



WELCOME
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

	PAGES
PREFACE	(iii)
Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (<i>Term of office:</i> 13.5.1952 to 12.5.1957 and 13.5.1957 to 12.5.1962)	
Profile	1
Felicitations offered on 16.5.1952	2
Felicitations offered on 13.5.1957	9
Dr. Zakir Husain (<i>Term of office:</i> 13.5.1962 to 12.5.1967)	
Profile	13
Felicitations offered on 15.6.1962	14
Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri (<i>Term of office:</i> 13.5.1967 to 3.5.1969)	
Profile	23
Felicitations offered on 22.5.1967	24
Shri Gopal Swarup Pathak (<i>Term of office:</i> 31.8.1969 to 30.8.1974)	
Profile	37
Felicitations offered on 17.11.1969	38
Shri Basappa Danappa Jatti (<i>Term of office:</i> 31.8.1974 to 30.8.1979)	
Profile	47
Felicitations offered on 31.8.1974	48
Shri M. Hidayatullah (<i>Term of office:</i> 31.8.1979 to 30.8.1984)	
Profile	63
Felicitations offered on 24.1.1980	64
Shri R. Venkataraman (<i>Term of office:</i> 31.8.1984 to 24.7.1987)	
Profile	73
Felicitations offered on 18.1.1985	74

	PAGES
Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma	
(Term of office: 3.9.1987 to 24.7.1992)	
Profile	83
Felicitations offered on 6.11.1987	84
Shri K.R. Narayanan	
(Term of office: 21.8.1992 to 24.7.1997)	
Profile	97
Felicitations offered on 25.11.1992	99
Shri Krishan Kant	
(Term of office: 21.8.1997 to 27.7.2002)	
Profile	115
Felicitations offered on 26.8.1997	116
Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	
(Term of office: 19.8.2002 to 21.7.2007)	
Profile	133
Felicitations offered on 20.11.2002	134
Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari	
(Term of office: Since 11.8.2007)	
Profile	157
Felicitations offered on 13.8.2007	158

PREFACE

As per the Constitution, the Vice-President of India is also the *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. This constitutional provision has indeed enhanced the dignity and prestige of the Rajya Sabha. Since its inception in 1952, the Rajya Sabha has had many illustrious personalities who have occupied the august office of the Chairman. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, was a great philosopher and statesman. He has had the distinction of being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha twice. He subsequently adorned the office of the President of India. After him, Dr. Zakir Husain, an eminent educationist, became the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He was also subsequently elected as the President of India. The third Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri V.V. Giri, had a rich and varied background as an eminent administrator, statesman as also a famous labour leader. He later rose to become the President of India. Dr. Gopal Swarup Pathak, who succeeded Shri V.V. Giri was an esteemed jurist and a legal luminary, known for his integrity and probity. After Shri Pathak, the august office of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha was occupied by Shri B.D. Jatti, a distinguished administrator, prominent public personality and a renowned social and political worker. He also acted as President of India. Shri M. Hidayatullah, the great jurist and the former Chief Justice of India, was the sixth Chairman of Rajya Sabha, who also acted as President of India. Shri R. Venkataraman, an able and experienced administrator, who later became the President of India, was the seventh Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma was a scholar of eminence and an able administrator. He was the eighth Chairman of Rajya Sabha and later became the President of India. Shri K.R. Narayanan, the ninth Chairman of Rajya Sabha was hailed as a man with wide social sympathy and excelled as an original thinker, statesman, scholar, educationist and diplomat. He later adorned the office of the President of India. Shri Krishan Kant who succeeded Shri Narayanan and became tenth Chairman of Rajya Sabha, was a freedom fighter and a prolific writer. He passed away on 27 July 2002 while still in office. Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, an agriculturist having vast legislative and administrative experience, became the eleventh Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the present Chairman of Rajya Sabha, is a distinguished diplomat, an eminent academician and an ardent advocate of the cause of the minorities.

All of them have enhanced the dignity of the House by conducting its proceedings with judicious combination of firmness, fairness and flexibility. With their erudition and skillful management of the House, they have

remarkably guided the Rajya Sabha in its deliberations and laid down healthy parliamentary traditions, thus securing a unique place for the Rajya Sabha in our democratic polity. They have ensured that Rajya Sabha plays its role, as carved out for it in the Constitution of India, with efficiency and with a determination to secure public good. The role of the Chairman is thus of critical importance in strengthening democratic edifice. Upholding the tenets of justice, equality and fairness, the Chairman ensures that meaningful and substantial deliberations take place in the House without any hindrance or obstruction. While conducting the proceedings of the House as Presiding Officer, the Chairman has to perform the most delicate and vital functions in protecting and balancing the rights of all sections of the House in non-partisan and impartial manner, which is essential for successful functioning of parliamentary democracy. In current political scenario, his task has become more onerous and challenging in the context of the multi-party chamber and formation of coalition Government. This publication is a compilation of the felicitations offered to the Chairmen of Rajya Sabha in the House, and also the Chairmen's response to the felicitations. The speeches contained in the publication have been edited and the portions of the speeches which are not directly linked with the felicitations offered have been removed. The readers are, therefore, advised to see the relevant debates of Rajya Sabha to get the authentic version of the speeches made in the House and the interjections made by the Members. The publication brought out in 1996, has been updated by incorporating the felicitations offered to late Shri Krishan Kant, late Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari when they came to occupy the Chair of the Rajya Sabha in 1997, 2002 and 2007 respectively.

I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by the officers and staff of the LARRDI Service of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, for preparing the manuscript of this publication. Printing and Publications Service of the Secretariat also deserves appreciation for checking the proof of the manuscript and coordinating with the printer and bringing out the publication in its final shape in a record time.

I hope this publication would provide a glimpse of the dynamic role which the Chairman of Rajya Sabha performs as the Presiding Officer of the House. I am sure that those interested in the functioning of our parliamentary institutions will find this publication useful and interesting.

New Delhi;
April 2012

DR. V.K. AGNIHOTRI
Secretary-General;
Rajya Sabha.

FELICITATIONS
TO
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN



DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN

(5.9.1888–17.4.1975)

**Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(13.5.1952–12.5.1957, 13.5.1957–12.5.1962)**

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan : A profile

RADHAKRISHNAN, DR. SARVEPALLI: M.A., D. Litt. (Hony.), LL.D., D.C.L., Litt. D., D.L., F.R.S.L., F.B.A., Hony. Fellow, All Souls College (Oxford), Vidyachakravarti, Pour Le Merite (Germany); s. of Shri S. Veerasamiah; b. September 5, 1888; m. Shrimati S. Sivakamamma; 1 s. and 5 d.; King George V Professor of Philosophy, Calcutta University, 1921-39; Vice- Chancellor, (i) Andhra University, 1931-36 and (ii) Banaras Hindu University, 1939-48; Indian Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to U.S.S.R., 1949-52; President/Chairman, (i) Indian Philosophical Congress, 1927 and 1950, (ii) Executive Board, UNESCO, 1948, (iii) University Education Commission, Government of India, 1948-49, (iv) UNESCO General Conference, 1952-54 and 1958 and (v) Buddha Jayanti Committee, 1956; Author of, (i) Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, (ii) Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy, (iii) Indian Philosophy 2 Vols., (iv) The Hindu View of Life, (v) An Idealist View of Life, (vi) East and West in Religion, (vii) Kalki or the Future of Civilisation, (viii) The Religion We Need, (ix) Gautama the Buddha, (x) Eastern Religions and Western Thought, (xi) India and China, (xii) Religion and Society, (xiii) Education, Politics and War, (xiv) Bhagavadgita, (xv) Dhammapada, (xvi) The Principal Upanishads, (xvii) East and West: Some Reflections, (xviii) Recovery of Faith, (xix) A Source Book of Indian Philosophy, 1957, (xx) The Brahma Sutra, (xxi) Occasional Speeches and Writings, and (xxii) Articles on Indian Philosophy in Encyclopaedia Britannica; Recipient of Bharat Ratna, 1954; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13.5.1952 to 12.5.1957 and 13.5.1957 to 12.5.1962; President of India, 13.5.1962 to 12.5.1967; Died. Obit. on 25.4.1975.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Radhakrishnan on 16 May 1952

The Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, during the last two or three days we have been engaged on various ceremonials in this House and in the other House. Members have taken the pledges and oaths of service. It is right that we should go through these ceremonials; they have a definite meaning. And now we start, in both these Houses, on our real work. Before we do so, with your permission, Sir, I should like to say a few words, not of congratulation to you on occupying this high office, but rather of congratulation to the House that we have the privilege of having you here to guide the deliberations of this House as well as, if I may say so, to help us in a multitude of ways in another high capacity.

We are both old and new in this country and in these Legislatures. We have, I suppose, some fund of old experience and wisdom, if not in each individual, at least in the corporate sense. Nevertheless we face new situations and new problems, and the world itself rapidly changes, and it is not an easy matter to keep pace with those changing events either in our own country or in the world. At such a moment one requires many things. One requires some roots in our ancient wisdom and experience of a race through thousands of years; one requires at least as much a certain capacity to understand this changing world, to understand its new problems, to adapt ourselves to them: in other words, to interpret the fundamentals of wisdom in a new environment and for the new demands of the situation. I doubt if one can easily think of any other individual who combines those two great qualities in himself more than you do, Sir, because you bring to this great task an intimate knowledge of the wisdom of our race, or the accumulated experience of our race—call it what you will. You bring also an intimate knowledge of the modern world and its movements and its problems.

You have occupied high positions in many fields. You are an educationist; you are a philosopher; and you have been, recently, a diplomat; and in that particular position also you distinguished yourself and did great service to this country, and, if I may say so, you contributed somewhat to that vast problem of today, perhaps the overriding problem of today—the maintenance of peace in the world.

Therefore, Sir, you come to us with this background and experience and insight and knowledge of affairs in the East and the West, in the past and the present, and with some vision of the future, and I do not think our country could have been more fortunate than to have you in this high position. Therefore, I beg with all respect to congratulate you on having come to this high position, and to congratulate this House and Parliament in general and the country that we have the privilege of having you there.

Shri P. Sundarayya: Mr. Chairman, we on behalf of the Communist Party of India who have been elected by the representatives of the people in the State Assemblies and who are present here congratulate you. We are glad that you are occupying this Chair, because you have won the confidence of not only the Congress Party but of all other democratic parties in the country, which has been shown in your unanimous election as the Vice-President of India. We have been following your multifarious activities in the interests of the country, first as an educationist and philosopher, and later as the Ambassador of India in the Soviet Union, our great neighbour. We are glad that you represented our people and our great country and explained to the whole world that we, Indian people, are for maintaining world peace. You have rendered a great service, and we feel pleasure and pride that you are presiding over this House. We hope and we are confident that you will see that the deliberations of this House are conducted properly and the privileges of this House are maintained.

Shri C. G. K. Reddy: Sir, I have the greatest pleasure in associating myself on behalf of the Socialist Party with the sentiments that have been already expressed. I should have thought that it would not have been necessary to congratulate you because the whole country has in fact congratulated you in the sense that you have been elected to this high office unanimously. All the same, I should like to express on behalf of the Socialist Party our congratulations and we are sure that as the Chairman of this House, you will be able to—and I hope that you will—maintain the dignity of this House and control the deliberations in such a way that every section of opinion and every section of the Members present here would be able to express themselves, so that this House would set standards of dignity and decorum, probably a little higher than those of the Lower House.

Shri B. C. Ghose: Sir, on behalf of the K.M.P. Party* I should like to associate myself fully with the glowing tributes that have been paid to you by the Prime Minister. You will permit me to recall with a thrill the occasion when as a student in the London University I had the privilege of hearing you in the London University where a large number of students attended and loudly applauded you. Coming from West Bengal, I also take special pride in the fact that you were long associated with the Calcutta University

* Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party.

as the Professor of Philosophy there. It is extremely fortunate that we have you here as our presiding officer, for, I am certain that we shall have justice with an even hand and that we shall carry on the deliberations of this House under conditions which would move justice and equity to every section of this House.

Shri H. D. Rajah: Sir, I am extremely happy that the Prime Minister has congratulated you today. The point is that we have been here for the last four days and you have been elected to this honoured place by a unanimous choice inasmuch as the other parties in this country did not set up a candidate to oppose you. That itself shows that the entire nation looks upon you, not as a party man, but as a custodian of the rights and interests of the people in the country. As a great philosopher who is truly Indian, whose outlook is Indian and who will conduct and guide us in the true Indian spirit, so that the people who speak multifarious languages, who are of multifarious sub-races, who are in every aspect Indian to the core and whose culture and civilisation are deep-rooted for centuries in this country, and as an honourable and great citizen of our country, we look to you to guide the deliberations of this House in the true Indian style and tradition. With these few words I congratulate you, Sir, on this high office to which you have been elected and I hope that you will mete out fairness and justice to all the Members of this House.

Shri S. Mahanty: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Ganatantra Parishad may I join with others in paying my tributes for the high office that you have been elected to? May I say that in your achievements probably you are the nearest approximation to the Philosopher-King of Platonic ideal? To my reckoning, Sir, the sole purpose of this House is to bestow a certain amount of objective thought on the deliberations and legislations of the House of the People, who being directly elected, probably are subjective to a greater extent and therefore to my mind, Sir, none could have been better able than your esteemed self to preside over the deliberations of this great House where impassioned objectivity should be the guiding principle. With these humble words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Janab M. Muhammad Ismail Saheb: Sir, on behalf of the Muslim League Party I wish to say that though I happen to be the only Member here of the Muslim League Party, my words are all the same as earnest as earnestness can be in the matter of congratulating you. I have great pleasure in associating myself with the words of praise that have fallen from the mouths of the previous speakers. Sir, you as a great educationist, a philosopher and a diplomat, have rendered distinguished service outside the field of Legislatures of the country and it is really our great good fortune that we have been able to secure your high services in the field of Legislature, particularly for guiding the deliberations of this august House. It is really congratulating ourselves, as was said by the honourable

Prime Minister, and not so much a matter of congratulating you. Sir, I join the others in the proud privilege of tendering our heartfelt praise to you and heartfelt thanks for securing your services for guiding the deliberations of this honourable House.

Shri S. Banerjee: On behalf of the Forward (Marxist) Bloc, I join my voice with the chorus of encomiums that have been showered upon you. Sir, congratulating you is superfluous. It is like painting a lily. You, Sir, are a philosopher and a statesman. You possess the wisdom of the past, the knowledge of the present and a vision of the future. We hope and trust that with that vision you will raise the dignity of this House before the world as it deserves and I am sure you will hold the balance even between all the parties and groups and the rights of the minorities will not be neglected at your hands. With these few words, I congratulate you once more and thereby congratulate ourselves.

Shri H. N. Kunzru: Mr. Chairman, the House is particularly fortunate in having you to guide its deliberations, for who could have believed a few months ago that you would agree to occupy the position for which you have been unanimously chosen? Our Constitution provides for the election of a Vice-President and so seeks to resemble the Constitution of the United States of America. But there is a vast difference between the position of the Vice-President in India and that of the Vice-President in the United States. While in the United States the Vice-President may be called upon in an emergency to take the position of the President permanently, here the permanent work of the Vice-President is to be the Chairman of the Council of States and he will only incidentally be called upon to act as the President of India for a short period, should an unfortunate emergency compel him to do so. Here he is the Chairman of the Council of States. It would be more correct to say that the position according to our Constitution is that the Chairman of the Council of States is asked to act as the President of India when that position falls vacant. In the United States, however, the Vice-President is asked to preside incidentally over the Senate. Your experience and wisdom, I should have thought, would have been used for greater purposes more beneficial to the nation. We, however, are glad that a person of your eminence and of your ripe wisdom has been chosen to guide us in the work that we shall be called upon to do. As the Prime Minister has said, you combine in yourself the best that the East and the West have to offer. We could not have made a better choice. I am, therefore, very glad that, although you will not have many opportunities of utilising your grasp of fundamental principles and your knowledge of the modern world for the good of the nation, a person of your exceptional qualifications will guide us in the initial stages. I congratulate you also, Sir, on your modesty in having agreed to act as the Chairman of this Council.

Principal Devaprasad Ghosh: Sir, I have much pleasure in associating myself with the very proper chorus of congratulations that have been

showered upon you, and upon this great House on its great good fortune in having a man of your stature and calibre to guide its deliberations.

Speaking on behalf of the Jana Sangha, an organization that cherishes the noble ideals of Indian culture, I welcome you all the more, Mr. Chairman, as our Vice-President, as you are an embodiment of Indian culture. We are on the threshold of a great era. But India stands at the present moment, despite the traditions of her hoary culture and civilization, in a state most perilous and dangerous. In fact, she is in danger of being swept off her feet by the impact of alien cries and crazes. In the midst of this slippery slope on which India stands today, the presence of a man like yourself, standing like a rock of Indian cultural traditions, is a great solace and inspiration to us all.

I hope, Sir, you will not take it amiss if I strike a more particularistic, or if I may say so, parochial or provincial note. I come from Bengal, and I make bold to say that if Madras claims you as her son, Bengal claims you as her foster-son. Mother Bengal is proud to have such a distinguished foster-son of hers in the present high position that you have been called upon to occupy. The Calcutta University to which I have the honour to belong looks upon you as one of its ornaments. In fact, up till now, whatever situation providence has called upon you to fill, there has been no situation that you filled but did not adorn; and I am sure and confident that the very exalted station that you have now been called upon to occupy will be no exception.

May God shower His choicest blessings upon you.

Shri D. D. Italia: *Mr. Chairman, I heartily congratulate you on your election to the Vice-Presidency of India by virtue of which you are at this time acting as Chairman of this House. Parsis are the smallest community in India. I, as a member of this community, feel great pleasure in congratulating you. I am sure your high education, great experience and charming behaviour will stand you in great stead in giving us the right lead to solve the problems with which this House may have to deal. Members of every community and sect will, I am sure, be equally treated by you and given full opportunities to express themselves before this House. With these words I again congratulate you, Sir.

Dr. Kalidas Nag: With your permission, Sir, I wish to say a few words. India is a country not belonging to any province, but there is a greater India also. For the last quarter of a century, I wish to remind my honourable colleagues, that Dr. Radhakrishnan has not belonged to any province or any particular country. He has passed through five continents. I bring this fact before my colleagues that there is a world outside, which is looking to our Legislature, because we have the great tradition of Mahatma Gandhi who

*English translation of the Urdu speech.

belonged not only to India but also to the whole world. The downtrodden millions of the world, for whom Mahatma Gandhi laid down his life, are looking to us. India possesses a great tradition which was admirably espoused by him in his life time and Radhakrishnan presents a picture of Gandhi to this outside world.

श्रीमती शारदा भार्गव: अध्यक्ष महोदय, यद्यपि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने आपको सदन की ओर से बधाई दे दी है और इसके बाद अन्य सदस्यों को अलग-अलग बधाई देने की विशेष आवश्यकता नहीं रह जाती है फिर भी मैं इस परिषद् की महिलाओं की ओर से, जो कि यहां तो अल्प संख्या में हैं परन्तु देश की आधी जनसंख्या का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करती हूं। हमारे देश का महिला-वर्ग पिछड़ा हुआ है किन्तु हमें आशा है कि हम लोग आपकी अध्यक्षता में कार्य करके इसे उन्नति की ओर अग्रसर कर सकेंगी।

आपका निर्विरोध चुना जाना ही यह सिद्ध करता है कि देश के सभी वर्ग तथा समुदाय आपको इस पद के लिये सबसे योग्य समझते हैं अतः हमें गर्व है कि हमें आप जैसे योग्य व्यक्ति की अध्यक्षता में कार्य करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

मैं एक बार फिर आपका अभिनन्दन करती हूं तथा बधाई देती हूं।

Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo: Sir, I rise to congratulate you again with all my heart on behalf of the Ganatantra Parishad. I have heard, Sir, both in the Oxford University and in the Cambridge University the description of the "Walking Encyclopaedia of Indian Philosophy" attributed to you. In my opinion it is a title which should justly belong to such a distinguished person as yourself who combines in himself the wisdom of the East and all the experience of the West. In you we see today the embodiment of all that is good, all that is just, all that is impartial. It is my earnest hope that this august body will under your inspiration see our philosophy translated into true life, so that in this great Republic we shall truly see the rule of the people, for the people, by the people and so that the great maxim of *vox populi, vox Dei*, आवाजे खल्क नक्कारा-ए-खुदा, (*Awaze khalk naqqara-e khuda*), पंचमुख परमेश्वरमुखं (*Panchmukh Parameshwarmukham*) will again be achieved truly in all our lives.

