*

The Leader of the House was the first to offer felicitations to the newly elected Deputy Chairman. His reference to the Deputy Chairman being the director of a film society prompted Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy to have light-hearted dig at the Deputy Chairman when he remarked:

"...My hon. friend, Shri V.P. Singh, in his usual good humour said that Mr. Jacob was associated with directing films."

This led to the following witty exchange:

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Not directing films. He is the director of a film.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I wish the ruling party had made a generous gesture to us on this side of the House. Instead of a director, you could have had an actress.†††

\* Deputy Chairman, when not presiding, sits next to the Leader of the Opposition.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Opposition party having the largest numerical strength in the House.

†Leader of the House.

††First seat in the opposition benches.

††† This reference was apparently to Miss Jayalalitha, an AIADMK member and former film actress.



SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Gurupadaswamyji perhaps, that you can contribute to this side.

\* \* \*

When Shri N.K.P. Salve's turn came to offer felicitations to the Deputy Chairman the following repartee took place:

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE:...But, I think, Sir, he\* is possessed of one quality which is extremely necessary and which qualifies him to occupy this position, and that quality is the quality of inexhaustible patience because one who sits there, you know more than anyone of us, must be willing to take a plenty of nonsense.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: From your side.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: From your side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Including the members.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Thank you, Mr. Salve, for your self-criticism.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your remark is not confined to any part of the House; it is to the whole House.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: In proportion to the strength, Sir.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, nonsense cannot be our prerogative.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It is not your only prerogative.

#### Unwanted baby

While replying to the general discussion on the Railway budget Shri Madhavrao Scindia\*\* made a reference to the suburban transport system in his inimitable witty style as follows:

"But nowhere in the world is suburban transport the responsibility of the national railway system...In India, however, the Railways have been landed with the baby. We have been nominated as the father of a baby no one wants to own but everyone wants to claim to have sired. I can assure the honourable members that we will do our best to fulfil the role of an indulgent and doting parent..."

\*Shri M.M. Jacob.

\*\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.

#### Use of oil

The House was discussing ESSO (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Amendment Bill. During the course of his speech, Shri Niren Ghosh complained to the Chair:

"Sir, the Minister is not listening. Another member is talking to him. What does he know about oil or oil products?"

Shri Bhupesh Gupta immediately rose and quipped as follows:

"I object. He is a big farmer. He uses lot of oil; besides he knows how to oil the Minister."

#### Vayudoot or Yamadoot

SHRI K. MOHANAN:...Sir, actually, the people are afraid of travelling by the Vayudoot service nowadays.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is 'Yamadoot'!

SHRI K. MOHANAN: I do not know whether it is 'Yamadoot' or 'Vayudoot'. But the fact is that the people are very much afraid of travelling by the Vayudoot service.

#### Vicarious satisfaction

When the House was having a discussion on the report about Chinese and Pakistanis arms coming into the hands of extremist elements in West Bengal, the following exchange took place in the House:

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:...Even the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee, has stated that women are molested. The Chief Minister has gone on record to this effect. Have we to forget West Bengal?

\* \* \*

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE: Old bachelors get a vicarious satisfaction in imagining women to be molested.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Your Chief Minister has stated this.

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE: He is a bachelor.



SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: I want to know whether it is also not a fact that...

SHRI A.D. MANI: On a point of order, Sir. All these remarks should be expunged.

SHRI A.P. CHATTERJEE: Why? The reference to the Chief Minister as an old bachelor may be expunged, but the statement that old bachelors get a vicarious satisfaction in imagining women to be molested, should remain.

#### Visit to a zoo

Shri B.R. Bhagat\* 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 a 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. Lakshmanan 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\*\* 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

\*Minister of External Affairs.

\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

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, visit to the zoo by the Government of India is particularly appropriate.

#### Voice is golden

PANDIT S.S.N. TANKHA: It is a well-known saying that silence amounts to consent.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, there is a well-known saying that silence is golden but I think that adage does not apply in Parliament because there voice is golden...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN\*: At least Mr. Bhupesh Gupta believes in that.

#### Way to extract information

Once Shri Bhupesh Gupta told the House that by offering whisky one can get information. This secret, which Shri Gupta shared with the House, led to the following interesting exchange in the House:

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*\*: Do you keep whisky?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, no. I do not take; I am a teetotaler.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: When you corrupt people?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But I know that my friends, some of them, not all, when they have little whisky, they talk truthfully, very much. I realise it. A good thing.