With these words I offer you, Sir, my heartiest congratulations.

Dr. (Smt.) Seeta Parmanand: Sir, I do not like to add anything to what has been so eloquently expressed by the Prime Minister. I would just like to say what is in the minds of so many, that your noble example of humility, we should follow, as someone else has expressed. I would not congratulate you, Sir, because I feel it is we who should be congratulated. We who have come to this House have to bear in mind that we should try to serve the country rather than try to serve ourselves by securing some offices and places. We should try to serve rather than try to see what percentages, what places as office-bearers, we get on different committees.

Mr. Chairman: Members of the Council, I am greatly moved by the very generous words used by the Prime Minister and those who followed him and also by the cordial way in which the House received those words.

I belong to no party, and that means I belong to every party in this House. It shall be my endeavour to uphold the traditions, the highest traditions, of parliamentary democracy and act towards every party with fairness and impartiality, with ill-will to none and good-will to all.

A democracy is distinguished by the protection it gives to minorities. A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticise fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But at the same time minorities have also their responsibilities. While they have every right to criticise, their right of criticism should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament. All groups, therefore, have their rights, and have their responsibilities. And if we recognise them and act in their spirit I have no doubt we will be able to build up great traditions for this Council of States, which will be helpful to all sections of the Council.

Generally, in the rules, etc. that we have here, we take for our model the British Parliament and the conventions that have grown through centuries of parliamentary life in Great Britain. But we have to adapt them to our needs. We have to recognise the growth of public opinion, we have to be sensitive to it and we must try to adapt those conventions to our own needs. I remember a statement which Lord Balfour once made, that hell was probably a place where the only reading matter was the file of Hansard! We should not be bound down by everything that is laid down in Hansard. We should use our intelligence and try to develop traditions which are in consonance with our past and responsive to our needs.

There is a general impression that this House cannot make or unmake governments and, therefore, it is a superfluous body. But there are functions which a revising chamber can fulfil fruitfully. Parliament is not only a legislative but a deliberative body. So far as its deliberative functions are concerned it will be open to us to make very valuable contributions, and it will depend on our work whether we justify or do not justify this two-Chamber system which is now an integral part of our Constitution. So it is a test to which we are submitted. We are for the first time starting, under the new parliamentary system, with a Second Chamber in the Centre, and we should try to do everything in our power to justify to the public of this country that a Second Chamber is essential to prevent hasty legislation. We should discuss with dispassion and detachment proposals put before us.

I do hope that we will all work together inspired by the one great ideal of a better life and a richer life for the ordinary people of this country.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Radhakrishnan on 13 May 1957

The Leader of the House, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, it is my privilege to tender very respectful and cordial felicitations to you on your unopposed election as the Vice-President of India, on behalf of the Members of this House and also my own. You have filled this office with unique distinction. In fact, you have shed lustre on every office occupied by you. The millions living in this country have the benefit of your mellowed and mature wisdom and scholarship. You have carried to all parts of the globe the ennobling message of non-violence, truth, fellowship and friendliness on behalf of this ancient land. It is a matter of legitimate pride to us that the deliberations of this House are guided and regulated by you. You have treated every Member of this House with tender consideration and even affection. The proceedings of the House have been conducted by you with unerring dignity, grace, imperturbable patience and, if I may say so, gentleness. The rights and privileges of the Members of this House and of everyone of us are in your safe keeping, and we could not have thought of a better and safer custodian and guardian. I am confident that the proceedings of this House will bear your impress in the future as they have done in the past. It will be the unanimous prayer of all of us that you may be spared for many years to come and that under your guidance this House may gain further strength and prove equal to the confidence that has been reposed in it and in its Members by the country. I, Sir, with great humility wish you and this House godspeed and success.

Dr. R. B. Gour: Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party, I join the honourable the Leader of the House in greeting you as our Chairman again after the last five years. We have also shared the benefit of your benevolence as the Chairman of this House.

With these few words, I congratulate you again.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: श्रीमान्, आज इस पवित्र और महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर इस सदन के लीडर के साथ मैं भी, सिर्फ बाजाबता तौर पर नहीं लेकिन हृदय से, हार्दिक रूप से, अपनी बधाई आपको देना चाहता हूँ।

बहुत बार ऐसा होता है कि ऊंचे पद के लिये उसी तरह का ऊंचा आदमी मिलना मुश्किल होता है, कभी-कभी हम ऐसा देखते हैं कि व्यक्ति बहुत ऊंचा मिल जाता है और पद उतना ऊंचा नहीं हो पाता है, कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि पद जितना ऊंचा है व्यक्ति उतना ऊंचा नहीं है। इस पद

का और आपके व्यक्तित्व का जो सोने और सुगन्ध का संयोग हुआ है यह हमारे लिये गर्व का विषय है। अपने व्यक्तित्व के जरिये से, अपनी विद्वता के जरिये से, अपने व्यवहार के जरिये से—मैंने देखा इस पिछले एक वर्ष में जब से कि मैं इस सदन का सदस्य रहा हूँ—आपने सब की श्रद्धा, सबकी भक्ति, सब का प्रेम हासिल किया है और आप को देखने के बाद भारतीय परम्परा की वह कड़ी ज्यों की त्यों मालूम होती है जिसका वर्णन हम पहले से पढ़ते रहे हैं। आधुनिकता और परम्परा का ऐसा सम्मिश्रण शायद ही कहीं देखने को मिलता हो। इसलिये इस पद पर आपको फिर पा कर हमारे हर्ष का ठिकाना नहीं है। आपको देखने के बाद जो प्राचीन भारतीय नेतृत्व का चित्र था वह आज हमारे सामने आ जाता है जिस का वर्णन किया गया था, “अग्रतश्चतुरो वेदान पृष्ठतः सशरं धनु”, कह कर।

वही चित्र, वही परम्परा आज भी कायम मालूम होती है, और उसमें आधुनिकता का जो सम्मिश्रण हुआ है वह हमारे लिये, हमारे देश के लिये गर्व की वस्तु है।

मैं इन शब्दों में श्रद्धा के साथ अपनी बधाई अर्पित करता हूँ।

Shri V. K. Dhage: Sir, on behalf of myself and the Democratic Party in this House, I join with the Leader of the House and the other friends here in offering felicitations to you for having been elected uncontested to this high office. Amongst other things that I have felt mostly, I would say that you as the Chairman of the House never allowed anyone in the Opposition to feel that you have been partial in any way in the matter of giving the rulings. We will be maintained and that we need not be afraid of anything. You have in this House lent charm, grace and dignity on very many occasions. Your sense of humour sometimes—probably many times—had dissolved many an intricate position here. Sir, I am confident and we, being in the Opposition, feel secure that our rights and privileges will be completely protected by you.

Once again, I congratulate you.

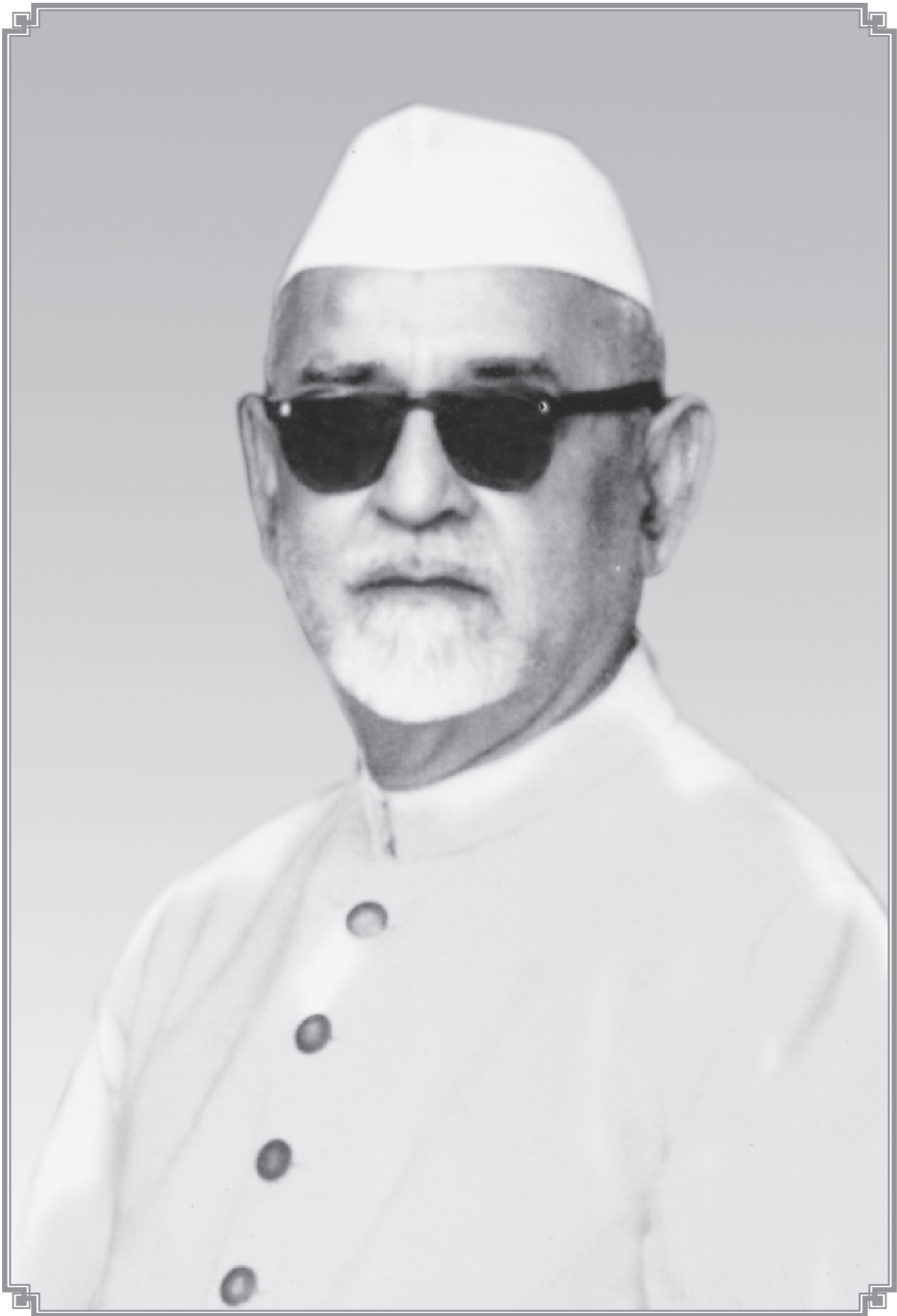
श्रीमती सावित्री निगम: श्रीमन्, संसद् की महिला सदस्यों की ओर से अपने सदन के सम्माननीय नेता के साथ ही अपनी भावनायें आपको बधाई देने के लिये अर्पित करते हुए मुझे अपार हर्ष हो रहा है। श्रीमन्, इन दिनों में, जबकि हम देश का नव-निर्माण करने जा रहे हैं विभिन्न नई सामाजिक विधियों की रचना कर रहे हैं, उस समय आपके समान न्याययुक्त और समदर्शी अध्यक्ष पाकर हमारा हृदय खुशी से बहुत ही प्रफुल्लित है। एक बार मैं फिर से महिला सदस्यों की ओर से आपको हृदय से बधाई देती हूँ।

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, I am grateful to you for your kind words about my conduct as Chairman of this House. If I have been successful in that matter, it is not due so much to me as to the co-operation and goodwill and affection which have been extended to me by all Members of this House. It is quite true, being a smaller House, I know almost all the Members, I know their parentage, surroundings, neighbourhood and other things and so they trust me and I trust them and that policy has worked for the good behaviour of both the Chairman and the Members.

I would like to extend a very hearty welcome to the new Members who have been admitted today. They are men of great experience and wisdom, and they have come to us with stored-doubt that their contributions to our discussions will raise the level of our debates. I have no objection to anybody criticising frankly and freely. Only I hope that they will do so with charity to their opponents. So long as they do it, anybody has the right to express his opinions as strongly and as loudly as one wishes to do.

In the present state of our affairs, the work of our Parliament is of great importance. We have defined our ideals. We are politically sovereign. We have the framework of a democratic Constitution. We have defined our goal as a socialist order. We hope to create a new society. These are our ideals. If they are to become realities, certain conditions are required. We may, with pardonable and justified pride, say that we have done some work. The integration of States, the land reforms, the construction of dams, hydro-electric projects, scientific laboratories and our efforts for peace in the international world, all these stand to our credit. But we should also realise that we cannot afford to be smug and complacent. We cannot live in a world of make-believe. As a people we tend to deceive ourselves a great deal. It is necessary for us to note the warnings that have been given to us, the demoralisation that has set in, which has come out in the recent elections—the caste spirit, the communal passions and the craze for power, personal ambitions, all these are there. We seem to be victims of too many small loyalties. If we are to realize our goal, we have to institute a search into ourselves and realize that we are divided not by external forces but by our own inward nature. The call is for an improvement in the quality of ourselves. We need hard thinking and self-examination. That is what is necessary. The conditions in the country cannot be allowed to drift. This is the time for dynamic, vigorous, courageous, imaginative leadership. If that is not given in this period of five years, our position at the end will be worse than what it happens to be today.

We are celebrating the Buddha Purnima today. For 2,500 years the Buddha has stood as an example of human nobility and moral purity. We have to absorb the lessons of his life and act in an unselfish manner, and try to promote the interests not of our parties but of our people. I hope this Council will contribute to the improvement of the general situation by restoring standards and values in public life. Thank you.



DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN

(8.2.1897–3.5.1969)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(13.5.1962–12.5.1967)

Zakir Husain: A profile

ZAKIR HUSAIN, DR.: M.A., Ph.D. (Berlin), D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Delhi, Aligarh, Allahabad, Calcutta and Cairo); s. of Shri Fida Husain; b. February 8, 1897; m. Shrimati Shahjehan Begum; 2 d.; Vice-Chancellor, (i) Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, 1926–48 and (ii) Aligarh Muslim University, 1948–56; President, Hindustani Talimi Sangh Sevagram, 1938–50; Chairman, (i) Basic National Education Committee, 1937, (ii) International Students Service, India Committee, 1955, (iii) World University Service, Geneva, 1955–57 and (iv) Central Board of Secondary Education, 1957; Author of, (i) *Shiksha* (Hindi), (ii) *Capitalism: an essay in understanding*, (iii) Urdu translations of—(a) *Plato's Republic*, (b) *Fredrich List's National System of Economics* and (c) *Edwin Cannan's Elements of Economics*, (iv) *Lectures on the Scope and Method of Economics* (Hindustani Academy, U.P.), (v) *Educational Discourses* (Urdu), (vi) *Principles of Educational Reconstruction* Patel Memorial Lectures, (vii) *Ethics and the State* (Mavalankar Memorial Lecture) and (viii) *The Dynamic University and Abbokhan Ki Bakri* (Urdu); Recipient of, (i) Padma Vibhushan, 1954 and (ii) Bharat Ratna, 1963; Member, Rajya Sabha, 3-4-1952 to 2-4-1956 and 3-4-1956 to 6-7-1957; Governor of Bihar, 1957-62; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13-5-1962 to 12-5-1967; President of India, 13-5-1967 to 3-5-1969; Died. Obit. on 5-5-1969.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Zakir Husain on 15 June 1962

The Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:
Mr. Chairman, I heartily congratulate you on your election as the Vice-President of India and as a corollary to that, as the Chairman of this House. Sir, the highest honour which this country can confer on any of its citizens is the Presidentship and next to that is the Vice-Presidentship which this country has conferred on you because you are recognised by this country as a patriot, as a learned man, possessing abilities and efficiency of every kind. You had been most fit for the Vice-Presidentship of this country and, therefore, it elected you. I am going to quote a Persian proverb in this connection. I will translate it. There is a Persian proverb:

حق به حقدار رسيد //

Rise reaches one who deserves it. It just applies to the election of our Chairman as the Vice-President of India.

Sir, I can say much about you but I do not want to take much time because so many other honourable Members of this House would like to say something about you. Therefore, briefly I will go into a few points about you.

First of all, I mention your career of studentship, how in the M.A.O. College where you were receiving education, you were respected by all the students and by the staff because of your brilliance and ability that you exhibited in various ways there as a student. After that I come to a point which concerns more with your service to the country, I mean your service in Jamia Millia. It is too well known in the country that in consultation with Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom movement, the institution was started, which was named Jamia Millia, which meant the University of the Nation. Education is imparted there on national lines. I am mentioning that because of one thing. The pay of the staff there was very low. The staff could not meet both ends with the salary which they used to get. Anyone who used to go to serve there had to make a sacrifice and had to court inconveniences of life and you, Sir, accepted to be the Head of that institution. You served there as the Sheikhul Jamia. The Vice-Chancellor or the Chancellor was called the Sheikhul Jamia. There you spent years and years and you made so many improvements. You introduced so many branches of teaching there and at the same time you provided a very nice building for it which is existing—which is a very splendid building—in Okhla. I have seen that so many times. So, for the sake of the country you adopted and accepted a

life of sacrifice and you worked there hard not for good money, not for any high salary but only for the sake of the country. After that you became the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University. There also you rendered a very splendid service to that University. There were so many difficulties and so many problems which required solutions, wise solutions and you were able to meet every situation which arose there. You enlarged the scope of the University by adding so many things to it for the purpose of education; also so many buildings were constructed there during your Vice-Chancellorship.

Then I go further and say a few words about your Governorship in Bihar. Personally I have no experience but from your example I came to know that Governors also can make themselves very popular among the public. For the first time I noticed this in your case. What I heard from the members of the Government of Bihar and also from the members of the public was very good about you. They said: "He possessed such a good reputation, he is very popular, he is loved by them for his character and ability and for the manner in which he conducted himself there as a Governor, etc." Lastly I attended a meeting here which was held in Delhi in which all the Biharis who are residing in Delhi were collected and I was invited there. There the speeches were made both by the Chief Minister and by the members of the public. On hearing those speeches, I formed the opinion that probably no Governor might have been so popular and so beloved to the people as yourself. This much about the Bihar Governorship.

Now about the Chairmanship of this House. This is a House which is a very dignified House. It serves and performs very elaborate duties and it has its own traditions, practices, rules and regulations and I hope you will maintain them and I hope you will make such additions as may be more useful for the purposes for which this House exists. With these words I conclude.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: I associate myself with the sentiments just expressed by the Leader of the House in welcoming you here amongst us as the Chairman of this House. It was a matter of great satisfaction and encouragement for us when we saw that you had been nominated for election as the Vice- President of the country. We felt that it was important in more ways than one. After all, in the presentation of the State and its structure and its high offices to the world, we make ourselves felt and understood. In a country like ours where there are, as we are told, majority and minority communities, we want to uphold this symbol of unity in every sphere of life. You, Sir, come here as the symbol of such unity. I need not mention about your past illustrious career. It is well known to the country. You have been a great educationist and scholar, an educationist born not out of the rich but out of the poverty- stricken people and in you the down-trodden of the society has expressed that it is in a position to produce such men of scholarship and learning even in circumstances that are not very congenial. These high traditions of the people you yourself carried forward when you, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, took charge of a national institution in our country. That is your creation, and that is a tribute to your dedicated service to our nation, to that institution of learning and to education.

We have known you, Sir, not only as a scholar but also as a great patriot and it is no small task on the part of a person in such a position to present himself as an active patriot while engaged in certain other fields of activity which do not directly bear on political matters. Therefore, in you, Sir, is blended flaming patriotism and high scholarship. So we are particularly happy to have you here because I think we shall get the radiation of those fine and excellent traditions of mind and heart in the functioning of this House.

Again, Sir, you are stepping into a situation which for the past ten years, has been adorned by one distinguished son of India who today, by the will of the people happens to be the President of this country. He has left us, no doubt, but he has left here certain excellent traditions of good humour, wisdom, tolerance and democratic orientation, and above all, regard for the parties of the opposition. I am sure, Sir, as you step into his shoes and assume the responsibility bequeathed to you by your predecessor, you will be living up not only to those traditions but as always dynamic personalities do, carry forward and enrich those traditions. That is what we expect of you.

On our part, Sir, we extend to you the fullest measure of cooperation. It is a matter of joy for us and also a little token of love from our side towards you that you have come to occupy this high office almost after a unanimous choice in the country. All the opposition parties which are sitting here supported your candidature, and if I may say so on behalf of one of the leading parties of the opposition, we felt so happy when your name was being discussed as one of the probable candidates for the Vice-Presidency. We made known to those concerned, that if you were nominated we would be whole heartedly supporting you. Naturally we are particularly glad to have you here amongst us.

Sir, I do not wish to say much now. I again join others in welcoming you to this House. This House occupies an important position and we, Sir, do not go by the moth-eaten procedures of May's Parliamentary Practice. We are a dynamic society and we have inherited certain noble traditions of our people. We, Sir, wish to shape our democracy according to the genius of our people and bring our parliamentary institutions close to their strivings and aspirations and the general democratic traditions of the masses. In that task, Sir—and it is no small task—I hope, Sir, you will be a creative instrument towards the fulfilment of the aspirations and desires of the people and expectations on their part, in this House.

This is all I wish to say. Once again, I congratulate you on your assumption of this high office and I hope what we have lost here will never be missed, because you shall fill in the gap and carry forward the torch that has come in your hands, in the interest of democracy and in the interest of our people. Thank you.

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: आदरणीय सभापति जी, आज आप हमारे नये अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से हमारे बीच में उपस्थित हैं। लेकिन आज जो इस हाउस के पुराने सदस्य हैं उनके लिये आप नये नहीं हैं और न यह हाउस आपके लिये नया है। बिहार का गवर्नर होने के पहले आप इस सदन के सदस्य

रहे और जो पुराने सदस्य हैं उनको आपके साथ रहने का, काम करने का और आप से मिलने का मौका प्राप्त हुआ है। इसलिये आपके लिए यह कोई नयी जगह नहीं है और न कोई नयी परम्परा है। पर जो परम्परा कायम है उसके आप साक्षी रहे हैं और उसको कायम करने में, एक सदस्य की हैसियत से आपका हाथ रहा है।

जैसा कि पूर्व वक्ता ने कहा है, और खासकर हमारे मित्र श्री भूपेश गुप्त ने कहा, आपका चुनाव वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट की हैसियत से हमारे चेयरमैन की हैसियत से, भारतीय एकता का बहुत बड़ा प्रतीक, एक बहुत बड़ा चिह्न है और हम सब इसके लिये गौरव अनुभव करते हैं। आपका देश के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन से प्रारम्भ से ही सम्बन्ध रहा है और हमारे देश में राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा की जो आधारशिला रखी गई उस आधारशिला के रखने वालों में आप भी हैं और हम लोगों को यह उम्मीद है कि जिस तरह से राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा की आधारशिला रखने में आपने बड़ा प्रमुख हाथ बटाया, उसकी नींव को मजबूत किया, उसी तरह से जनतंत्र का जो प्रयोग हम कर रहे हैं, जनतंत्र की जो इमारत हम खड़ी कर रहे हैं, उस जनतंत्र की इमारत की आधारशिला रखने में और उसके खड़ा करने में भी आपका उसी प्रकार सहयोग और उसी प्रकार हाथ रहेगा ताकि यह प्रयोग अच्छी तरह से सम्पन्न हो।

जहां तक बिहार का प्रश्न है, पिछले पांच वर्षों में आप हमारे सूबे में गवर्नर के पद पर रहे हैं। आपके निकट सम्पर्क में न आने पर भी दूर से ही मुझ पर जो प्रभाव पड़ा, जो हमारे प्रान्त पर प्रभाव पड़ा, जो परिस्थितियां वहां पैदा हुईं, वह ऐसी हैं कि आपके चले आने के बाद भी आज बिहार के लोग ऐसा अनुभव करते हैं कि जैसा उनका अपना ही आदमी बिहार से दिल्ली चला आया। आज आप वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट हैं और बिहार के लोग ऐसा अनुभव करते हैं कि डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद आज प्रेजीडेन्ट नहीं रहे तो जैसे हमारे ही प्रान्त के वाइस प्रेजीडेन्ट आज दिल्ली में बैठे हैं। पांच वर्ष के अरसे में जबकि राजनैतिक उथल-पुथल हो रही हो, आपस में तरह-तरह के प्रपंच चल रहे हों, उस समय एक आदमी के लिये सबका विश्वास प्राप्त करना, लोकप्रिय बनना, सबका प्रियपात्र बनना, यह कोई आसान काम नहीं है। यह बात बाहर वाले उतना अनुभव नहीं कर पाते हैं जितना हम बिहार के लोग अनुभव करते हैं। मैं यही आशा करता हूं कि जिस तरह शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आपने हमारा मार्ग-दर्शन किया उसी तरह से आगे भी मार्ग-दर्शन करेंगे। अभी हमारी डेमोक्रेसी, हमारा जनतंत्र नया है। बहुत सी परम्पराएं नयी बन रही हैं, बहुत सी परम्पराएं बन चुकी हैं और बहुत सी बनने वाली हैं। इसलिये लकीर का फकीर होने से काम नहीं चलेगा और बहुत सी परम्पराओं का निर्माण करना होगा जो हमारे देश के वातावरण और हमारे देश की परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल हों।

शिक्षा शास्त्री होने के अलावा राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन से शुरू से आपका सम्बन्ध रहा है। मेरा निज का अनुभव है कि शिष्टता के साथ ही साथ आप में स्पष्टवादिता है और साफगोई है। किसी चीज को सफाई के साथ कहने की आवश्यकता हो तो बेमुरव्वती के साथ कह सकने की शक्ति भी आप में है जो आज देश के लिये नितान्त आवश्यक है और उसकी आज सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत मैं समझता हूं। सिर्फ 'सत्यम् ब्रूयात, प्रियम् ब्रूयात' वाली ही बात नहीं होनी चाहिये। आज सत्य अगर अप्रिय भी हो तो कहना चाहिये। और मैं जानता हूं कि उसकी क्षमता आप में है और इसलिये विशेष रूप से मैं आपके प्रति आकर्षित होता हूं और आपका स्वागत करता हूं।

आपके बारे में परिचय देना या और कुछ कहना, सच पूछिये तो मेरे लिये एक तरह की गुस्ताखी होगी। अधिकांश सदस्य आपके बारे में जानते हैं और बहुत तो मुझ से ज्यादा जानते हैं। इसलिये इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस राज्य सभा परिवार के

अफसर-खानदान की हैसियत से आप हम सब की देखभाल करेंगे और मैं अपनी तरफ से विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि जिस तरह का भी सहयोग आपके काम में आवश्यक होगा, उस तरह का हम पूरा सहयोग देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers. You have come, Sir, to this House with an illustrious career behind you. You were in the forefront of the struggle for independence. You were known for your outstanding nationalist attitude for which you, like many other patriots in this country, have had to suffer. You have come here after having accomplished many tasks, both in the sphere of education and in the political life of this country. You are no stranger to this House. You have been here before and compared to yourself I am a newcomer to this House and as one who sits in the Opposition I will have to ask for your indulgence and your kindness as all parties in the Opposition will, because, if democracy is to progress in this country, it is the Chair that will have to safeguard the rights, the privileges of the parties which are smaller in number, of the voice that is feeble and is likely to be drowned in the sea of the numbers that sit on the majority side. Sir, we look forward with fond hopes to you and we hope that the traditions laid down in this House by your illustrious predecessor will receive the same consideration and will be cherished in the same manner by you and that the deliberations of this House will be carried on in the same way. We hope, Sir, that under your Chairmanship, the Opposition will be able to make its voice felt perhaps a little more. It has become the tendency of late that certain matters of procedure that are available under the Constitution, opportunities of speaking, have fallen into disuse. We hope, Sir, to see that they will be used more and more and that you will give us encouragement in using them during your time.

श्री ए. बी. वाजपेयी: सभापति जी, आपके निर्वाचन पर मैं आपका हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

एक शिक्षा शास्त्री के नाते आपने जो सेवाएं की हैं वे सदैव स्मरणीय रहेंगी। बिहार के वैधानिक प्रमुख के नाते जिस प्रकार आपने अपने दायित्व का पालन किया वह भी हम सबके लिये मार्ग-दर्शन का काम करेगा। मैंने आपको निकट से बहुत थोड़े समय से देखा है। पिछले अक्टूबर में जब राष्ट्रीय एकता सम्मेलन हुआ था, उस समय आपने जो विचार प्रकट किये थे उन्होंने सभी देशवासियों के हृदय को आपकी ओर आकृष्ट कर लिया था। अभी राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् की जो बैठक हुई, उसमें भी आपका योगदान हमें सही दिशा में ले जाने में सहायक हुआ।

यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि जब इस देश में साम्प्रदायिकता की आंधी चल रही थी और बड़े-बड़ों के पैर उखड़ गये या डगमगा गये, तब भी आप राष्ट्रीयता के मार्ग पर दृढ़ता के साथ आगे बढ़ते रहे। हम अपने देश में असाम्प्रदायिक राज्य की स्थापना कर चुके हैं जिसमें मजहब के हिसाब से किसी प्रकार के भेदभाव के लिये कोई स्थान नहीं होगा। और आपने अपने शब्दों से, अपनी कृति से इस असाम्प्रदायिकता के आदर्श को बल प्रदान किया है। उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में, भारतीय गणराज्य के अधिकारी के नाते आपका मार्ग-दर्शन हमें प्राप्त होता रहेगा, यह प्रसन्नता की बात है।

इस सदन के अध्यक्ष के रूप में हमें विश्वास है कि जो परम्पराएं हमने अभी तक डाली हैं, उन्हें आप बद्धमूल करेंगे और परिस्थिति के अनुरूप उनका विकास करेंगे। एक नये सदस्य के नाते

मैं यह अनुभव करता हूँ कि सदन को और भी प्रभावी बनाया जा सकता है। वाद-विवाद का, चर्चा का और देश की समस्याओं पर विचार-विनिमय का और भी अवसर इस सदन को दिया जा सकता है। इसके लिए सत्तारूढ़ दल को थोड़ा सा प्रेरित करना होगा और सभापति जी, इस काम के लिये हम आपकी ओर आशा भरी दृष्टि से देखते हैं। जहाँ तक हमारा सम्बन्ध है, आपको हम अपने पूर्ण सहयोग का आश्वासन देते हैं। आपको इस पद पर निर्वाचित करके हमने आपको नहीं, स्वयं अपने को ही सम्मानित किया है और हम इस सम्मान के अधिकारी बने रहें, यही हमारी कामना है।

Shri Sudhir Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, may I, in the name of the independent Members of this House, pay my respects to you on joining our family? This House, Mr. Chairman, is very much of a family in spite of political differences between political parties and groups. Your predecessor was very much a father of this family and I am confident that you too, Sir, will occupy in the hearts of the Members of this House the same place and I am sure you will receive from the Members of this House the same respect and affection and co-operation as your predecessor did. I have had the opportunity of knowing you, Sir, in the past as a person close to Mahatma Gandhi. It is good to have as the head of this family a man who enjoyed the trust and confidence of the Father of the Nation.

प्रो. रामधारी सिंह दिनकर: श्रीमान्, कांग्रेस दल के नेता के अभिनन्दन कर लेने के बाद मेरी हैसियत नहीं थी कि मैं कुछ कहने को उठूँ। लेकिन मैं अपने को रोक नहीं सका। जिस दिन अखबारों में यह खबर छपी कि आप निश्चित रूप से देश के उपराष्ट्रपति चुने जाने वाले हैं उस दिन हम लोगों का हौसला बढ़ गया, खासकर मुझे यह महसूस हुआ कि इस देश का भविष्य अच्छा है, हमारी किस्मत इतनी बुरी नहीं है जितनी वह कभी-कभी दिखाई देती है।

आप भारतीय एकता के सिपाही, साम्प्रदायिक सद्भावना के प्रहरी और भारत के भविष्य के कर्णधारों में से हैं। शिक्षा के आप नामी विशेषज्ञ हैं। जिसको भी यह मौका मिला है कि वह आपका भाषण सुने या आपके निबन्धों को पढ़े वह इस बात से सहमत होगा कि शिक्षा के विषय में जो कुछ आपको मालूम नहीं है वह किसी के भी जानने लायक नहीं है।

मैं उस सूबे का हूँ जहाँ का आप अपने को वोटर मानते हैं। बिहार में पांच वर्षों तक आपकी उपस्थिति से बहुत अच्छा वातावरण पैदा हुआ है। बिहारियों को आपने जितना प्यार किया वह हम जानते हैं और बिहारियों ने आपके प्रति जो भक्ति की वह भी बिहारियों को मालूम है। असल में, जिस दिन आप पटना से चले वहाँ वही दृश्य उपस्थित हो गया जो दृश्य दिल्ली से राजेन्द्र बाबू के जाने के समय उपस्थित हुआ था।

हम बहुत ही आशा में हैं, आपके यहाँ रहते हुए हमारी बहुत सी कठिनाइयाँ दूर होंगी, हमारी राह भविष्य के लिये प्रशस्त होगी। हम अपनी भक्ति आपको अर्पित करते हैं।

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy also to be privileged to join in the chorus of welcome that has been showered on you and quite rightly too this morning. I have had the privilege of your friendship for many years. I was with you as a member of the Indian Delegation to UNESCO on two occasions and I well remember the impression your personality, your learning and your oratory made on all the foreign delegates

assembled there. Later I had the privilege of working with you on the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, which Gandhiji actually left in your hands because he had the utmost reliance and faith in you, not only as an educationist but also as a man who had sacrificed for India, who loved India and who could truly speak for the poor masses of our country for whom education was so necessary. Sir, you come to this House having the affection of all of us and the respect of all of us. We will, I am sure, give you the fullest co-operation and we know that the dignity and honour of this honourable House will always be safe in your hands.

Prof. A. R. Wadia: Mr. Chairman, whether as a nominated Member or as an educationist or as an independent Member of this House, may I add my humble voice to the warm welcome that has been accorded to you on your election as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I have had the privilege of knowing you for a number of years and I have always followed your career as an educationist and as a public man with very great interest and with very great admiration. I know that you have been taking a very leading part in the public life. You have never been a mere politician. You have been a great patriot and you have served your country well. To use an old Roman expression, "You have deserved well of the Republic." Now, you are entering upon a distinguished office and I am perfectly certain that you will follow in the footsteps of your distinguished predecessor, who added to the dignity of your office as well as to the dignity of this House. May I wish you a very happy period of your Chairmanship?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, how can I ever adequately thank you for the most generous words in which you have welcomed me. I am deeply moved even to the point of embarrassment. I am embarrassed for I am not at all sure that I deserve all the adjectives you have in your affectionate generosity showered on me. I wish I had deserved at least some of them. I am afraid there is not enough time left to me to set about deserving them and yet I promise I shall try. The embarrassment is also due to the fact that I have been elected to occupy a Chair which was for the last ten years, since the inception of this House, adorned by one of the greatest sons of India, our present President. My feelings at being asked to occupy the Chair can well be imagined. I can hope to maintain the traditions established during his stewardship of the Sabha only by your active goodwill and co-operation and I hope and trust that these will not be denied to me.

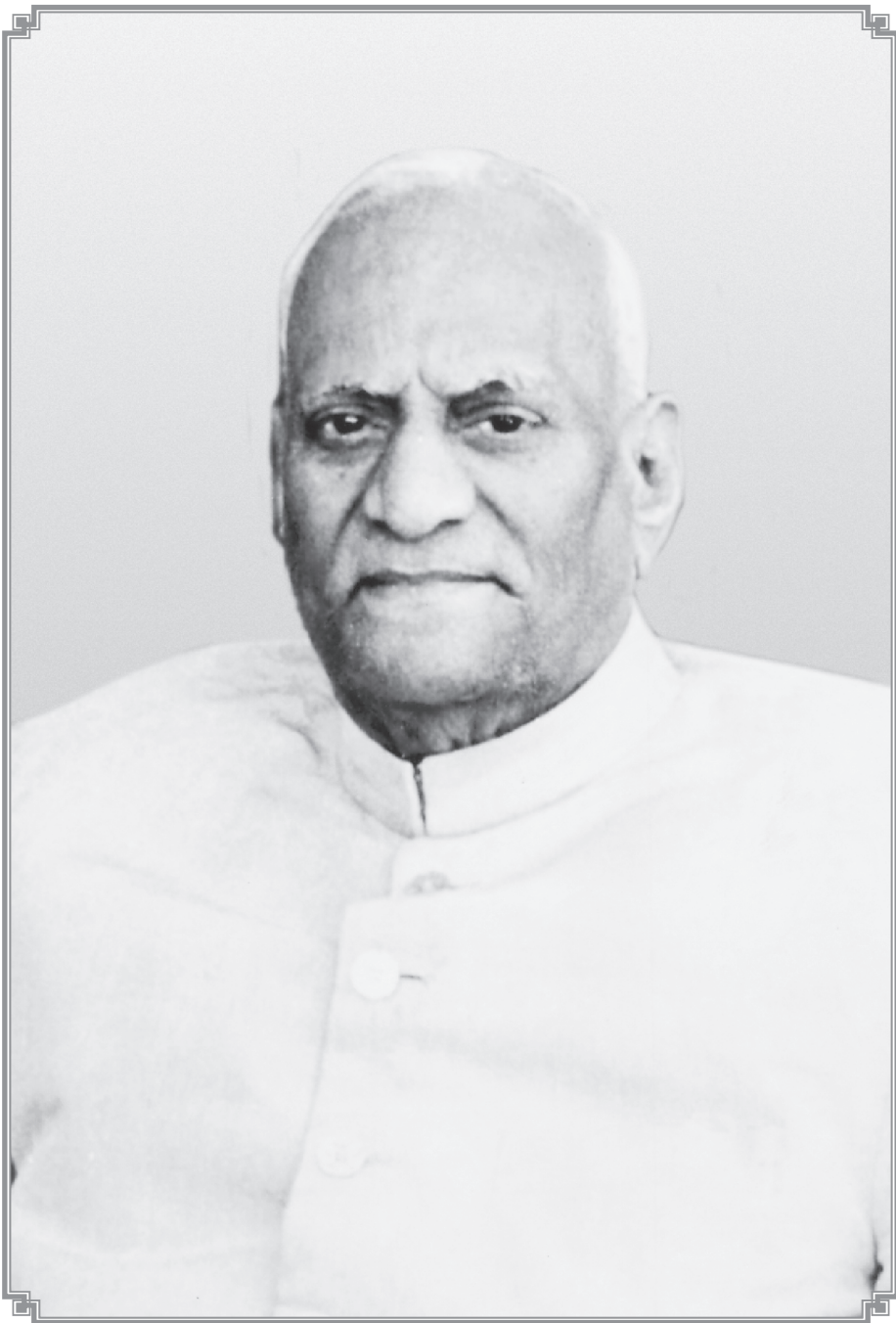
I wonder if I should not tell you that when I first came to know of it, I was greatly surprised that I was being considered for this high office at all and I could not easily convince myself of the reasons why. But the thousands of letters and telegrams of congratulation which I received after my election seemed to give me a clue, for, a disproportionately large percentage of these letters came from teachers, teachers of primary schools in remote corners of the country, teachers of high schools and teachers in the universities. They all seemed to tell me that I was considered worthy of this honour on account my close involvement in educational work, and the significance that our people rightly appear to attach to education in their life. Education, indeed, is the life-breath of our democratic life. A

people as old and as young as ours can justifiably look upon education as the chief formative force of their life, for it is education that can critically appraise our great heritage, distinguish between the heritage that helps and the heritage that hampers; preserve the one and discard the other. It is education, again, that can give us a common vision of the future we are striving to fashion and generate in us the intellectual and moral energy to fashion it. Education alone can preserve the old values worth preserving. Education alone can give us new values worth striving for. This conception of the role of education in our life partly explains to me why you have chosen to elect a person who has so far done nothing more important than the work of a school teacher, as the Vice-President of India and the *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. And in spite of a painfully vivid consciousness of my own personal limitations, I rejoice at this, my people's estimate of the role of education in national life.

But in a developing democratic society, the work of education is not confined to its schools, colleges and universities. All the institutions of public life are potent agencies of education. Among these the highest place naturally goes to the Houses of Parliament. These set the aims of national life and prescribe its procedures. A two-fold influence is demanded of them—a total commitment to a future worthy of a great people and a relentlessly objective appraisal of the appropriate means of attaining it. The first gives a unity of national purpose, the second a healthy variety of opinion regarding the methods of its attainment. The unity of national purpose makes the diversity of opinion regarding means a blessing. The differences of view between the Government and the Opposition are manifestations of this blessing and should, therefore, be welcome. I hope and trust that we in this House will be as tolerant of divergent views as we have always been. We should be as objective in our intellectual assessment as ever possible and that we should give to those not of our way of thinking the respect that all honest opinion demands and deserves. Discussion, criticism and persuasion, are the essence of the parliamentary process and I am confident that this House will continue to demonstrate this unmistakably. The quality of our discussions, the fruitfulness of our deliberations, will be the measure of our contribution to national life and I am sure it will be a decidedly significant contribution.