#### Wedded to communism

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: For your information, communists do not have families. They do not believe in family life.

\*Shri Nafisul Hasan.

\*\*Shrimati Violet Alva.



DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA....Now apart from that, you have

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I do not know but as far as Mr. Gupta is concerned, I know he is wedded to communism\*.

#### Weighty person and small point

Members were seeking clarifications on the statement made by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao\*\* regarding failure of constitutional machinery in Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh sought to raise a point of order. The Chairman\*\*\* remarked in a lighter vein:

"Mr. Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh, what is your point of order? Now, come on. You are a very weighty person."†

Shri Singh parried the Chairman's remark in the following words:

"I may be a very weighty person, Sir. But I have a very small thing to say."

But the Chairman quickly came up with the following reply:

"I thought you must have a very weighty point. That is why I said that."

#### Weighty question

While Shri Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh†† stood up to put his supplementary to a question regarding installation of 'Quinghao' anti-malarial plant in India, the Chairman††† after calling him, remarked as follows:

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

#### Well manned and womanned

SHRI KISHAN CHAND:...If we are going to create the impression that our Foreign Service is equally well manned, equally efficiently manned, it is very necessary£...

SHRI G. RANGA: Well womanned also.

#### What constitutes oppression

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Therefore, let us not make heavy weather about the oppression of Indian women and all that££. Earlier I said that if there is one species of oppressed human beings in India, it is

\*Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a bachelor and was a communist member of the House.

\*\*Minister of Human Resource Development.

\*\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

†Mr. Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh perhaps is the heaviest member in the Rajya Sabha.

††Shri Singh is a member with a heavy built.

†††Shri R. Venkataraman.

£The House was discussing the Indian Foreign Service Branch 'B' Rules.

££The House was discussing the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

the man, not the woman. Women are forgetting their curtain-lectures. Curtain-lectures are much more oppressing.

KAZI KARIMUDDIN: Effective, not oppressing.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Curtain-lectures are more oppressive than any oppressive action of man. Cold tea served deliberately in the morning is more oppressive than all the oppressions that the women can imagine.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SEETA PARMANAND: The hon. member seems to be greatly oppressed.

SHRI D.P. KARMARKAR\*: Depressed perhaps.

#### What is beauty

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is said that beauty is half revealed and half concealed. Judged by this test, this amending piece of legislation\*\* with parts of information concealed from the representatives of the people of India and parts revealed, seems to be a rare object of beauty.

#### What is in a name

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Sir, day before yesterday Mr. Natwar Singh was making a statement on Fiji, I was to seek a clarification. Mr. Jagesh Desai was in the Chair. He called me by the name 'Ramakrishna' but afterwards he corrected it and called my name as 'Radhakrishna'. But Doordarshan has quoted me as 'Alagesan'. Alagesan has nothing to do with my name. Everytime Doordarshan quotes my name wrongly. Sometimes they quote me as 'Ramakishan' and sometimes by some other name. Ultimately, they have ended with quoting me as 'Alagesan'.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Lord Krishna has many names.

\* \* \*

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Sir, I need your protection. I request the Chair to direct Doordarshan to quote my name correctly as 'Radhakrishna'.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: There is a proverb, what is there in the name.

\*Minister of Commerce.

\*\*The House was having a discussion on the Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill.



### When two women are in duel

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand asked a question to the Health Minister\* regarding the appointment of a male Principal in the Lady Harding Medical College. While the Health Minister was replying to her, Dr. P.C. Mitra wanted to know whether the Principal was taking any classes. This sudden question from Dr. Mitra prompted the following comment from the Chairman\*\*:

"When two women are facing each other in duel, why do you intervene Dr. Mitra."

### Where one stands

Answering a supplementary on a question on Indo-Soviet Cultural Association, Shrimati Indira Gandhi\*\*\* said:

"I have already told you where we stand."

This led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to quip:

"You stand in your seat, that is all."