I pledge myself to leave nothing undone to help you make that contribution. I pledge myself to utter fairness and impartiality. I pledge myself to give to the Government every opportunity to explain and elucidate its measures. I pledge myself to secure for the Opposition due latitude to criticise them, and I promise myself by doing this to ensure, with your goodwill and co-operation, a standard of discussion and debate conducted with decorum and dignity, which would contribute significantly to the attainment of the objective dear to all of us alike—the building up of our country as the home of a free people, safe against material want and striving towards moral excellence in a world free of fear and suspicion and distrust, a world of peace and goodwill.

I thank you once again for your most generous words of felicitation.



SHRI V. V. GIRI

(10.8.1894–24.6.1980)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(13.5.1967–3.5.1969)

V. V. Giri : A Profile

GIRI, SHRI VARAHAGIRI VENKATA: Barrister-at-Law, D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Banaras Hindu University and Andhra University), LL.D. (*Honoris Causa*) (Agra University); s. of Shri Jogiah Pantulu; b. August 10, 1894; m. Shrimati Sarasvathi Bai Giri, 4 s. and 7 d.; Member, (i) Central Legislative Assembly, 1934-37 and (ii) Madras Legislative Assembly, 1937-39 and 1946-47; Minister, holding portfolios of Labour, Industries, Cooperation and Commerce, Government of Madras, 1937-39 and 1946-47; Indian High Commissioner to Ceylon, 1947-51; Member, Lok Sabha, 1952-57; Union Minister of Labour, 1952-54; Governor, (i) Uttar Pradesh, 1957-60, (ii) Kerala, 1960-65 and (iii) Mysore, 1965-67; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 13.5.1967 to 3.5.1969; Acting President, 3.5.1969 to 19.7.1969; President of India, 24.8.1969 to 23.8.1974; Recipient of Bharat Ratna, 1975; Died. Obit. on 24.6.1980.

Felicitations offered to Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri on 22 May 1967

The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I, on behalf of all of us, extend a hearty welcome to you! In your case, Sir, it is really a question of welcoming you back to the precincts of Parliament. You are no stranger to this building, having had a long and distinguished career, a parliamentary career, yourself. With your rich and varied background as one of our leading freedom fighters, a veteran labour leader, a Minister, a Governor and an elder statesman in the post-independence years, you will no doubt bring to bear on your high and exalted office the valuable experience of a long and dedicated political career. We look forward to your wise guidance in the conduct of the deliberations of this House.

I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government, to assure you, Sir, that you will at all times have our fullest support and co-operation in your task and of up-holding the dignity of this august House, its privileges and the privileges of each of the honourable Members here.

Once again, I welcome you most heartily.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my group, myself, and I believe, the other friends in the Opposition, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the Prime Minister. You are no stranger to Parliament. You come here after a very distinguished career, beginning with your life as one of the earliest freedom fighters, then as a Minister in the Government of Madras during the early days when we still were under the British rule and then later on, as Minister in the Government of India; you have also served the Government of India with distinction abroad as High Commissioner in Ceylon; you have also represented this country at international labour conferences. You have always brought distinction to yourself as one who has spoken for the down-trodden, for the poorer classes of this country. May we expect, Sir, that during your regime, not only the down-trodden, but the neglected corner of this House will also receive its due attention and that we will not suffer from any disabilities that we used to during your predecessor's time?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to welcome you to this House. I belong to what you may call the superannuated category of parliamentarians since independence.

Yet, we do not retire as many others in high places do not retire. But, Sir, one thought comes to me as I welcome you. Although you are the nominee of a particular party, we have known you in certain other capacity and situation. How could I forget that some years ago you, on a question of principle of the Bank Award, resigned from the Government and identified yourself with the interests of those struggling bankmen? I also recall the day, immediately after your resignation, when we two appeared on the same platform to speak to the bankmen. Then, Sir, the parting of the ways took place—you went in one direction after that meeting and I continued in my direction. Now, we have assembled here again.

Mr. Chairman, you have come to occupy this high and august office at a crucial moment in our constitutional and political history and I am sure that you are acutely conscious of this formidable fact of our political life. As you are here sitting in this House, I am sure that you are aware of the fact that this House which is supposed to be the representative of the States has acquired a certain anomalous character. For example, in the States, in eight States of India, today the party which is occupying the Treasury Benches is in the Opposition; we are on the Treasury Benches. This is the kind of dichotomy and dual power in a constitutional set-up which has arisen. I mention this thing because our function is to protect the interests of the States. We are specifically assigned the task of looking after the interests of the States in terms of the Constitution. That is why the Council of States was created by the foundation of the Constitution. We have been functioning ever since. Today by the will of the people, the federal principles of our Constitution have come into play. Today, you have to find here, Mr. Chairman, the fulfilment of your high office in upholding the fundamental rights and the constitutional, political and legal privileges of the States in so far as the Centre-State relations are concerned. Here shall be hammered out in the course of the coming months and years, under your Chairmanship a certain thing which is new in our constitutional set-up, at least from the point of view of practical politics, namely, the Centre-State relations. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that under your guidance and leadership we shall succeed in fashioning, with our common effort, common endeavour and common wisdom, the proper fundamentals, the proper norms, for a federal set-up.

Mr. Chairman, I am also very glad that you are here today because you had been identified with the working class movement in your times. Today it is the working people who are coming at the top of the world. They are asserting themselves and without them nothing is worth living for, nothing is precious, nothing is glorious, and that is why I welcome you. When I welcome you, I have these particular aspects in mind.

Mr. Chairman, now I should like only to say one thing more here in this connection and that is that you are undoubtedly in charge of the House. The dignity of the Chair is of fundamental importance, but dignity must base itself on the affection of the people, love for democracy and the passionate consideration for the norms of democracy, especially when the Opposition which is morally powerful but numerically weak has got to be defended against certain other things from certain other quarters. Therefore, the dignity of the House, Mr. Chairman, I assure you, we are all interested in maintaining. But the greatest dignity that man can ever show in our parliamentary career and otherwise—we have come to learn—is the dignity of the love of the people, loyalty to the masses, and I do hope that under your Chairmanship, the word 'dignity' will acquire a new dynamic conception, a conception that will arouse interest in the masses, that will give them confidence, that will make itself felt in the day-to-day life of the people. Therefore, I assure you our fullest co-operation in enriching, enlarging and giving a new context and meaning to the words 'dignity' and 'democracy'. We do hope that under your guidance and leadership—since you have come here and for the next five years—we shall not only hold to what was good and decent in the past but being a dynamic society, we would like you to show the way how to go forward, how to combine the past with the future and how to blend into a common symphony the good traditions of the past into the promises of the future. I do hope that in this House under your guidance we shall be in a position to give an account of ourselves in the sense that we not only love what is best in the present but we project ourselves into the future.

I once again welcome you on behalf of my party and I give you the fullest co-operation and I do hope that a response shall be coming. Before I sit down I wish you well in this office and I do hope under your leadership the federal concepts of our Parliamentary democracy as well as fundamental rights, norms and privileges of the Members of the House and of the people outside will be enshrined never to be sullied by a party which does not respect such things.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: सभापति महोदय, राज्य सभा के सभापति पद पर आसीन होने के उपलक्ष्य में अपने दल की ओर से मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ और आपको बधाई देता हूँ। आपका एक सार्वजनिक जीवन रहा है और आपने, विशेषकर जो पिछड़े वर्ग हैं, समाज का जो कमजोर भाग है उनको सुविधाओं को प्राप्त करवाने के लिए अपने जीवन का कुछ समय लगाया है। अपना यह देश सब लोगों को साथ लेकर चलने वाली परम्पराओं में विश्वास करता है। आर्थिक दृष्टि से भी, सामाजिक और राजनीतिक दृष्टि से भी हमारे जीवन में कुछ विषमताएं हैं। हमें इस प्रकार के प्रयत्न करने होंगे कि इन सारी विषमताओं से ऊपर उठ कर समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग को चाहे वह किसी भी

पक्ष का हो, चाहे वह किसी भी भाषा का हो, चाहे वह किसी भी प्रकार के व्यवसायों को करता हो, उन सबको मिला कर सफल प्रजातंत्र की नींव यहां पर डाल सकें।

राज्य सभा का स्थान और भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यहां पर हम अपने देश के विभिन्न राज्यों की समस्याओं को जो विभिन्न कारणों से वहां उलझन का रूप धारण कर लेती हैं और दुर्भाग्य से लोक सभा में भी जिनको ठीक प्रकार से सुनने और प्रतिनिधित्व दिलाने का उचित अवसर उपलब्ध नहीं होता, राज्य सभा में उन पर ध्यान दे सकें, उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करवा सकें। यह तभी सम्भव होगा जब आप अध्यक्ष के रूप में सरकार का ध्यान उन पर आकृष्ट करवाने में समुचित रूप से अवसर देंगे। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपके नेतृत्व में हम सब लोगों को और खासकर हम जो बाईं तरफ बैठे हैं उन लोगों को अपने-अपने हितों के प्रश्नों को, सार्वजनिक प्रश्नों को और राष्ट्रीय महत्व के प्रश्नों को रखने का पूर्ण अवसर प्राप्त होगा। मैं फिर से इस पद पर निर्वाचित होने पर आपका अभिनन्दन करता हूं।

श्री गंगा शरण सिंह: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, राज्य सभा के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से मैं आपका यहां स्वागत करता हूं। आप हमारे देश के राजनीतिज्ञों की उस पीढ़ी के व्यक्ति हैं जो धीरे-धीरे हमारी नजरों से ओझल होती जा रही है। आपकी विशेषता यह रही है कि पुरानी पीढ़ी के होने पर भी आपने सिर्फ समय के साथ कदम मिला कर चलने का अभ्यास नहीं किया, बल्कि आपका समय को आगे देखने का भी अभ्यास रहा। उसका सबसे बड़ा प्रमाण यह है कि उस जमाने में जब हिन्दुस्तान में श्रमिक आन्दोलन की तरफ लोगों का ध्यान आकृष्ट नहीं था, उस समय आपने और आपके स्वर्गीय बुजुर्ग साथी श्री एन.एम. जोशी ने हमारे देश में श्रमिक आन्दोलन की नींव रखी, उसके संगठन को मजबूत किया और उसको मार्गदर्शन दिया। पुरानी बातें ही नहीं, पिछले वर्ष बंगलौर में मुझे जब आपके सभापतित्व में एक समावर्तन-संस्कार में दीक्षान्त-भाषण देने का मौका मिला, उसमें जो आपके विचार मैंने सुने उससे मुझे यह लगा कि पुराने श्रमिक आन्दोलन से लेकर आज तक समय की जो गति रही है उसके साथ आप कदम मिला कर चलते रहे हैं और जिस तरह आप उस समय आगे के समय को देख कर आगे बढ़ते रहे, उसी तरह आज भी वर्तमान के साथ भविष्य को भी देखने की क्षमता आप में है। इतनी बड़ी परम्परा लेकर आप आज हमारे बीच में आये हैं। उस परम्परा के भरोसे हम समझ सकते हैं कि राज्य सभा का काम सुचारू रूप से चलेगा। आप सिर्फ आगे देखने वालों की परम्परा में नहीं रहे, सिर्फ संगठन करने वालों की परम्परा में ही नहीं रहे। मुझे स्मरण है कि आपके साथी एन.एम. जोशी को उस पुराने जमाने में ब्रिटिश वाइसराय, सेन्ट्रल असेम्बली में बराबर नामजद करता था, लेकिन कभी भी उन्होंने अपनी मर्जी के खिलाफ सरकार के साथ वोट नहीं किया। अधिकांश अवसरों पर, सरकार के द्वारा नामजद होने पर भी, जोशी जी अपनी रुचि और अपनी बुद्धि का प्रयोग करते थे और उसके अनुसार वोट करते थे। ऐसी परम्परा डाली थी कि नामजदगी की और अपनी मेम्बरी की फिक्र नहीं की और अपने विचारों पर डटे रहते थे। मैं समझता हूं कि जनतंत्र की, विचार-स्वातंत्र्य की यह ऐसी परम्परा है जिसको आपने और आपके साथियों ने कायम किया है और मैं समझता हूं कि वह परम्परा यहां भी आप आगे चलायेंगे, विचार की स्वतंत्रता, व्यक्ति की स्वाधीनता और दलगत भावनाओं से ऊपर उठकर इस बात की चेष्टा करेंगे कि राज्य सभा का निर्माण जिसके लिए हुआ है वह उस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति कर सके।

आज की परिस्थिति और पहले की परिस्थिति में थोड़ा अन्तर आ गया है। जैसा मेरे मित्रों ने जिक्र किया, राज्य सभा राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है। इस चुनाव के पहले तक सभी राज्यों में और केन्द्र में एक ही प्रकार के लोगों का, प्रायः एक ही दल का शासन था, लेकिन इस चुनाव के बाद देश के आधे से अधिक हिस्से में दूसरे दलों का, दूसरे प्रकार के लोगों का शासन है, और यहां केन्द्र में दूसरे दल का शासन है। इससे नई परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है और मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि इस परिस्थिति का सबसे ज्यादा सामना राज्य सभा को करना पड़ेगा। ऐसी अवस्था में आपका काम थोड़ा मुश्किल तो होगा लेकिन मुझे विश्वास है कि जो आपकी परम्परा रही है, जो अब तक की शिक्षा रही है, जो आपका अब तक का अनुभव रहा है, उस अनुभव के बल पर आप इस काम को अंजाम दे सकेंगे। आप राजनीति के एक क्षेत्र में नहीं रहे हैं, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों का आपको तजुर्बा है और उस तजुर्बे से हम समझते हैं कि सिर्फ हम ही यहां लाभ नहीं उठावेंगे, सारा देश लाभ उठायेगा। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूं।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि: सभापति महोदय, अपने दल की ओर से आपका स्वागत करते हुए, मैं सिर्फ इस बात का जिक्र करना चाहूंगा कि आपने अपने जीवन में जो श्रमिक आन्दोलन के लिए प्रयास किया है और राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में जो कुछ आपने भाग लिया है, उससे हमको यह प्रतीत होता है कि राज्य सभा की कार्यवाहियों में भी आप वही दृष्टिकोण रखेंगे और जैसे श्रमिकों के पक्ष में अपना निर्णय दिया है उसी तरह जो यहां पर अपोजीशन में बैठे हुए हैं उनकी ओर से उसी दृष्टि को रखेंगे।

मैं भी एक तेलुगू भाषा-भाषी हूं और अपनी राजनीति आंध्र प्रदेश के बाहर ही की है, वैसे ही आप तेलुगू भाषा-भाषी हैं और आपने अपनी राजनीति आंध्र प्रदेश के बाहर की है। हम समझते हैं कि इससे आपका दृष्टिकोण एक राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण है और दल या एक विशेष गुट के प्रति आप पक्षपात नहीं करेंगे। मैं आशा करूंगा कि जो भी कार्यवाही राज्य सभा में होगी उसमें हमारे देश की जो साधारण जनता है उसकी समस्याओं का प्रतिबिम्ब आ सकेगा ऐसा तरीका आप निकालेंगे और अपने निर्णय हमेशा इस पक्ष में देंगे कि देश की जो साधारण जनता है, जो शोषित जनता है उसके सवालियों को यहां पर प्रधानता मिले—चाहे सरकार उसके पक्ष में हो या न हो—इस तरह का तरीका अपनाएं। इससे राज्य सभा की जो प्रतिष्ठा है वह बढ़ेगी और यहां की कार्यवाही की भी प्रतिष्ठा बढ़ सकती है।

जो भी यहां पर अशोभनीय, डिगनिटी या डिकोरम की बात कही जाती है वह सब इसी से उत्पन्न हो जाती है कि जब जनता के सवालियों को इस सदन में पेश किया जाता है तो उसे दबाने की कोशिश होती है। उस कोशिश में जो कुछ कार्यवाही होती है, होती है। इसलिए मैं आशा करूंगा कि आपके पदाधिकार में जो कुछ यहां की कार्यवाही चलेगी उसमें जनता की जो समस्याएं हैं उनको प्रधानता मिलेगी।

श्री त्रिलोकी सिंह: मान्यवर, आपका स्वागत करते हुए इस स्थान पर मुझे महान हर्ष हो रहा है। आप आज इस स्थान पर बैठे हुए हैं जिसको डाक्टर राधाकृष्णन, डाक्टर जाकिर हुसैन ने सुशोभित किया है और मुझे पूर्ण आशा है कि जो प्रथाएं इस आदरणीय सदन ने उनके समय में कायम की हैं उन प्रथाओं को आप बनाये रखेंगे, केवल इतना ही नहीं बल्कि उनको इस प्रकार से मांजेंगे, चमकायेंगे कि राज्य सभा का नाम भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि भारत के बाहर भी रोशन हो जाएगा।

मान्यवर, यह सभी को विदित है कि जितनी संसदीय प्रथाएँ हैं वे अल्पमत के हक में हैं और उन प्रथाओं को कायम रखना, उन्हें बनाये रखना इधर बाईं ओर बैठने वालों के अधिकारों के लिये है और संसदीय प्रथा की सबसे बड़ी प्रशंसनीय बात यह है कि अल्पमत को कभी भी यह आभास या ख्याल नहीं होता है कि उनके विचारों की, उनके हक की किसी तरह से अवहेलना की जा रही है।

मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जो आपकी जिंदगी का कारनामा रहा है, स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के एक पुराने सैनिक, श्रमिकों के क्षेत्र में संगठन बनाने वाले और उनके एक मशहूर और मारुफ़ नेता, भारत की पुरानी लेजिस्लेटिव असेम्बली तथा, मद्रास की लेजिस्लेटिव असेम्बली के सदस्य, इन सब को आपने सुशोभित किया है और आज जब कि प्लानिंग का युग है तो मैं यह नहीं भुला सकता हूँ कि कांग्रेस ने जिस समय प्लानिंग कमेटी को बनाया था उस समय उस प्लानिंग कमेटी के मंत्रियों में से श्रीमान एक थे और योजना को बनाने में आपका बहुत बड़ा हाथ था। आपका यह पुराना इतिहास, पुराना जीवन जो हमारे सामने है और जो आपके कारनामे हैं उन्हें हम भूल नहीं सकते हैं। मैं एक बार पुनः आपका स्वागत करता हूँ और आपका स्वागत करते हुए यह विचार प्रकट करता हूँ कि आपके सभापतित्व में इस राज्य सभा का काम सुचारू रूप से चलेगा और राज्य सभा अपने काम में और अपने नाम में वह जोड़-गांठ करेगी जिससे कि राज्य सभा का ही नाम नहीं बड़ेगा बल्कि मान्यवर का भी नाम बड़ेगा।

इसके साथ ही माननीय नेता सदन अथवा नेता विरोधी दल या अन्य नेताओं ने आपके सम्बन्ध में जो कहा है उन सभी से मैं अपनी सहमति प्रकट करता हूँ और आपका पुनः स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri Niren Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of our party, I welcome you as the Chairman of our House. Perhaps it is the first time that a Chairman has come to occupy the Chair through a contest, since the Congress Party and we do not see eye to eye on all the issues that face the country. However, we were happy when you resigned from the Central Government on the issue of their doing injustice to the working class as a matter of principle. But I would also say that we were not happy when you did not allow the Kerala State Assembly to be convened. In future we should expect you as Chairman of the House to function in a way so that we can approve all your actions and think of you as guarding the interests of the Opposition. I would have been happy if I could say that the federal principle has come into play. It is not so. But it is true that the battle has been joined that the federal principle should come into play and the fight will continue in future in all its aspects. In this connection, I would naturally expect you to see that the interests of the States are properly guarded by the House. I consider dignity and decorum is that which can only reflect the hopes and aspirations of the down-trodden masses of India. Dignity and decorum is not just bourgeois words to embellish the present system. So I would also ask you to remember these things when guarding the dignity and decorum of the House. We have seen a systematic sort of erosion of

the privileges of the Opposition. So we would expect you to guard the privileges of the Opposition since, however weakly it may be, we hope to represent and do represent the working class and the down-trodden masses of the country. With these few words, I welcome you as the Chairman of our House.

Shri Chitta Basu: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join in the welcome that is accorded to you. Although you have been elected on the support of a political party, I hope and I am confident that from the moment you were elected to this exalted office; you have ceased to be a party man. On you rests the dignity and decorum of this House and it is the privilege for us to have you in the Chair. A brilliant leader of the national liberation movement and organiser of the trade union movement in its formative period, you are well-acquainted and conversant with the trade union movement of this country. Not only that, the progressive and socialist thought of this country is familiar to you. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we expect and hope that the hopes and aspirations which we want to reflect here should be properly heard by you and through your wise guidance, we will be able to discharge our responsibilities to the people. With these words, I welcome you in this House as Chairman. I would also say that the Centre-State relations have to be re-assessed and re-evaluated on the basis of the changed political context. I think under your guidance we shall be able to re-assess and re-evaluate the Centre-State relations in the interest of the nation and the people of our country.

Shri B. D. Khobaragade: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend a sincere and heart-felt welcome to you. You have a vivid experience of multifarious activities as you are interested in many spheres. You are a pioneer of the trade union movement in this country. As such, you have dedicated the major part of your life to the working classes and, therefore, you can justly be called the champion and guardian of the underdog. No doubt, you have been associated with Parliament for some time. But since then there has been a considerable change in the composition of Rajya Sabha. As there is a change in the political and social situation in the country, naturally there would be a reflection of that change in this House also. We believe in parliamentary democracy. My own opinion is that democracy cannot be successful until and unless there is equality, social and economic, and there is justice, social and economic as well. As you have been a champion of the downtrodden people, I hope that you will always strive to help the cause of the underdogs and whenever we try to raise issues of those people, we expect the full support and co-operation from you. Sir, on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I accord you a welcome and I can assure you that we will always extend our full support and co-operation in maintaining the dignity and decorum of this august House.

The Deputy Chairman*: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to offer my felicitations to you. You now come to the Chair as a veteran. You have been in this House and the other House, and you have had a brilliant record, and with the abundant experience and understanding of men and matters you would be able to steer the debates and the proceedings of this House very diligently and to the satisfaction especially of the Opposition. There will be many problems, battles fought inside your chamber and on the floor. Passions will rise; reason will sag, and then you, as a veteran, will steer the deliberations of this House to the shores of calm and reason and peace. Again I wish you well.

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह ब्राह्मण:** चेयरमैन साहब, मैं अपनी तरफ से और अकाली पार्टी संत फतह सिंह ग्रुप की तरफ से आपको खुश-आमदीद पेश करता हूँ। आपके जीवन से नावाकिफ होते हुए भी प्रधान मंत्री और दीगर बुजुर्गों की ज़बानी जो मैंने आपकी तारीफ़ सुनी है ऐसा दिखाई देता है कि आपके जीवन के पीछे एक हिस्ट्री है। इसके बारे में ज्यादा न जाते हुए कुछ और अर्ज़ करूँ क्योंकि बहुत सा टाइम पहले लिया जा चुका है कि मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से आपको यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हम हर किस्म का आपके साथ तआवुन करेंगे। जहाँ तक कि गवर्नमेंट के कदम दुरुस्त होंगे, किसी किस्म की गड़बड़ या आपके वक्त को जाया करने की कोशिश नहीं की जायेगी और आपकी काबलियत का हम एहताराम करेंगे, यह कहते हुए मैं आपको अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से तआवुन पेश करने का यकीन दिलाता हूँ।

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, मैं आपके साथ अपने पुराने सम्बन्धों के कारण इस पद पर आपको देख कर बहुत प्रसन्न हूँ। जब सरकारी पक्ष के और विरोधी दल के लोग कुछ अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त कर रहे हैं, तो मुझे छिपाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि मैं आपके द्वारा सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों को बताना चाहूँगा कि आप मुझे अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं और मैं भी आपको अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ। इसलिये इस सदन के सदस्यों को जनाबे सदर को जानने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं होगी और सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य इस बारे में निश्चिन्त रहें कि मैं आपकी खूबियों को जानता हूँ और उन खूबियों को जो सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य नहीं जानते उनको बताना चाहूँगा।

यह सही है कि चुनाव में मैंने आपका विरोध किया था, यह सही है कि चुनाव में हमने राष्ट्रपति पद के लिये डा. ज़ाकिर हुसैन का भी विरोध किया था। मगर सरकारी पक्ष के कुछ लोग रास्ते में जब जाने लगे तो मुझे यह कहने लगे कि ये व्ही.व्ही. गिरी साहब आ रहे हैं, अब इनसे कैसा सम्बन्ध रहेगा तुम्हारा? हमने कहा, हमारा सम्बन्ध बड़ा मधुर रहेगा जैसा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में विधान सभा के सदस्य की हैसियत से मैं था और राज्यपाल की हैसियत में जब आप वहाँ थे तब मैंने आपको वहाँ देखा था।

* Shrimati Violet Alva.

** Spoke in Urdu.

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय के जो हमारे मौजूदा चेयरमैन साहब हैं, उनसे सदन को क्या-क्या उम्मीद करनी चाहिये। श्रीमन्, आप श्री पुरुषोत्तमदास जी टंडन का नाम जानते हैं: श्री पुरुषोत्तमदास टंडन विधान सभा के सम्मानित अध्यक्ष रहे हैं। जब मुस्लिम लीग उत्तर प्रदेश में थी तब टंडनजी ने विधान सभा में कहा-क्योंकि एक बार मुस्लिम लीग की कमेटी की मीटिंग में कहा गया और अखबारों में समाचार आ गया कि मुस्लिम लीग अध्यक्ष के ऊपर अविश्वास का प्रस्ताव पेश करने वाली है-कि अगर इस सदन के एक भी सदस्य का मेरे ऊपर अविश्वास है तो मैं अध्यक्ष पद पर रहने को तैयार नहीं हूँ। तो मुस्लिम लीग के लीडर जो बैठे थे उन्होंने कहा, नहीं श्रीमन्, आपमें हमारा विश्वास है, आप रहें, आपने जो अब तक व्यवस्थाएं दी हैं उससे हम सन्तुष्ट हैं, जो अखबारों में बात निकल गई वह गलत तरीके से निकल गई। ऐसे-ऐसे अध्यक्ष, ऐसे-ऐसे सदर, विधान मण्डलों में रह चुके हैं-मैंने तो केवल संकेत किया। यूँ मैं अपनी भावनाओं को छिपाना नहीं चाहता। मैं उस ऋषि की वाणी को याद करता हूँ कि जिसने सबक दिया है कि पहले तो विधान निर्मात्री परिषद् में जाने के लिये लालायित न हो और अगर जाओ तो अपनी भावनाओं को छिपाकर कोई बात नहीं कहो, सत्य को असत्य द्वारा खंडित होते हुए मत देखो। उस ऋषि की वाणी को हम बराबर याद करते हैं और चाहते हैं जब तक यह जिन्दगी रहे तब तक और बराबर उसी के अनुकूल आचरण रहे, हमारी बुद्धि और आचरण में भेद न हो। जो आचरण बुद्धि के तदनुरूप नहीं है वह आचरण भ्रष्ट है, जो बुद्धि आचरण के तदनुकूल नहीं है वह बुद्धि छलना है। इसलिये भ्रष्ट आचरण और छलना बुद्धि एक साथ जाना चाहते हैं। मगर मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि जो हमारे संविधान में यह व्यवस्था है कि वाइस प्रेसीडेंट जो हों वे राज्य सभा के सदर के पद पर काम करें, मैं इस व्यवस्था से सहमत नहीं। उसके अनेक कारण हैं और मैं समझता हूँ, अगर व्यक्तिगत ढंग से आपको अपने जज़्बात का इज़हार करना होगा, तो आप भी हमारी भावनाओं से संभवतः सहमत होंगे। मगर इस अवसर पर श्रीमन्, मैं अपनी ओर से आपको पूरा आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ, अपने समकक्ष विचारधारा रखने वाले लोगों की ओर से आपको पूरा आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा और जनतंत्रीय प्रथाओं के विकास के लिये आप जितनी भी कुर्बानी, त्याग, मदद, बलिदान, हमसे चाहेंगे, हम बराबर देने के लिये तैयार रहेंगे। अब सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा और जनतंत्र के समुचित विकास के लिये-यह सही है कि अगर सरकारी पक्ष यह चाहे कि यह सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा रहे और सरकारी पक्ष का कोई मंत्री खड़ा होकर स्कूल बायज़ की तरह सबक देने लगे, तो मैं उस सबक को इन्कार करता हूँ और मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, जब तक हमारे सदर श्री व्ही.व्ही. गिरी जी रहेंगे तब तक और ज्यादा इन्कार करते रहेंगे क्योंकि हमें विश्वास है कि हमारे उन अधिकारों की रक्षा आप करेंगे। हमें पूरा विश्वास है, जनतंत्र की उन्नति के लिये, जनतंत्रीय प्रणाली की पद्धति को विकसित करने के लिये आप बराबर, सतत् प्रयत्नशील रहते हैं और रहेंगे-क्या यह सबको मालूम नहीं है, क्या यह हमारे मौजूदा चेयरमैन साहब किसी चीज़ के भूखे हैं? ये श्रम मंत्री की हैसियत से इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं। ... मैं गिरी जी की भावना की कद्र करना चाहता हूँ। इसलिये मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यहां बहुत से, और बहुमत सरकारी पक्ष के लोगों को गिरी जी की सभ्य और साधु व्यवस्था से चिढ़ होगी, मुझे मालूम है, मैं उस दिन को बहुत दूर नहीं देखता हूँ जब कि सरकारी पक्ष के लोग कहने लगेंगे कि चेयरमैन साहब आपके द्वारा विरोधी पक्ष को ज्यादा समय दिया जा रहा है वह समय आयेगा, क्योंकि मैं जानता हूँ गिरी जी निष्पक्ष हैं। जहां निष्पक्ष सदर रहेगा वहां विरोधी पक्ष को ज्यादा समय होगा, विरोधी पक्ष के अधिकारों

की रक्षा होगी, विरोधी पक्ष को बहुमत पक्ष दबा नहीं सकेगा। किसी भी सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा में काम करने वाले अध्यक्ष अथवा सभापति का यह प्रथम पुनीत कर्तव्य है। तो श्रीमन्, मैं पुनः अपनी भावनाओं को आपके सामने व्यक्त करता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि सरकारी पक्ष के बहुत से लोगों को पढ़ने लिखने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अगर वे पढ़ें तो उनको मालूम होगा कि संसदीय प्रथा का अध्यक्ष कौन हो। तीन चार शर्तें विशेष हैं। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जो जब चाहे तब नेता, सदन की जगह ले सके। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जिसका त्याग, जिसकी विद्वता, जिसकी प्रतिभा सर्वविदित हो। अध्यक्ष वह होना चाहिये जिसके प्रति स्वतः, अपने आप आदर का, सम्मान का भाव व्यक्त हो।

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मैं अदब के साथ आपके लिये अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करते हुए सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों से निवेदन करूंगा कि जो लोग गिरी जी से पक्षपात की उम्मीद करते होंगे कि बहुमत पक्ष को गिरी जी संरक्षण देंगे, उनको निराश होना पड़ेगा और जब-जब उनको निराश होना पड़ेगा तब-तब हमारी वाणी और बढ़ेगी, यह मैं आपको आश्वस्त करता हूँ।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ पुनः आपके प्रति आदर और श्रद्धा व्यक्त करते हुए सभ्य संसदीय प्रथा के अबाध विकास के लिये मैं आपको इस पद पर और इस स्थान पर देखने के लिये बराबर लालायित रहूंगा। नमस्कार।

Mr. Chairman: Comrades and colleagues, I am extremely grateful to honourable Members of this House for their kind sentiments and I feel highly honoured. The encomiums you have showered on me, on the one hand, make me embarrassed and on the other place a heavy responsibility on my shoulders. My illustrious predecessors who adorned this high office are men of great intellectual attainments, known for their scholarship and erudition. In contrast, I am only a common man who has spent the better part of his life for the underdog. I hope to maintain the excellent traditions set by them and in this I count upon your goodwill, cooperation and support.

As you all perhaps know, I am no stranger to this House, nor this is my maiden speech. It may perhaps be styled as an old maid's address! I have been connected with the Parliamentary institutions for the last four decades either directly or indirectly and now I am returning to my old haunts after a decade.

I would like to utilise this opportunity to thank my comrades here and the Lok Sabha for electing me to the high office of the Vice-President of India in which capacity I am also *ex officio* Chairman of this House.

I consider the felicitations expressed by the Members have deeper significance than mere congratulations to an individual chosen to be the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. In my view, they represent an urge that

changes in the composition of the House or in its chairmanship, would not in the least affect the determination of all of us to bend our energies for the national task of speedy and orderly development. This House is not merely an Upper Chamber: this is representative of the States of the Union. In fact, this is the only place where the chosen spokesmen of the States are constantly and directly in touch with the representatives of the Union Government.

In the developing federal structure of our country, the Rajya Sabha has a greater role to play in the future. From the rich diversity of representative opinion we have here, from the daily dialogues we will be having on matters of moment, will, I am sure, emerge a greater unity, a more lasting national consensus. I feel it a privilege to be associated with this experiment.

Today we are facing great economic difficulties in different parts of the country and we cannot consider them as the responsibility of any particular State or the Government at the Centre. It is only through the united effort of all that we will be able to solve them. Apart from this, I would like to reiterate that whatever our differences be, we should all consider that we belong to one nation and that we are Indians first, last and always, and the seeming diversities are not deep-rooted but only superficial.

While it is held that the duty of the Opposition is to oppose, in my humble opinion, in a developing country like ours, the Opposition has a very important role to play, by being responsible as much as the Government in achieving for the common man the fundamental rights adumbrated in our Constitution, especially the right to work and the right to live.

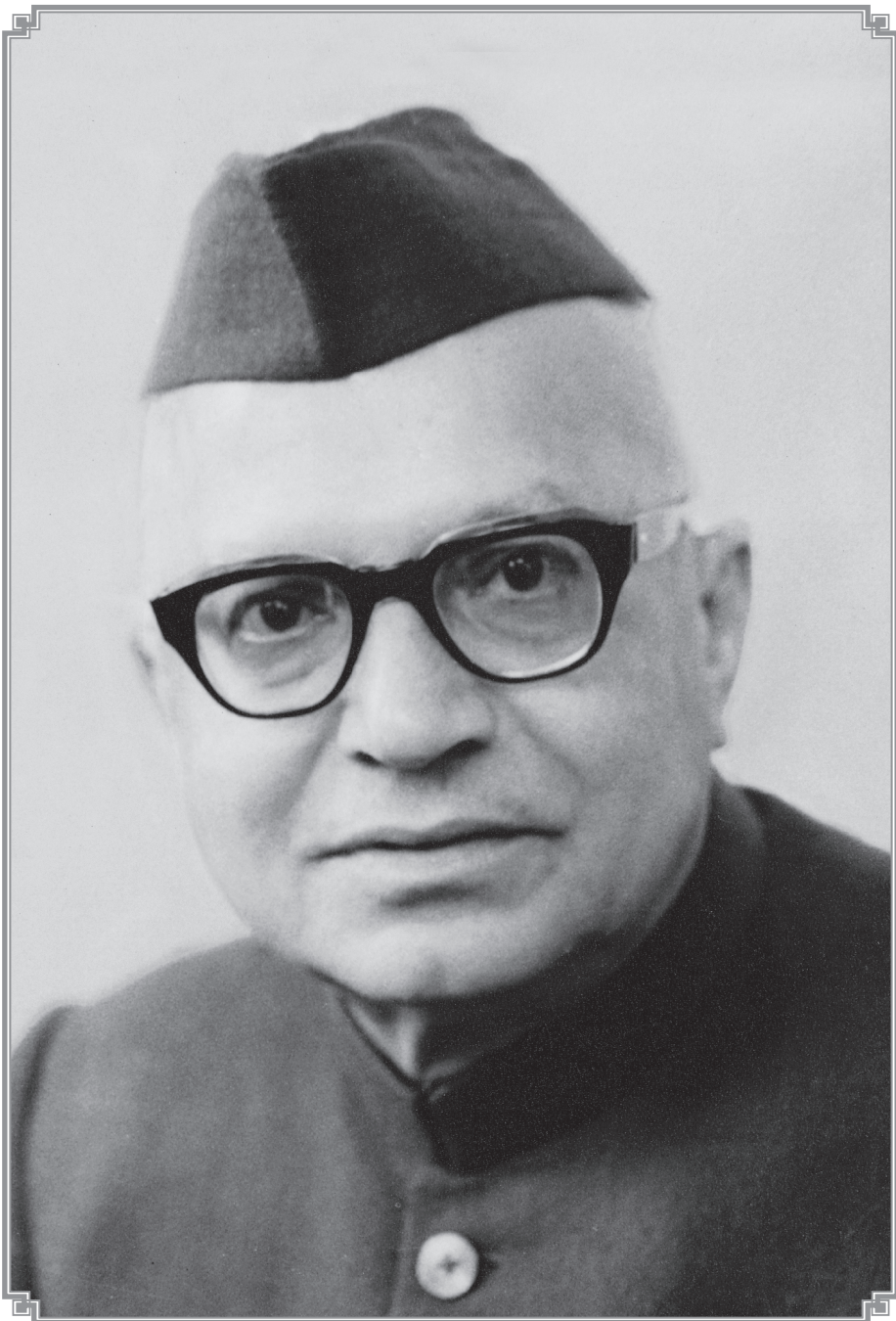
So far as I am concerned, let me assure you that I will make no distinction between the Members of the Treasury Benches and those of the Opposition. I would give the fullest opportunity to every Member, to discharge his duty. In this connection, I would like to emphasise that the Question Hour the most effective method of parliamentary control over the activities of the Executive—should be judiciously used. The Members of the Treasury Benches should realise this as an opportunity to provide full facts and explain the policies of the Government. This will produce a happy atmosphere and result in the supplementaries being reduced. Of course, it should be understood, that the Ministers cannot divulge information which is against public interests.

In order to facilitate the work of this honourable House, I would concede the privilege to any honourable Member to see me any day during the session between 10.15 a.m. and 10.50 a.m. in my Chamber so that he may be able to make any representations on any matter which will ensure

cordial relations and foster better understanding between the Chairman and Members and among the Members themselves.

On the last working day of the week I would like to meet the leaders of Parties or their representatives and the Whips so that we may generally discuss and review matters and that would facilitate our work.

I am grateful to you for allowing me the opportunity of stating some of my views regarding the conduct of business of this House. I thank you once again.



Shri G.S. Pathak
(26.2.1896–31.8.1982)
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(31.8.1969–30.8.1974)

Gopal Swarup Pathak : A profile

PATHAK, SHRI GOPAL SWARUP: M.A., LL.B.; s. of Pandit Krishan Swarup Pathak; b. February 26, 1896; m. Shrimati Prakashwati, 3 s. and 3 d.; Judge, Allahabad High Court, 1945-46; Member, Rajya Sabha, 3.4.1960 to 2.4.1966 and 3.4.1966 to 13.5.1967; Union Minister of Law, 1966-67; Governor, Mysore State, 13.5.1967 to 31.8.1969; Chancellor, (i) Mysore University, (ii) Bangalore University and (iii) Karnataka University; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1969 to 30.8.1974; Died. Obit. on 4.10.1982.

Felicitations offered to Shri Gopal Swarup Pathak on 17 November 1969

The Leader of the House, Shri K.K. Shah: Mr. Chairman, I deem it to be a privilege to extend a very warm welcome to you. You are no stranger to this House. You have distinguished yourself as a Parliamentarian and as a Minister in the past. You have earned a reputation for ability, integrity and judicious acumen of rare quality. With your background as a Judge, as an eminent jurist, as a diplomat and as an intellectual you have enriched different walks of public life and we have no doubt that we shall benefit considerably by your wise guidance and equanimous temperament.

It is only in times of stress and strains that one is called upon to give his best and very healthy precedents are created. We will be facing in this House momentous occasions when your wisdom, fairness and generosity will enable us to be participants in equitable decisions which posterity will acclaim with gratitude and will uphold as the highest traditions of parliamentary democracy.

Sir, I have no doubt that you will bring to bear on your high and exalted office not only the rich and valuable experience of a selflessly devoted career but your rare acumen of justice and fairplay. On our part, I wish to assure on my behalf and on behalf of Government that you will have our fullest support and co-operation in not only upholding the privileges of each individual Member in a just and equitable manner. It will be our endeavour to judge each issue with sobriety and in national interest. Needless to assure you that we shall strive our utmost to accommodate every point of view.