### Who are elders?

A question was asked during the question hour by Shri Mirza Irshadbaig on the telecast of adult films† on television. While participating in the discussion Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav said:

"It is purely incidental that some of these films may be in 'A' category. But as the Minister has said just now that one film was shown — 'Marriage of Maria Brown', may I ask the hon. Minister whether that film was for adults or whether it was artistic or whether it was more than for adults. This film which was shown on TV was something more than for adults and it has made a bad impact on the minds of the people. So, may I request the hon. Minister to have some close monitoring system while selecting such films which are shown on these two days."

SHRI AJIT PANJA††: We are doing so through the Selection Committees, but the definition more than adult might be meaning the elders.

\*Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

\*\*Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

\*\*\*Prime Minister.

†Late night movies were shown on Tuesdays and Fridays.

††Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### Who build houses?

When members were having a discussion on the resolution regarding national housing policy, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:...At the outset, I must say that the hon. Minister has not assigned the role to women in the housing policy at all anywhere, because according to Indian concept and conditions, in the houses in which we live, the primary role is that of the ladies. So, I say, at no stage, special role has been assigned to women. It is only the men who are consulted...

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: There are voluntary organisations of women.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I say this because houses are manned and managed by women.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: But these are not built by women; they are only managed by them. Fools build houses and wise men live in them.

### Who is this gentleman called God?

MAJ. GENERAL S.S. SOKHEY: On a point of order, Sir. I heard the mover of the Bill saying that it is a religious Bill\*\* and the property is dedicated to a gentleman known as God Almighty. I have not met such gentleman. But anyhow I would like to know whether this House is expected to deal with this religious Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN\*\*\*: Many people have taken the oath in the name of God. And we have allowed them.

MAJ. GENERAL S.S. SOKHEY: I have not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may not have. But we have admitted them. Therefore this objection does not arise.

\*Minister of Urban Development.

\*\*Muslim Wakfs Bill, 1952.

\*\*\*Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.



### 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\* the following hilarious exchange took place:

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: 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:\*\* 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.

### Winding up the bachelorship

Once Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto described Shri Vishvjit P. Singh as spinster. This was objected to by Shri Singh who said:

"I am a bachelor. I am not a spinster."

Immediately then Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh described Shri Vishvjit P. Singh as chronic bachelor whom Shri Vishvjit P. Singh replied:

"I may spring a surprise on you, Bir Bhadraj. You never know."

"When!?", wanted to know Shri Jagesh Desai. But not in a mood to answer him Shri Vishvjit P. Singh said:

"Sir, now, I want to wind up the whole thing."

An hon. member, however, asked wittily:

"Including your bachelorship?"

\*Shri R. Ramakrishnan.

\*\*Smt. Margaret Alva.

### Wishful thinking

Shri P. Upendra was putting supplementaries on a question relating to the Doordarshan coverage of Mahanadu held at Hyderabad. While making a reply, Shri V. N. Gadgil,\* assured the member that when his party (Telugu Desam) celebrates its centenary,\*\* it would be given the same time on Doordarshan as Congress (I).

Shri Satyanarayan Reddy interrupted him by remarking:

"By that time you will not be there, the Congress Government will not be there."

Shri P. Upendra had a dig at the Minister:

"Sir, the Minister is speaking as if he is just born. I can wish him hundred years of life if he is just born. But he has already passed his fifties or sixties."

Shri V. N. Gadgil quipped:

"Not sixties. I pray both of us will be there."

### Wordy duel

Three members, Sarvashri V. Gopalsamy, M. Kalyanasundaram and R. Mohanarangam made special mentions regarding police firing on agitating fishermen in Madras. During the debate on the special 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:

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

The Deputy Chairman\*\*\* then cryptically remarked:

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

\*Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting.

\*\*Formed in 1983.

\*\*\*Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.



### Wordy pollution

During the question hour Shri S. W. Dhabe had put a supplementary to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests\* 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 prompted the Chairman to advise Shri Jaswant Singh as under:

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

### 'Yes' means 'No'

During the question hour, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare\*\*\* was answering a question on the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. The answer given by her was not clear to some members. Perhaps in a spirit of helping fellow members Shri K. C. Pant clarified that when a lady said 'no' she meant 'yes' and her 'yes' meant 'no'.

The Chairman† thereupon reacted as follows:

"You are talking as the poet says: In the veil of yes there is always a no.††"

\*Shri Z. R. Ansari.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.

\*\*\*Miss Kumudben Joshi.

†Shri M. Hidayatullah.