May I once again extend to you our warmest felicitations.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to offer my sincerest congratulations and greetings to you on behalf of the Congress Party in Parliament. We are conscious that you have assumed office today in the midst of some profoundly seminal developments that have taken place in the country and also in the Parliament of India... You will be presiding over a House on which the shadow of the Government would not loom very large now, and in which there will be a rightful, official Opposition for the invigoration of democracy and for the establishment of democratic socialism in this country. We have heard too much about some of the socialist ideas which are, in fact pseudo-socialist slogans and it will, therefore, be the duty of my Party to work for the establishment of a real democratic socialist society.

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The historic development that has taken place today is bound to have a tremendous impact on the political life of the country. It is in this context that you are now assuming the responsibilities of this high office. One who has got even a milligram of insight as they say into the future would feel somewhat disturbed at some of the portents. Our House is a continuing House and, therefore, it is a factor for stability. We want to preserve it as the bastion of democracy. We will co-operate with you in maintaining its position. It is possible that the waters elsewhere might be ruffled, but we would like that here the waters should be as placid as possible for it is a continuing House, as I said.

As was said by the Leader of the House, you are not a stranger to this House. You have been a distinguished Member of this House. A man so rich in experience, so eminent in law and so loved and liked by all the Members is certainly going to fill the bill admirably. We have absolutely no doubt about it. You have adorned not only our Benches, the Benches of the private Members, but you have also adorned the Treasury Benches. You have given ample evidence of your erudition in law and your devotion to the institutions and practices of democracy. Your familiarity with the rules and practices that govern the conduct of this House is also well known. Your long and distinguished legal training and career is bound to prove to be a great asset to all of us.

You are also conscious, as you have been one of us for a pretty long time, how anxious we are to preserve the rights and privileges of all Members. We however, do not want that only the rights and privileges of the Members of the Opposition should be preserved, although their rights and privileges are really the concern of the whole democracy. It may be that sometimes you may not be indulgent to the Government, but you have to be indulgent to us. Therefore, since you have yourself experienced in this august House, for quite a long time, how Members are solicitous of the rights and privileges of this House, you will certainly give your best consideration to preserving them.

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I feel that in you we have a person who has whenever he did anything earned only good-will and friendship from all and whenever he said anything he exuded only charm and sweetness. We are glad that such a person occupies the Chair today.

Now, on behalf of the Opposition generally it has become somewhat customary to say that we pledge ourselves to loyalty to the Chair and the high traditions of this House. Although it is a good custom to do that, we would like it to be more than a custom and I would not like to make any loud protestation about that and I would only submit to you that our Party is going to show that we want to back up this pledge by practice that is what we propose to do.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I offer again our heartiest felicitations on this occasion and you can very confidently look forward to having very sincere co-operation from us.

Thank you very much.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of our group and other Members in this House, we welcome you to the high office that you are going to fill. You have a background, tradition and training which befits you most eminently for this position and I am sure you will acquit yourself with credit in your duties. On behalf of a section that has suffered very much in the past, perhaps due to certain reasons, may I plead that this corner of the House would receive a fairer treatment? Intentionally or unintentionally, my group has been the group that has suffered very much in the past and I hope that will not happen in your regime. I am not making any charges. I am just mentioning a fact with the hope that there will be no reason for us to refer to this matter and that it will be a matter of the past.

श्री पीताम्बर दास: आदरणीय सभापति जी, उपराष्ट्रपति पद के ऊपर आपके निर्वाचित होने पर मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और इस सदन में सभापति के नाते आपके आगमन पर आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। एक जमाना था कि सत्तारूढ़ दल इस सदन में अत्यधिक भारी बहुमत में बैठता था, ब्रूट मेजारिटी में। उस समय जिन लोगों को सभापतित्व का काम करना पड़ा वह काफी सरल था। उसके बाद एक जमाना आया जब कांग्रेस पार्टी साधारण मत में बैठती थी और उस समय का काम कभी-कभी कठिन दिखाई देते हुए भी कठिन नहीं था, परन्तु आज परिस्थिति बहुत भिन्न है। आज का सत्तारूढ़ दल एक नाजुक बहुमत में है, मार्जिनल मेजारिटी में। मेरे कुछ साथियों का यह भी ख्याल है यह बहुमत है भी या नहीं लेकिन मैं उसके सम्बन्ध में अभी कोई मत प्रगट करना नहीं चाहता। तो ऐसी स्थिति में सभापति का काम बहुत कठिन है, परन्तु मुझे विश्वास है कि अपनी बुद्धिमता, योग्यता, कुशलता, क्षमता और अनुभव के आधार पर आपके लिये वह काम कठिन नहीं होगा। इस सदन की कार्यवाही में मैं स्वयं और मेरा सारा दल आपको पूरा सहयोग देगा मैं इस बात का आश्वासन देता हूँ और ईश्वर से आपकी सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका निर्वाचन और उपराष्ट्रपति बनना इस सदन के लिए एक गौरव की बात मैं मानता हूँ क्योंकि आप इस सदन के सदस्य रह चुके हैं। बाद में कई स्थानों पर मिनिस्टर और गवर्नर की हैसियत से रहे हैं और अपनी जिम्मेदारी को अच्छी तरह आपने निभाया है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सबसे कठिन काम जो आप निभाने वाले हैं वह राज्य सभा की चेयरमैनरी है और वह भी ऐसे समय जबकि राज्य सभा का स्वरूप बदला हुआ है क्योंकि कल तक जो राज्य सभा का स्वरूप था वह आज से नहीं है और कल परसों यह पता चलेगा कि यह सरकार बहुमत में है या अल्पमत है या कितने लोग, कितनी पार्टियाँ इसके साथ हैं और कितनी पार्टियाँ इसके खिलाफ हैं।... मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूँ और आश्वासन भी देता हूँ कि हमारी पार्टी कभी भी पार्लियामेंटरी नियम और जो पद्धति है उसके खिलाफ काम नहीं करेगी, लेकिन अगर कहीं अन्याय होगा तो उसका प्रतिरोध हम करेंगे। जब तक हम अन्याय का प्रतिरोध नहीं करेंगे तब तक

हमारे यहां आने का मकसद ही पूरा नहीं होता। इसलिए मैं आशा तो यही करूंगा कि आप किसी समय ऐसा अवसर हमें नहीं देंगे और इसी आशा के साथ मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूँ।

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party I welcome you not as a granite nor as a lollipop. I am a man of common clay, and in that humble capacity I heartily welcome you in the esteemed and high position which you occupy today. It has been one of your unique privileges today to preside over this House when our parliamentary democracy is facing certain deadly challenges from the side of dark reaction. It is a testing time which has summoned you to an assignment of high importance, and I have no doubt in my mind that you shall discharge your responsibility in a true spirit of democracy, keeping all the time in view that what happens outside in the life of the masses finds its vibrations within the precincts of Parliament. When the life marches outside in giant strides, Parliament cannot mark time or stand still. Therefore, it will be one of your very basic assignments, if I may say so, and undoubtedly you shall carry out that assignment, capturing the spirit that is outside.

You are also in a very interesting situation for the first time in the annals of parliamentary democracy. Suddenly overnight an opposition has been born in the womb of a party that is in power. It has not been created by any mandate of the people. The party has not been created by the mandate of the people outside or by election through our Assemblies. It has been created somewhere else by, shall I say, defection or fascination for something else. This itself is a unique situation. Whether it is a drama or a melodrama is not for me to say, but nonetheless we take the life in its stride and we take it for what it is worth. I am sure you should bear in mind that even in the Opposition there are oppositions and oppositions. It cannot be tarred with the same brush or painted in the same way. There will be always something to be sorted out from others. I have been here in this House for the last sixteen years on the mandate of a parliamentary party, elected by an Assembly and came here in opposition. I have not left my parents to become the opposition. I have not forsaken my mother or my father to assume suddenly the mantle of opposition. You will forgive me if these are my disqualifications. I tell you that despite these disqualifications and difficulties I shall be, without being a granite co-operative with you.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure that we have today in you an esteemed jurist, an eminent lawyer and above all a man of integrity and I am sure you do not like in the political life malpractices, corruption, syndicalism or whatever it is. It is quite clear. You like in political life straightforward behaviour.

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I look forward to your indulgence sometimes, your affection sometimes, your admonition sometimes, your rebuke sometimes, but always I shall

expect of you that in the crucible of the fight for democracy against reaction you are on the side of democracy and against reaction. Parliament is not a non-aligned body between democracy and reaction. Parliament is a partisan of progress. Parliament is a partisan of democracy and it shall be your privilege. Mr. Chairman, when the challenges are being met here and outside by the people, even the turmoil inside what has been the big ruling party—I am sure your guidance, your wisdom, your statesmanship, your courage, your integrity of character, your knowledge, your judicial mind, will all be harnessed to the cause of tending the forces of democracy and weakening the forces of reaction so that this Parliament under your leadership records a new chapter of fighting counter-revolution and reactionary forces and of triumph of democracy.

Thank you. With this confidence I greet you on this happy occasion.

Shri Niren Ghosh: On behalf of my party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), I would like to heartily welcome you, You have been a Member of our House and have come to occupy this august position. Now. Mr. Mishra said that turbulent times are ahead. I say, there are turbulent times, and it will perhaps be a turbulent House. So, it would need all your skill, sagacity and sense for the rights and privileges of the Members on the basis of democracy in order to conduct it.

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If we in this House even in a faint way reflect the people who are fighting outside for better times, we will be fulfilling our minimum duty. But I can only say—Mr. Murahari has said that if there is injustice we will protest—that I would expect that there should not be partisanship in deciding questions of procedure, etc. In that way you should see that all parties and all groups can have their say and that a broad exchange takes place and in that the issues take shape. You will see to it and I can assure you from my party, that you will get our sincerest co-operation in this effort.

Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy: Mr. Chairman, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I offer sincere and heartfelt felicitations to you. I know you for a long time. You were with us as a Member of this honourable House. You were with us in this House as a member of the Treasury Benches. And till very recently, you were the Governor of Mysore. Wherever you have been and whatever position you have occupied, you have always distinguished yourself as a great jurist, as a great administrator and as the Governor of Mysore you have always followed the Constitution of India in letter and in spirit and you have always upheld the right causes. I have no doubt that you will strive your best to safeguard the rights and privileges of Members of this House and you will also try your best to maintain the dignity and privileges of this House when we are confronted with such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, we are very happy that you are presiding over this House at a time when things are changing very rapidly in this country. We are sure

that you will always try to uphold the right causes, that you will strive for the establishment of a democratic society in this country and that you will help this House in striving to establish that society where injustices perpetrated upon the larger sections of the masses will be done away with.

Shri Thillai Villalan: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I welcome you whole heartedly. You have adorned the Bench in the field of Judiciary previously; you have earned fame and name. Now, in the political field, you are adorning the Chair. I hope you will earn fame and name. Whether you are in the Chair or in the Bench, I hope the judicial mind is always there. Being Members of the House of Elders, we consider that you are the elder of the olders of this House. On behalf of my party, I assure you of my fullest co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings of this House. With these words, I welcome you.

Shri B. D. Khobaragade: On my own behalf and on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I offer my sincere felicitations and congratulations to you on this occasion. Being an eminent lawyer, erudite scholar, skilled and experienced Parliamentarian, and having shouldered multifarious responsibilities with distinction, I have no doubt that you will conduct the proceedings of this House fairly and impartially.

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On behalf of my party and myself, I welcome you and say that we will extend our full co-operation to you in conducting the proceedings of this House.

Shri Chitta Basu: Sir, I offer you my sincere felicitations and in the course of it I do not like to repeat the most splendid career that you have had.

I think you are well aware of the mass democratic movements taking place outside this Parliament, and we, being the representatives of the people, elected by the representatives in the States, are naturally to reflect the movements that are taking place outside. And in the course of reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people outside, we are to abide by your ruling, we have to accept the rules and procedures of this House. Although you have been elected as the candidate of a particular political party, it is also your responsibility to see that the people's hopes and aspirations are adequately represented and reflected in this House. And in the matter of shaping the destiny of the people, you have a very big responsibility to shoulder.

I sincerely assure you, as a Member of this House and also on behalf of my party, of my party's fullest co-operation in the matter of the peaceful conduct of the proceedings of this House.

Shri A. K. A. Abdul Samad: On behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League, I congratulate you and assure you of our support in maintaining democratic traditions and constitutional rights.

सरदार नरेंद्र सिंह ब्रार*: चेयरमैन सर, आपके इन्तेखाब पर मैं अपनी तरफ से और अकाली पार्टी की तरफ से आपको मुबारकबाद पेश करता हूँ। आपके कामयाब होने की हमें खुशी है। हमको तो इसका उसी वक्त अन्दाजा हो गया था जबकि हमने आपके नाम के आगे जी.एस. लिखा देखा। श्री जी.एस. ढिल्लों से तो हम पहले ही ताल्लुक रखते थे और आपके नाम के साथ भी जी.एस. आ गया तो आपके नाम के साथ झुकाव हो गया। यह सवाल जी.एस. के लिये बड़ा मुबारक है और आज हमको खुशी है।

अब दिक्कत यह दिखाई देती है कि कितनी कठिनाइयां आपको आज आई हैं और कितनी आयेंगी लेकिन इसके बाद भी हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपकी सी काबिल शख्सियत जिसको इतना तजुर्बा है, जो कि हर शुअबा से गुजरा है वह इस काम को बड़ी खुश उसलबी से निभा सकेंगे। मगर साथ ही मैं आपसे इल्तजा करूंगा कि आप जब हाउस में आयें तो एक गवर्नर की शक्ल में आयें और जब आपकी विनम्रता मैंने देखी तो ऐसा मालूम होने लगा कि कोई बुजुर्गों के बुजुर्ग, कोई एल्डर्स के एल्डर बैठे हुए हैं। इस वक्त जो आपकी जिम्मेदारी है वह एक अच्छे बुजुर्ग की हो गई है। पिछली बातों को छोड़कर मेरी अर्ज है कि जहां तक हमारे तआवुन का ताल्लुक है हम अपना बेहतरीन तआवुन आपको देंगे और जहां तक मुमकिन होगा अपनी आत्मा से बर्दाश्त करेंगे और आपको कोई ऐसा मौका नहीं देंगे। फिर भी इत्तफाक से कुछ गलती हो जाये तो आप बुजुर्ग हैं, गालिबन इसको महसूस नहीं करेंगे। मेरी छोटी सी पार्टी है और हमारी तरफ आपकी तवज्जो गालिबन रहेगी और मैं यह भी कहता हूँ कि जिस तरह आप मेरी तरफ अब देख रहे हैं इसी तरह कभी-कभी देखते रहेंगे ताकि हमको भी मौका मिलता रहे। यह कहते हुए मैं फिर अपने तआवुन का यकीन दिलाता हूँ। थैंक यू।

Shri A. D. Mani: Sir, I cannot speak in a representative capacity, but as an old independent Member of this House may I join the Leader of the House and the honourable colleagues on this side who have paid warm tributes to you on your election. In electing you the country has not elected a politician but a jurist of great standing whose sense of fairness is well known all over the country. You have also been associated actively with the social service movement, and you have been called upon to occupy this office at a time of great crisis and tension. We are sure that you would maintain the dignity, decorum and the furtherance of this Chamber and give a lead to the country. I extend my warmest feelings to you for success in your office.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leader and friends, I cannot adequately thank you for the warm welcome that you have given me. I greatly appreciate your congratulations on my election as Vice-President in which capacity I have to act as Chairman of this august House also. I am not indulging in the language of conventionalism when I say that I have been touched by the generous terms in which you have spoken about me.

For seven years I enjoyed the privilege of working with you in this House as your colleague. I recall with pleasure and gratitude the uniform

* Spoke in Urdu.

courtesy and kindness that I received at your hands. By the expression of your sentiments today I have been assured that my absence from this scene for a little over two years has not made any difference and that I enjoy your confidence which, I am certain, will make the fulfilment of my responsibility as your Chairman, easier.

Parliament occupies the centre of our constitutional structure. It is the most powerful instrument for securing to our people, who are sovereign, justice, economic and social, and for making political progress. It is through Parliament that peaceful change is ensured. Parliament is the protector of the citizens' rights and citizens' freedom in the land. All this underscores the solemnity of our obligations to Parliament. We must, therefore, endeavour to preserve and strengthen our parliamentary system. We can secure that end by faithful observance of the relevant constitutional provisions, the rules and our conventions. These constitute the real bonds ensuring the healthy functioning of the various parts of the parliamentary machinery.

The Government must govern, but the Opposition is also an essential part of our democratic system. While the Government has a right to explain its policies, the Opposition is entitled to criticise it, and to exercise control over legislation by debate and over the administration by seeking information. The parliamentary machinery must function according to parliamentary law and within the limits assigned by law.

Friends, you have spoken about my work in the legal sphere. I do not know whether I deserve even a modicum of the praise you have bestowed on me. It is true that I spent half a century, the best part of my life, in the service of the law. The training and experience gained have created in me the faith that nothing is higher than justice. The office to which I am called involves the exercise of some judicial functions. The ordinary task of interpretation of the Constitution and the Rules devolves on me. I assure you that I shall give fair and impartial judgment in the fullest measure I am capable of.

I shall always be anxious to help in the preservation of the dignity and decorum of the House. Our House has great traditions. I pledge my service to the cause of Parliament and shall faithfully observe the traditions that belong to it. I deem it a great honour and privilege to serve it as its Presiding Officer. I assure you that I shall make every endeavour to protect and defend your rights and privileges and the rights and privileges of this House. For all this, I need not say, I need your goodwill and co-operation which you have so kindly offered me today. I am confident that working together we shall be able to meet successfully the challenges of these times. I thank you once again for your felicitations.



Shri Basappa Danappa Jatti

(10.9.1912–7.6.2002)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(31.8.1974–30.8.1979)

Basappa Danappa Jatti: A profile

JATTI, SHRI BASAPPA DANAPPA: B.A., LL.B.; s. of Shri Danappa Jatti; b. September 10, 1912; m. Shrimati Sangamma B. Jatti; 3 s. and 1 d.; Member, erstwhile Princely State of Jamkhandi Legislature; Chief Minister, Jamkhandi State for three years; Member, erstwhile Bombay Legislative Assembly; Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister and Minister, holding portfolios of Health & Labour, Government of Bombay State; Member, erstwhile Mysore State Legislative Assembly, 1956 and 1967; Chief Minister and Minister, holding portfolios of Finance and Food, Government of Mysore State, 1958-66; Chairman, Land Reforms Committee, Mysore State; Lt. Governor, Pondicherry, 1968-72; Governor, Orissa, 1972-74; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1974 to 30.8.1979; Acting President, 12.2.1977 to 24.7.1977. Died. Obit. on 15.7.2002.

Felicitations offered to Shri B. D. Jatti on 31 August 1974

The Leader of the House, Shri Umashankar Dikshit: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a privilege for me, on behalf of myself, on behalf of the Treasury Benches and, if I may say so, on behalf of the whole House, to extend to you a most hearty welcome. You have occupied positions not only of ability but of great responsibility. You practised as a lawyer for many years with credit to yourself and to the various courts in Karnataka and former Maharashtra. You held several portfolios as Minister first in Maharashtra and then in Karnataka and for four years or so you were the Chief Minister of Mysore now known as Karnataka. Thereafter, as everybody knows, you occupied the responsible position of Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry and recently, until you resigned, you were the Governor of Orissa. Irrespective of whichever position you have occupied, you have given credit to it and have thereby earned a high reputation. For these reasons and because of your legal background and because of your great experience, we regard it as the good luck of this House that we have you as our Chairman. This House and the honourable Members who compose it have their own ways and sometimes their own mood. There is such an intellectual and political equipment possessed by most of the Members that you will find a great variety and enrichment in the phraseology that we use sometimes, but, on the whole, you will find that we are a very reasonable and co-operative lot. We expect from you and we promise to you that we will give you all the co-operation and support in upholding, promoting, observing and preserving the high standards of parliamentary procedure and parliamentary life of this House.

Sir, I welcome you again.