††*Ikrar ke parade main inkar ki batain hain.*

### Young again

A question was asked by Shri A. G. Kulkarni on the resource gap in the Plan. Pointing out to the resource gap Shri Kulkarni expressed his doubt about Government's capacity to tackle the situation. To this Shri Sukh Ram\* replied:

"Sir, I do not know how the hon. member has inferred that I do not want to take the House into confidence. The hon. member is an old member. He knows about...."

This remark of the Minister led to the following mirthful exchange in the House:

AN HON. MEMBER: A senior member.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Senior and old, both.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I recently underwent a bypass surgery and I am quite young.

### Young in spirit and heart

Shri A. G. Kulkarni was making his special mention in the House about the cultural *melas* organised by the Government in the country. He observed that he did not approve the idea of spending money on these *melas* while people had no water to drink and there was drought in many parts of the country. Talking about the culture of austerity Shri Kulkarni addressed the Chairman thus:

"Sir, what I want to say is that we carried on, we men of the older generation like you, and we know what sort of culture was there when Mahatma Gandhi was there."

MR. CHAIRMAN:\*\* I am not old.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are 72.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am only 27.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are young in spirit and heart. That is what I take.

\*Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning.

\*\*Shri R. Venkataraman.



### Zoologist elected Deputy Chairman

When Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla was elected Deputy Chairman a second time,\* She was offered felicitations in the House by leaders of various parties and groups. Some interesting excerpts from the debates are reproduced below:

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: ...With Najma as the Deputy Chairperson I am sure she will be as impartial as fair and she will be as charming as she is beautiful in the Chair...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: You are inviting trouble from the other beauties.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ...In addition to the irresistible charm she has, she is very tactful too.

...When some members like me came new to the House, we had the privilege of being guided by her and she knew the art of moulding the ebullient and the irrepressible. And I think I can share the secret also. Whenever she found somebody was going to be troublesome, she used to call him or her for dinner in her house...

SHRI BAPU KALDATE: That we were not knowing!

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ...and she used to feed us fully with *biryani* and *firnis* and the next day we almost felt sleepy. But we have graduated from that position now and no amount of *biryani* and *firnis* would do anything to us and we will not be influenced by that.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी उस दिन हमने विदाई दी थी आज हम बधाई दे रहे हैं। यह सुखद संयोग है कि विदाई लेने वाली भी महिला थीं और बधाई लेने वाली भी महिला हैं।

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day we gave farewell \*\* and today we are giving congratulations. It is, of course, a happy coincidence that the receiver of the farewell was a lady and the receiver of the congratulations is also a lady.]

श्री सभापति: हम आपको भी बधाई देना चाहते हैं।

\*On November 18, 1988.

\*\*Reference to the farewell given to Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, former Deputy Chairman.

[Mr. Chairman\*: We want to congratulate you too.]

श्री रऊफ वलीउल्लाह: वह दिन कब आयेगा?

[Shri Raoof Valiullah: When will that day come?]

श्री सभापति: वह समझ गये। हम सोचते थे अमेरिका से आयेगे तो बधाई देगे।

[Mr. Chairman: He has got it, we were waiting to congratulate him on his return from the U.S.A.]

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: महिला का स्थान महिला ने लिया है यह संतोष का विषय हो सकता है मगर बहुत आनन्द का विषय नहीं है आनन्द तो तभी होगा जब कोई महिला पुरुष का स्थान लेगी। नाजमा जी की वापसी है। जब वह पहले उपसभापति थीं मैं इस सदन का सदस्य नहीं था लेकिन दूसरे सदन में बैठ कर उनकी तारीफ सुना करता था।...

नाजमा जी ऊँचे खानदान से हैं, पुराने खानदान से हैं। खानदान ऊँचा है, मगर परिधान आधुनिक है। ऐसा लगता है कि वे दो युगों का मेल करती हैं। उन्होंने जूलाजी में एम० ए० किया है और कार्डियोथोरैसिक में उन्होंने डाक्टरेट किया है। वे वैज्ञानिक हैं। इतनी विद्या सम्पन्न महिला राजनीति में आ गई, कम आती हैं।

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: A lady has taken over from a lady, this may be a matter of satisfaction but not a matter of great delight. It would be a matter of delight when a woman takes over from a man. Najmaji has come back to occupy her previous office. Earlier when she was the Deputy Chairperson, I was not a member of this House but even then while sitting in the other House I had the opportunity to hear people praise her...

Najmaji hails from a noble family, an old family. Though she comes of a veteran family yet her attire is modern. As if she combines the two different eras. She has done her M.A. in Zoology and secured her Doctorate in Cardio-Thoracic. She is a scientist. A learned lady like her rarely joins politics.]

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: जैसे सभापति जी है।

[Shri Lal K. Advani: Like our *Sabha Patiji*.]

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी भी अपवादों में हैं। लेकिन मुझे इसलिए खुशी है कि वे भोपाल से संबंधित हैं। महाराष्ट्र वाले भले ही उन पर दावा करें, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश वाले उन पर दावा छोड़ने वाले नहीं हैं। भोपाल तालों की नगरी है और बम्बई में सागर है।

\*Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.



[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: *Sabhapati* is also an exception. But I am happy that she belongs to Bhopal. Maharashtrians may present their claim on her but the people of Madhya Pradesh are not going to relinquish their claim on her. Bhopal is a city of ponds and there is a sea at Bombay.]

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: ये लड़की को छोड़ना नहीं चाहते हैं, बहू हमारी होते हुए भी।

Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav: They do not want to leave their daughter in spite of her being the daughter-in-law of ours.]

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सागर में विस्तार है, मगर सागर में कमल पैदा नहीं होता कमल पैदा करने के लिए तो भोपाल में आना पड़ेगा। मैं नाजमा जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। हम लोग उनके साथ पूरा सहयोग करेंगे, यह आश्वासन देना चाहते हैं। अगर हमें पहले पता लग जाता कि नाजमा जी सत्ता पक्ष की उम्मीदवार होने वाली हैं तो शायद इस बात की माँग करते हुए भी कि हमसे पूछो, हमारी राय लो, हम मान लेते। लेकिन उन्होंने सलाह भी नहीं दिखाई। जब मैंने अपने मित्रों से पूछा कि हमारी तरफ से किस का नाम था तो नाम था श्री लक्ष्मणा जी का। महिलाओं के मामले में लक्ष्मण को लाना ठीक नहीं है। अगर जरूरी ही था तो हम महिषी जी को ला सकते थे, फिर मुकाबला हो जाता लेकिन मुकाबले की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी।

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Sea's expanse may be great. But Lotus does not grow in the sea. One has to come to Bhopal to grow Lotus. I would like to congratulate Najmaji. We would give her full cooperation; this assurance we would like to give her. If we could have known it earlier that Najmaji was going to be a candidate of the ruling party, probably, we would have agreed to her candidature, of course, still demanding that we should be consulted in the matter. But they did not consult us. When I asked my friends about the name from our side I was told the name of Shri Laxmanna, and in case of ladies it was not proper to bring in Lakshman. If it was necessary, we could bring Mahishiji\*, then contest could have been there. But the need of contest did not arise.]

\*Reference to another lady member.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that Najmaji has become the Deputy Chairman of this House. I know her since last twenty-five years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fifty-five years?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I said that I know her for the last twenty-five years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you said 'fifty-five'.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Don't increase her age.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, we have worked together in Bombay. I have seen her quality. She has a very intelligent and a very tactful attitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Attitude? I thought you said 'husband'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since she has been in touch with the methods and moods of this House. I am quite sure that she will be able to soften the ruffled tempers by her tact and charm. I once again congratulate her and wish success in office of Deputy Chairman.

DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Sir, yesterday Mr. Gurupadaswamy said that I should be on his side. Sir, as a Presiding Officer, I certainly cannot take sides, but I assure him I will be beside him\*

Sir, last time the Prime Minister was here when I was elected. He said in his speech that I should spill over the charm that I have to the members with whom you have brought me to sit. It is a long time—almost four years. I do not know how much charm is left in me...

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Still a lot is there.

DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA: ...but whatever is left, I would definitely spill it all over the House. Sir, Mr. Upendra disclosed a

\*\*Deputy Chairman when not presiding sits next to the leader of the opposition.



closely guarded secret which happened behind the scenes in the chambers and he said that the *biryani* and *firis* made them go to sleep. But now that he has grown out of it, I will have to think of some other measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To make him sleep.

DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Perhaps if I am not being quoted later on, I would not use the drugs, but may be I will have to use some other methods to keep him quiet.