Shri S. S. Mariswamy: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I deem it to be a privilege to extend a warm welcome to you. You are not a stranger to the parliamentary system of the country, as you have held with distinction various offices before. With your good and varied background, I am sure you will enrich this House by your wise guidance. This House, which was presided over by illustrious leaders who were your predecessors, had set up a record for impartiality and fairplay. The House had the opportunity of having great and eminent scholars like Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Zakir Husain and, again, the great leader who stood for the working class, Mr. V.V. Giri, our

former President, as the Presiding Officers of this august House. Your immediate predecessor, a great legal luminary, Mr. Pathak, was adorning the same Chair for the last five years. You have succeeded all these eminent sons of this country. I wish you all success and good health.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention that we are passing through very bad days. Our economy is in shambles and I am afraid things, as they look, are not very bright. I do not want to strike a note as a prophet of doom, but yet it is my duty to remind you, as well as the Government, that difficult days are ahead. Sir, this is the House where we reflect public opinion, their sufferings and troubles. It is not only our duty to echo the feelings of the public, but also it is our sacred right to do so. While discharging our duties as responsible members of the parties we may, at times, in our anxiety express our views a little harshly which some people might not like. During such occasions we want you to be more indulgent to the Opposition than to the ruling party because we are in a minority and also in Opposition.

As you know very well, without Opposition, no democracy will thrive and if there is no Opposition no Minister and no Government would be active. As a result, we will have nothing but a fertile ground for Fascism to emerge. So, you will understand the importance of the role of the Opposition parties and would be a little more indulgent.

There may be times when stresses and strains will compel people on this side to be a little tough. On such momentous occasions, your wisdom, fairness and generosity should be there to guide us on the right lines and also direct the Government to be more serious. We want that your decisions and guidance may be acclaimed with gratitude by posterity and upheld as the tradition of Parliamentary Democracy.

Sir, there may be times when we may disagree from you but you must appreciate as Napoleon once said that—

“The people to fear are not those who disagree with you but those who disagree with you and are too cowardly to let you know.”

So, you need not have any fear about us, but you have to be very cautious with the people who disagree with you but are too cowardly to let you know that.

Once again, I welcome you to this august House and wish you good luck and godspeed.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: On behalf of our Party in this House and on my own behalf, I welcome you, Mr. Chairman, on your installation in the august office of this House. You have today come to occupy a position in the House which over the years has acquired a high distinction and a certain democratic credibility, not so much as a result of the fact that the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha happens to be the Vice-President of India as due to the contributions which have emanated from the Chair in the conduct of the business of the House. Indeed, your high office in this House has shone not in any reflected glory but in its dynamic impartiality, its boldness, its comprehension of the problem afflicting the nation and our people's struggle to remake our country and, above all, in its responses to the urges of our toiling masses.

Mr. Chairman, it was my privilege to be in this House when your great office was inaugurated 22 years ago with that eminent philosopher and educationist, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, in the Chair you, Sir, have now come to occupy. In those days when the British Parliament, miscalled 'Mother of Parliament' was uncritically adored in some quarters as a model to follow, there were some attempts to make this House something like the House of Lords in the Westminster, if only in the matter of functioning and procedure. That the Rajya Sabha was the product of no heredity or royal prerogatives tended to be forgotten by those for whom Westminster was almost a shrine and May's out-dated book on parliamentary practice a Bible.

But, Sir, it goes to the credit of our first Chairman and the Members that they did not allow such anti-democratic tendencies to overshadow the Rajya Sabha's future. Step by step, the Rajya Sabha, through the leadership from the Chair and by the efforts and struggles of its Members has fashioned itself into a strident forum of our parliamentary institutions, despite the obvious limitations arising from the manner of its creation and existence and, if I may say so, the attempts on the part of certain authorities to treat it as a mere show-window. I must, however, add that the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, treated this House with great respect and shared our strivings to make this House dynamic, lively and useful within of course, the four corners of the Constitution. Our first Chairman, Dr. Radhakrishnan, truly an independent, played yeoman's role in building up the high tradition not only of this House but of the Chair itself. Permit me, Sir, to wish him speedy recovery from his present illness on this occasion. He won our hearts not only by his scholarship, high vision but also by his good humour, disarming smile and deep regard and affection for all Members, particularly those in the Opposition. Sir, the image of the Chair in a parliamentary institution such as ours rises with the Chair's attitude of sympathy, understanding and accommodation in relation to the Opposition. This indeed

has been the Chair's by now well-established as well as cherished tradition to which, we hope, you, Sir, will add your worthy contribution not only to uphold but to carry forward that tradition.

We know your path may not always be easy, but you can count on the willing co-operation and goodwill of all of us. We gave that co-operation to Dr. Radhakrishnan's successors and your predecessors, Dr. Zakir Husain, Shri V.V. Giri and Shri G.S. Pathak. You, Sir, have stepped into this office at a very critical moment in our history when the worst ever economic crisis since independence has overtaken our country, when the privations and sufferings of the masses have reached the limit of endurance, when the sharp struggles are opening out between the forces of progress, on the one hand, and those of reaction, on the other, with the protagonists of *status quo* and so-called pragmatism showing up their utter bankruptcy in facing the grim challenge. Democracy is grievously threatened by the combined forces of reaction, and these forces are ramified on either side of the line that, in a parliamentary setting, divides the Treasury Benches from the Opposition. Democracy, including its parliamentary form, is menaced by the forces of neo-colonialism, monopoly capital landlordism and by an arrogant and politically ill-bred bureaucratic brass which has only contempt for Parliament and, last but not the least by rampant corruption to which your predecessor, Shri Pathak, had rightly referred in his farewell address to us the other day. I hope, Sir, you will take note of corruption not in a valedictory performance but in your day-to-day functioning which begins from today as the Chairman of this House.

Sir, the masses are struggling today against high prices, unemployment and for social justice so long and so cynically denied to them. They are fighting for a radical change of the social order which alone can save them from the depredations of the exploiting classes and the nation from an economic and political catastrophe. The Rajya Sabha today can justify itself by giving language to the fighting urges of our down-trodden millions and not by trying to sweep them under the carpet. The voice of the masses echoed, heeded and respected here makes the House great and win it popular esteem and affection. The House must mirror the life and struggles of the masses outside and that must not be allowed to be clouded by what goes on in the corridors of power elsewhere. The rapport with the toiling masses is of paramount importance for the vitality and future of parliamentary institutions and in this context you, Sir, are called upon to play an important and creative role.

You, Sir, in your election appeal to us, expressed your sentiments for overcoming age-old poverty and making "Economic inequality and social

injustice” things of the past. You will agree with us that those objectives can never be won except by the struggles of the masses. They can never be advanced by serving the *status quo* or encouraging the policies that are responsible for perpetuating economic inequality and social injustices.

In your appeal you have said: “I pledge myself to be worthy of the confidence that you have reposed in me. I seek your goodwill and support”. On behalf of my Party, I reciprocate by pledging our goodwill and support to you trusting that your deeds will match in spirit and letter the profound words of your solemn pledge. May I, in the end, congratulate you on the assumption of the great responsibility in the service of the masses, democracy and the nation for which impartiality, imagination and courage to displease the vested interests in economic life as well as in the seats of monopoly power are essential prerequisites.

Sir, once again I thank you and congratulate you.

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सौभाग्य है कि मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से आज आपका अभिनन्दन और स्वागत करने के लिए यह सुअवसर प्राप्त कर रहा हूँ—केवल इस कारण से नहीं कि आप अध्यक्ष बनकर यहां उपस्थित हुए हैं बल्कि इस रूप में कि इस अध्यक्ष पद को सुशोभित करने वाले आप वे व्यक्ति हैं जिन्होंने देश की स्वतंत्रता के लिए संघर्ष में अपने को रत रखा और जिन्हें इस देश के राष्ट्रपिता स्वर्गीय महात्मा गांधी के चरणों में सेवा करने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ। राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी इस देश के किस स्वरूप को लेकर संघर्ष कर रहे थे, उनकी कल्पना का भारत क्या था, उनकी दृष्टि में भारत की आर्थिक नीति क्या थी, सामाजिक ढांचा क्या था, इस देश की राजनीति और धर्म का संबंध क्या था आप इससे भली भांति परिचित हैं। मैं महात्मा गांधी के प्रवचनों में से एक ही बात की ओर संकेत करना चाहता हूँ। महात्मा गांधी की एक मान्यता थी कि धर्मविहीन राजनीति रावण-राज को पैदा कर सकती है, परन्तु राम-राज्य पैदा नहीं कर सकती। मैं समझता हूँ कि संसार में वही एक अद्वितीय आत्मा थी इस शताब्दी में जिसने राजनीति और धर्म के समन्वय को रखते हुए इस देश में संघर्ष किया। उनके समस्त संघर्ष का मूलाधार अहिंसा थी और उनके लक्ष्य का भारत न यूरोप और अमरीका था, न रूस और चाइना था। उनके लक्ष्य का भारत वही भारत था जिसकी परम्पराएं आदि काल से इस देश में चली आई हैं। उनकी हार्दिक अभिलाषा थी कि इस संसार में भारतवर्ष अपने स्वरूप को बनाए रखे और राजनीति क्षेत्र में भटके हुए देशों को एक सही मार्गदर्शन दे। ऐसी उनकी अभिलाषा थी और ऐसी भावनाओं में पले हुए व्यक्ति के रूप में आज आप हमारे सामने उपस्थित हुए हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, भारतवर्ष इस समय की संसार की राजनीति में बहुत बड़ा स्थान रखता है और वह यह कि प्रजातांत्रिक क्षेत्र में संसार में भारतवर्ष ही सबसे बड़ा महान देश है। जहां तक संसार में प्रजातंत्र में विश्वास करने वाले देशों का संबंध है उन सभी की दृष्टि अमरीका और इंग्लैंड पर नहीं है, वे प्रजातंत्र के परीक्षण को भारतवर्ष में देख रहे हैं कि भारतवर्ष किस रूप में अपने प्रजातंत्र को सफल बनाता है। उनकी दृष्टि भारतवर्ष की ओर है। भारतवर्ष के प्रजातांत्रिक ढांचे का निर्माण

अगर कहीं हो रहा है तो इस संसद भवन में हो रहा है। इस संसद में विचारधाराएं विभिन्न रूप में आती हैं और आती रहेंगी।

संसार के राजनीतिक पटल पर इस समय हम उन्नत देशों में नहीं हैं, हम विकासशील देशों में से हैं, परन्तु हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि प्रजातांत्रिक दृष्टिकोण में हमारा महत्व सर्वोपरि है, सबसे आगे है, हमारा देश नम्बर वन पर है। अगर प्रजातंत्र का पालन करने में हम असफल रह गए तो संसार के दूसरे देश लड़खड़ा जाएंगे। इस दृष्टि से जिस महत्वपूर्ण पद पर आप आसीन हैं उस पद पर रहते हुए इस महत्वपूर्ण बात को ध्यान में रखने की आवश्यकता है।

एक बात मैं विशेष रूप से आपसे कहूंगा और वह यह कि प्रजातंत्र के लिए सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता है विरोधी दल का सशक्त होना। अगर प्रजातांत्रिक शैली में विश्वास करने वाले देश में विरोध और विरोधी दल न हो तो रूलिंग पार्टी उसे तानाशाही में परिणत कर सकती है। फिर एक तानाशाही स्थापित हो जाती है, उसे फासिज्म कहिये या डिक्टेटरशिप कहिये, उसमें कोई अंतर नहीं रह जाता। देखने भर के लिए वह प्रजातंत्र रह जाता है। दुर्भाग्यवश भारतवर्ष के अंदर 27 वर्षों में एक सबल विरोधी दल एक शक्ति के रूप में इन संसद् भवनों में उपस्थित नहीं हो सका और इसको मैं देश का दुर्भाग्य मानता हूं साथ ही दुर्भाग्य मानता हूं इस रूलिंग पार्टी का जिसके हाथ में राज सत्ता है। क्योंकि उसको सही मार्ग पर चलाने के लिए विरोधी दल का हंटर, उसका कोड़ा परम आवश्यक है।

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इस पद पर आसीन होने के बाद हम सभी आशा करते हैं और हमारा यह विश्वास है कि आप सच्चाई के साथ इस देश के हित में इस देश की परंपराओं को स्थिर रखने के लिए आप पूर्ण तटस्थता के साथ अपने कर्तव्य को निभाने की चेष्टा करेंगे ऐसी मेरी हार्दिक प्रार्थना है। जिस पद पर आप बैठे हैं वह कांटों से भरा है।जो ताज रखा है आपने सिर पर वह कांटों से और कठिनाइयों से भरा है। उसमें आपको कभी-कभी ऐसे निर्णय लेने पड़ेंगे कि जिसमें कभी विरोधी दल नाराज हो जायेंगे और कभी शासक दल। अंत में मैं आपसे यही प्रार्थना करूंगा कि देश में आज विषम परिस्थिति है, देश में महंगाई है, देश में भ्रष्टाचार है और दूसरी अनेक समस्याएँ हैं जिन पर यहां चर्चा होगी। इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए यहां चर्चाएं होंगी, विधेयक आयेंगे और उसमें आपको अपने निर्णयों से सदन को सुशोभित करना है। मैं अंत में परम पिता परमात्मा से यही प्रार्थना करता हूं कि वह आपको शक्ति और साहस दें ताकि आप अपने पद के कर्तव्यों का सच्चाई के साथ पालन कर सकें जिस प्रकार इस पद पर बैठे हुए डा. राधाकृष्णन और डा. जाकिर हुसैन साहब ने इस पद को सुशोभित किया है। उनकी परंपरा को आप बनाए रखें और उसमें आप सफल हों। मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनायें आपके साथ हैं।

श्री महावीर त्यागी: श्रीमन्, आपको चेयरमैन पद को सुशोभित करने के इस शुभ अवसर पर मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी के सब सदस्यों की ओर से आपको हार्दिक बधाई देता हूं और आपका स्वागत करता हूं। मुझे आशा है कि आप पूरी निष्पक्षता के साथ इस सभा का संचालन करेंगे।

वास्तव में प्रजातंत्र का महत्व इसी में है कि विरोधी दलों के सदस्य जनता की कठिनाइयों को पूरी स्वतंत्रता के साथ सदन के सामने पेश कर सकें। चेयरमैन की हैसियत से आपसे मैं यह आशा करता हूँ कि आप हमारे इस कर्तव्य को पूरा करने में पूरा सहयोग देंगे। विरोधी दलों को जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करने की पूरी छूट देंगे क्योंकि जो पार्टी पावर में आ जाती है उसका काम ज्यादातर गवर्नमेंट के काम को जस्टिफाई करने का हो जाता है। जो विरोधी दल के लोग हैं उन्हीं को छूट रहती है कि जनता की शिकायतों को संसद् के सामने पेश कर सकें। इसलिए जनता की शिकायतों को पेश करने का कर्तव्य जो हमारा है उसको पूरा करने में आपका पूरा सहयोग चाहते हैं और हम आशा करते हैं कि जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करने में आप हमारे साथ पूरा सहयोग देंगे और हमको पूरी छूट देंगे। मैं अपनी ओर से और पार्टी की ओर से आपको आश्वासन दिलाता हूँ कि हमारा पूरा सहयोग आपके साथ रहेगा।

अभी मेरे मित्र ने कहा था कि दिमाग आपका उधर हो सकता है, लेकिन जब आप इस कुर्सी पर बैठते हैं आपके जिस्म की बाईं तरफ दिल है और हम भी बाईं तरफ हैं, दिमाग उधर हो सकता है पर दिल हमारी तरफ है। इसलिए मैं आपके दिल से अपील करता हूँ और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप विरोधी दलों के साथ इस तरफ से काम लेंगे और चूंकि हम जनता का फर्ज अदा करते हैं इसलिए हमारा ध्यान रखेंगे।

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, मैं भारतीय लोक दल के सदस्य की हैसियत से और भारतीय लोक दल की ओर से आपका ससम्मान स्वागत करता हूँ।

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श्रीमन्, मैं पहले ही आपको निवेदन कर दूँ और आपके द्वारा इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों को निवेदन कर दूँ कि सदन का सम्मान, सदन की प्रतिष्ठा, सदन की गरिमा, सदन की महिमा, सदन की शोभा और सदन की सुरीति को सुरक्षित रखने में हम सदा-सदा आपका सहयोग करेंगे।

श्रीमन्, मुझे आज प्रसन्नता भी है—प्रसन्नता इसलिए है कि आप गांधी परम्परा से आये हैं।..... इसलिए मैं जब अपने उस कर्तव्य का पालन करूँ तो मैं सर्वदा यह चाहूँगा कि गांधी परंपरा से आया हुआ इंसान जो आज इस चेयरमैन की कुर्सी पर सुशोभित है वह उसकी रक्षा करे।

श्रीमन्, मैं यह भी निवेदन कर दूँ कि आपको कई बड़े कर्तव्यों का पालन करना होगा क्योंकि आपकी हैसियत दो हैं। एक तो आप उपराष्ट्रपति हैं और हमारे दूसरे इस सदन में आप चेयरमैन हैं। उपराष्ट्रपति की हैसियत से आप शासन के अंग हो जाते हैं और चेयरमैन की हैसियत से आप संसद् के अंग हो जाते हैं। मैं आपसे नम्रता से निवेदन कर दूँ कि संसद् सर्वोपरि है। आप चेयरमैन के पद को ऊपर रखिएगा। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि किसी कारणवश उपराष्ट्रपति के कर्तव्य का पालन करने में और चेयरमैन का कर्तव्य पालन करने में कॉन्फ्लिक्ट हो तो आप उपराष्ट्रपति को तरजीह दें चेयरमैन को नहीं। मैं बराबर नम्रता से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि चेयरमैन के पद को सर्वथा ऊपर रखिए, उपराष्ट्रपति के पद से।

श्रीमन्, जब हम आपको अपने सम्पूर्ण दृढ़संकल्प के साथ और सम्पूर्ण इच्छा के साथ सहयोग करने के लिए तैयार हैं—सहयोग देने का वचन देते हैं तो यह वचन देते हुए हम कॉन्शियस हैं, हम सचेत हैं। हम आपको अपना कर्त्तव्य पालन करने में सर्वथा सहयोग देंगे। यहां जितने लोग हैं—चाहे सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य हों चाहे सदन के चेयरमैन साहब हों—सबका व्यक्तित्व सीमित है। अपनी-अपनी सीमाओं में सब बंधे हैं। अगर कोई भी अपनी सीमा का उल्लंघन करता है तो उस समय सदन की स्थिति कुछ विचित्र हो जाती है। इसलिए मैं बराबर यह निवेदन करूंगा और मैं चाहूंगा कि आप में कृष्ण जैसा विशाल हृदय हो, आप में राम की मर्यादा हो और आप में शंकर की बुद्धि हो। अगर आप शंकर की बुद्धि, राम की मर्यादा और कृष्ण का हृदय, तीनों का समन्वय करके चलेंगे तो इस सदन में कभी भी आप हमसे असहयोग नहीं पाएंगे, बराबर हमारा सहयोग पाएंगे। मैं इसकी व्याख्या बहुत दूर तक इस समय करना पसंद नहीं करता। मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि कृष्ण ने कभी भी अपने लिए कुछ नहीं किया। कृष्ण ने जो कुछ भी किया वह दूसरों के लिए किया। शंकर की जो कुशलता थी वह विश्व में अद्वितीय थी और शंकर की बुद्धि के बराबर दुनियां में कोई प्राणी पैदा नहीं हुआ। राम अपनी मर्यादा के कारण ही मर्यादा पुरुषोत्तम रामचन्द्र कहलाए जाते हैं। जो जन-जन की रचना करे, जो जन-जन के सुख और सुविधा को देखे, जो जन-जन में समता लाए और जो जन-जन के बीच की दूरी और विषमता को समाप्त करे, वही राम है। श्रीमन्, क्योंकि हमारे बहुत से लोग भारतीय संस्कृति से परिचित नहीं हैं वे यूरोप की संस्कृति से परिचित हैं, रूस की संस्कृति से परिचित हैं, इसलिए मैं उनको बता देना चाहता हूं कि—

वैर करय न कोई।

रामराज व्याप्त विषमता कोई॥

रामराज में कोई किसी से वैर नहीं करता था। क्योंकि वहां विषमता नहीं थी; गैर-बराबरी नहीं थी।

दैहिक दैविक भौतिक तापा।

रामराज काहु नहीं व्यापा॥

राम के राज में किसी को न शारीरिक पीड़ा थी, न बौद्धिक तकलीफ थी।

मैंने पहले कई बार वाल्मीकि के श्लोक सुनाए हैं पर इस समय सुनाने के लिए समय नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आज हम जनतांत्रिक पद्धति को अपनाए हुए हैं तो जनतांत्रिक पद्धति का मतलब क्या है?

जब सत्ताधारी दल, कुर्सी दल विरोधी पक्ष को उन तमाम सुविधाओं से सम्पन्न करे जिससे कि विरोधी पक्ष, अल्पमत अपने आपको बहुमत में परिणत कर सके। लेकिन अगर अल्पमत को अपने आपको बहुमत में परिणत करने के मार्ग में सत्ताधारी दल बाधक होता है तो इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था में जनतंत्रीय पद्धति टूट जाती है। श्रीमन्, मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इन तमाम चीजों पर अच्छी तरह से ध्यान दें। आप तो विद्वान हैं, कानून के ज्ञाता हैं और सभी चीजों को अच्छी तरह से समझते हैं। बहुत-सी बातें इस सदन में कही गईं। सम्मानित सदस्यों के मुखारबिन्द से बहुत अच्छे-अच्छे शब्द निकले। कुछ सदस्यों के द्वारा प्रतिक्रियावादी, क्रांतिकारी, रिएक्शनरी, प्रोग्रेसिव, लेफ्ट और राइट इन तमाम शब्दों का प्रयोग हुआ। क्या मैं यह समझ सकता हूं कि इस सदन में किस पक्ष की तरफ से लेफ्ट और

राइट शब्दों का प्रयोग कब से हुआ? Who is right and who is left मैं समझता हूँ कि आपके दक्षिण में जो सत्ताधारी दल हैं वह राइट है और आपके वाम में जो विरोधी पक्ष हैं, वह लेफ्ट है। आपको मालूम होगा फ्रेंच रिवोल्यूशन के अन्दर जो प्रोरायलिस्ट थे वे राइटिस्ट कहलाते थे और जो रॉयलिस्टों के खिलाफ थे वे लेफ्टिस्ट कहलाते थे। यहां पर एक शब्द रूढ़िवादी भी कहा गया।मैं चाहूंगा कि जब कभी दक्षिणपंथी या वामपंथी शब्दों का प्रयोग हो या जब रूढ़िवादी शब्द का प्रयोग हो, जिसका प्रयोग करना मैं पसन्द नहीं करता हूँ तो इन शब्दों का प्रयोग ठीक से किया करें। कौन दक्षिण है, कौन वाम है? क्या अपने देश में उस शक्ति को वाम शक्ति माना जाता है जो मातृभूमि की सीमाओं को दूसरों को देने से रोकने के लिए अपना बलिदान कर दे? मैं उन व्यक्तियों को वामपक्षी नहीं मान सकता जो हमारे कार्यों के लिए, जनता और सरकार के कामों के लिए जनता की भाषा की आवश्यकता नहीं मानता। इन तमाम बातों को अगर आप देखेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि यह संसद् क्या है? संसद् वह स्थल है, वह शीशा है, वह दर्पण है जिसमें बाहर की स्थितियों का प्रतिबिम्ब आए। अगर बाहर की स्थितियों का प्रतिबिम्ब यहां पर नहीं आएगा तो आप बताएं कि क्या यह संसद् रह जाती है?

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श्रीमन्, मैं समझता हूँ आप को थोड़े में ही इस सदन की परिस्थिति का ज्ञान हो गया होगा, क्योंकि आप ज्ञानवादी हैं। आप देख लीजिए—एब्सट्रैक्ट और कांक्र्रीट। मैं चाहता हूँ लोग समझें—What is the difference between abstract and concrete? Generalised programme is principle; concretised principle is programme. निर्गुण और सगुण। सिद्धांत जो है वह निर्गुण है, कार्यक्रम जो है वह सगुण है। अगर हम निर्गुण को सगुण में लाए तो लोग हमको कहते हैं कि आप तो गड़बड़ कर रहे हो। जनतंत्र, समाजवाद, समता, बराबरी, सेक्यूलरिज्म, सर्व धर्म समन्वते—यह सब बोलते हैं मगर जब जनतंत्र का ठोस आया तो वहां पर सर्वग्राही मनोवृत्ति बन जाएगी, सारी सत्ता अपने में लेने की मनोवृत्ति आ जाएगी। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप कुर्सी पर बैठकर विरोधी पक्ष के अधिकार के संरक्षक हों और संसद के सदस्यों के अधिकारों के संरक्षक हों। सत्ताधारी दल बहुत विशाल हो गया है, उनको आपकी संरक्षता की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अगर आवश्यकता है तो विरोध पक्ष को है। विरोध पक्ष को, अपने कार्य का संपादन करने में सत्ताधारी दल दिन-प्रतिदिन अपनी सत्तागृही, सर्वग्रासी मनोवृत्ति को खड़ा करके, खण्डित करता है। मैं चाहूंगा, आप हमारे अधिकारों की रक्षा करेंगे जिससे हम संसद की महिमा, संसद की गरिमा को बचाएं, जिसमें हम देश की नंगी, भूखी जनता की मुसीबतों को यहां प्रतिबिम्बित कर सकें और जिन भावनाओं से आज देश की तमाम जनता आपको देख रही है उन भावनाओं को आप साकार स्वरूप प्रदान करेंगे। इन भावनाओं के साथ मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। भारतीय लोक दल की हैसियत से, उस दल की ओर से, आपका बार-बार स्वागत करता हूँ। आप गांधी परम्परा से आए हो, उस परम्परा को बराबर कायम करो।

Shri Niren Ghosh: Sir, I rise, last of all, to welcome you. I extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of my party and on behalf of myself as well. As has been said earlier, you have been occupying various positions of responsibility in the system of parliamentary democracy. But we have a

feeling that parliamentary democracy is being systematically eroded and is being sought to be muffled. I have seen your predecessors in this office. Though I have not been in this House as much longer as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, but I have seen in this office Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, Mr. Giri and last of all, Mr. Pathak. So, over the great number of years, all through this period, I have a feeling, I have a direct experience that the privileges, conventions and traditions which this House enjoyed at the time of Dr. Radhakrishnan, have been greatly eroded. That is my strong feeling. I do not know whether all will agree with me.

Sir, I would like to remind you that Rajya Sabha represents the States of India, that means the nationalities of India. And as such, I have a feeling and I am firmly of the opinion that Rajya Sabha should enjoy equal powers and privileges with Lok Sabha ... And the Constitution should be amended so that the representatives of the States, *i.e.*, the nationalities can be directly elected to this House. That is my feeling. So, Sir, now we are passing, as I feel in my long life, perhaps through the worst period in the history of India, since Independence.

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I hope you will maintain the traditions and privileges of this House and seek to extend them further as these were during the time of Dr. Radhakrishnan at least. . .

Sir, I warmly welcome you.

Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Muslim League, whole-heartedly and sincerely welcome you to this House which is the supreme legislative body of the land. Late V.J. Patel, when he was elected to the Imperial Legislative Assembly, declared, "I cease to belong to any political party or I belong to all political parties". That was the sense of impartiality, that was the sense of justice that has been shown by that great leader. I am quite sure, Sir, that you also would show that sense of justice and impartiality to all groups and to all the parties that are here in this House. You have got wide and rich experience as a legislator, as a Minister, as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and also as a Governor. Now, Sir, as the Vice-President of this great land of ours and as Chairman of this House, I am quite sure you will be upholding the integrity and decency and decorum of this House and on our behalf and on behalf of my party let me assure you, Sir, that we will co-operate with you in upholding the integrity, decency, dignity and decorum of this House. Let me wish you all success, Sir. Let God Almighty give you strength and courage to do justice without fear or favour.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री एन. एच. कुम्भारे: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रिपब्लिकन पार्टी तथा अन्य छोटे दलों की ओर से आपका हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ। आपके व्यक्तित्व के प्रति यहां जो सद्भावना व्यक्त की गई है उससे मैं सहमत हूँ।

यह सभागृह दो हिस्सों में बंटा हुआ है। कुछ लोग आपके सामने बैठे हुए हैं। हम कुछ लोग इस सभागृह में पीछे बैठे हैं। जो लोग सामने बैठे हैं उनकी ओर आपकी दृष्टि जाएगी ही किन्तु मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि इस सभागृह का कामकाज चलाते वक्त आप थोड़ी दूर-दृष्टि भी रखेंगे।

Shri N. G. Goray: Sir, I am very glad to extend to you a wholehearted and warm welcome on behalf of my party as well as on my own behalf in this House. Sir, I think this is not the occasion when I should inflict an erudite lecture on neo-colonialism and fascism or refer to the good old days of Ramrajya about which nobody knows anything. We have to live in the present. I can only say that so far as this House is concerned, we have tried to maintain a tradition of dignity, of brotherhood and of justice. Sir, I am quite hopeful that under your guidance this tradition will be maintained. It is very necessary to be very careful about it because the days ahead are likely to be very difficult and very turbulent. A great responsibility will rest on the shoulders of all the Members of this House. There will be differences of opinion, there will be conflict, there will be contradictions. But, Sir, I have no inferiority complex because of the fact that I belong to a small party. Also I have no doubt that those who enjoy the majority are in no way less than me in their patriotism or in their good intentions for the welfare of the people because, Sir, if I lose that confidence, as soon as I begin to doubt their *bona fides*, I think there is no reason why I should sit in this House at all. Therefore, so long as I sit in this House, so long as I participate in the debates, the basic assumption is that it is possible to convince those people who are sitting opposite to me if my arguments are valid and if my love for my countrymen is genuine. That is how I work, Sir.

Sir, I hope and trust that the traditions that have been set by your illustrious predecessors will be upheld by you. I am quite sure, Sir, that in your case appearances will be deceptive: You have a meek and modest exterior but I am quite sure, when occasions arise we will find that you can be firm and you can be decisive. I hope, Sir, you will be firm and decisive in upholding the fine traditions of this House.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri K. Nagappa Alva: Respected Chairman, Sir, it is with pleasure and happiness that we welcome you, the Vice-President of India, as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I am sure, with your vast experience of over 30 years in public life and having served the country in different capacities, you will

conduct the business of this House ably, upholding the great traditions. You are a man of character; you are personification of simplicity and humility; you are an integrated personality. Devotion to duty and devotion to God are the two vital characteristics of your life. My greatest satisfaction is that at this critical and difficult period of history of this sacred land the one who has grown up in stature with spiritual strength has become the Chairman of this House of Indian Parliament. I wish and pray for your success as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Vice-President of India and greater success in your life in the years to come.

Shri Godey Murahari: Mr. Chairman, Sir, without taking much of the time of the House let me welcome you on my own behalf and on behalf of the other Members also to the Chair. Sir, I have been assisting your predecessor also in this onerous task of presiding over this House and I know, Sir, that when you come on the first day you begin with some amount of nervousness; that happens to everybody because I remember when I first took over the Chair I had the same kind of nervousness and most of the Members I suppose probably felt that being a very meek and soft type of man I might or might not be able to conduct the proceedings of the House. Sir, once you sit there you know what to do. It is with firmness and fairplay that you have to conduct the House and once you sit there I am sure you will do it. It is not just the Rules of Procedure that help the Chairman. Oftentimes we have to skip the Rules of Procedure and cast a blind eye to it because Members also digress from the Rules of Procedure but then that is all in the game and the main purpose of each Member trying to put forward his point of view is to reflect the trials and tribulations that the country is facing today. There are various issues, various problems, that country faces and it is but natural that Members, whether they be in the Opposition or on the Treasury Benches, try to reflect the aspirations of the people of the country and in doing so at times it is possible that a Member feels agitated or a little perturbed with what is going on and reflects it in a very heated type of argument but, Sir, once you know what the Member is about you will also know how to deal with the situation. I know you have had experience not only as a Minister, as a Governor but also as a legislator and you have known politics in this country. You have dealt with politicians and you will be dealing with politicians in this House also. Therefore, it will not be difficult for you to know the minds of the Members and to deal with them and to act with fairness. fairplay and firmness in upholding the good traditions that this House has always upheld and to blaze a path which will enable you to endear yourself to all sections of the House irrespective of party or politics. Sir, you would have had an inkling of what the Members think because even while welcoming you some of the Members had used the occasion to refer to their own programmes and policies and their own political philosophies. And that I think was in

a very subdued tone and in the days to come you will see how it expresses itself in more exuberant forms. I know that with all the rich experience that you have you will be able to endear yourself to all the Members of the House and keep up the traditions that we already maintain.

With these words, Sir, I welcome you to the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: Friends, I thank you all for your kind words of welcome. I feel overwhelmed with gratitude by this signal mark of your confidence, but, even more than gratitude, I feel the heavy responsibility and burden of this high office. I am, however, confident that in lightening my labours I can count upon the rich legacy I will be inheriting from my illustrious predecessors. While doing my duty and discharging my responsibility, it shall be my constant endeavour to follow the guidelines laid down by the galaxy of distinguished men who have occupied this august office before me. In this task I shall require the co-operation of you all and I hope and pray that I may continue to enjoy, in abundant measure, the same love and affection of you all. I can assure you that I shall strive to deserve it and to be fair and impartial under all circumstances.

Friends, I should like to say a few words about my special predicament today. I seem to be at a disadvantage in comparison to my predecessors in one respect. Whilst all of them had ample opportunities of meeting you and getting to know you at a personal and social level before assuming the responsibilities of Chairmanship, circumstances beyond my control have denied me that opportunity. As you are aware, I was sworn in as Vice-President of India just today and I had to come straight to this House to conduct its business. You will, I hope not allow this fact to stand in the way of establishing mutual intimate relations. I hope to make amends for this shortcoming by meeting everyone of you during the next few days.

We are pledged to the democratic way of life and have adopted its techniques of discussion, persuasion and compromise. Under the guidance of Parliament, we have laboured for the fulfilment of the objectives laid down in our Constitution, viz., to secure for all our citizens social, economic and political justice. Democracy signifies a temper of mind, a sense of humility. A true democrat must subject himself to frequent self-examination. It is only such self-scrutiny that will save us from feelings of infallibility and vanity, which are utterly inconsistent with the democratic spirit. In a democratic form of Government, we all subscribe basically to the main objective laid down in the Constitution and may differ only as to the manner in which the objective is to be reached. The plan of action of every party has necessarily to conform to the constitutional imperative of securing social and economic justice. The party programmes may only differ in

regard to the methods to be employed, the paths to be chosen and the pace at which progress is to be achieved. Let us, therefore, put our shoulders to the wheel and strive unitedly to make a success of this exhilarating experiment in which we are all engaged. I look to you all for your valuable co-operation. For my part, I repeat that I shall strive to be fair and impartial. I do hope that, with your co-operation and goodwill, we will ensure a standard of debate, conducted with dignity and decorum, which would ensure the smooth working of this House, and through this means, the due attainment of our national goals.

I thank you all once again for your affectionate welcome.



Shri M. Hidayatullah
(17.12.1905–18.9.1992)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(31.8.1979–30.8.1984)

M. Hidayatullah : A profile

HIDAYATULLAH, SHRI M.: M.A., Barrister-at-law, LL.D. (*Honoris Causa*) (University of Philippines), D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Bhopal and Kakatiya); s. of Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Wilayatullah; b. December 17, 1905; m. Shrimati Pushpa Shah; 1 s.; Advocate-General, Central Provinces and Berar, 1943-46; Puisne Judge, 1946-54 and Chief Justice, Nagpur High Court, 1954-56; Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court, 1956-58; Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of India, 1958-68; Chief Justice of India, 1968-70; President, (i) Indian Law Institute, 1968-70, (ii) International Law Association (Indian Branch), 1968-70, (iii) Indian Society of International law, 1968-70 and (iv) Indian Red Cross Society, 1982; Author of, (i) Democracy in India and the Judicial Process, (ii) The South-West Africa Case, (iii) Judicial Methods, (iv) A Judge's Miscellany, (v) USA and India, (vi) A Judge's Miscellany (Second Series), (vii) The Fifth and Sixth Schedules to the Constitution of India, (viii) My Own Boswell (Autobiography) and (ix) Editor, Mulla's Mahomedan Law and Constitutional Law of India; Recipient of, (i) Order of the British Empire, 1946, (ii) Order of Yugoslav Flag with Sash, 1970, (iii) Medallion and Plaque of Merit Philconsa, Manila, 1970 and (iv) Knight of Mark Twain, 1971; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1979 to 30.8.1984; Acting President of India, 20.7.1969 to 23.8.1969 and 6.10.1982 to 31.10.1982; Died. Obit. on 24.11.1992.

Felicitations offered to Shri M. Hidayatullah on 24 January 1980

The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I offer my sincere congratulations to you on behalf of the Members of this House and on my own behalf. A wise provision in our Constitution requires the Vice-President to be the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. It is our good fortune to have had men of the highest character and standing as our Vice-Presidents—scholars with vast experience in different spheres of national activity. You, Sir, are a jurist of great distinction and have held the highest judicial office in our country. To you, law is not merely a set of decrees to be enforced and obeyed, but the articulate conscience of our nation. It is well-known that your concern was to ensure that laws fully reflect the imperatives of human justice no less than the eternal varieties of truth and freedom. Your pronouncements from the Bench have taken note of the aspirations of our people. We can be sure that your rulings from the Chair in this august House will be imbued with unswerving devotion to principles and proprieties. The two Houses of our Parliament are like two halves of the country's legislative heart. Members may be elected to the two Houses in different ways but in dedication to national welfare and the desire to redress the common people's difficulties, neither House would yield to the other. The Council of States is perennial while the House of the People is subject to dissolution and re-election. Thus, between them, the two Houses give us the advantages of continuity and change. We are indeed privileged to have a person of your eminence, experience and social vision as our Presiding Officer, I assure you of fullest co-operation.

सदन में विपक्ष के नेता, श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: मान्यवर सभापति जी, मैं विपक्ष की ओर से आपका स्वागत करता हूँ और आपका अभिनन्दन करता हूँ। यद्यपि यह पहला ही प्रसंग है जब कि सदन के सभापति का चुनाव होने के कई महीने बाद सदन को अभिनन्दन करने का अवसर मिला है। परन्तु विलम्ब से ही सही मैं विपक्ष के अपने सब साथियों की ओर से और व्यक्तिगत रूप से अपनी ओर से, आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ और अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे लिये यह सौभाग्य की बात है कि आप जैसा व्यक्ति जोकि किसी समय देश की न्यायपालिका की धुरी के स्थान पर रहा है वह आज इस सदन का सभापति है। शासन की व्यवस्था के जो तीन भाग हैं, उसमें जिस प्रकार से कार्यपालिका की धुरी प्रधानमंत्री रहता है और न्यायपालिका की धुरी वहाँ का चीफ जस्टिस रहता है, उसी प्रकार से विधान मंडल की धुरी 'पिवट', लोक सभा का अध्यक्ष और राज्य सभा का सभापति ये दोनों मिलकर बनते हैं। आपने जिस शानदार

ढंग से, शालीनता से और जनता की इच्छाओं और आकांक्षाओं को ध्यान में रखकर, रूल ऑफ लॉ को ध्यान में रखकर न्यायपालिका की धुरी के रूप में कार्य सम्पादित किया है, मुझे विश्वास है कि उसी तरह से आप इस नये दायित्व को भी निभायेंगे। मैं विपक्ष और अपनी ओर से आपको पूरा आश्वासन देता हूँ कि हमारी तरफ से आपको पूर्ण सहयोग मिलेगा जिससे कि आप सुचारू रूप से इस सदन की कार्यवाही को संचालित कर सकें। धन्यवाद।

श्री भोला पासवान शास्त्री: सभापति जी, मैं अपने दल की ओर से और अपनी ओर से इस महती संस्था के सभापति पद पर आसीन होने के लिये आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आप इस सदन की गरिमा की रक्षा करेंगे। रक्षा ही नहीं करेंगे बल्कि इसके महत्व को बढ़ावेंगे। मैं जानता हूँ कि आप बड़े अनुभवी आदमी हैं और आप देश की सर्वोच्च न्यायपालिका के मुख्य न्यायाधीश रह चुके हैं। इस पद के लिए यह बड़े महत्व की बात है लेकिन वहां जो बहसें होती होंगी—मैं वकील नहीं हूँ मुझे कभी कचहरी में जाने का भी मौका नहीं मिला—लेकिन फिर भी मैं समझता हूँ कि यहां आपको जो करना पड़ेगा वे कुछ दूसरी किस्म की बातें हैं। मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से और अपनी ओर से आपको पूरा-पूरा सहयोग दूंगा, लेकिन साथ ही आपसे भी कुछ आशाएं रखूंगा और वह यह कि जो हम लोग विरोधी दलों में हैं उनके प्रति भी आपकी तरफ से न्याय हो। आप न्यायाधीश रह चुके हैं, लेकिन यहां का सभापतित्व करना और कोर्ट में मुख्य न्यायाधीश होना इन दोनों में फर्क जरूर है। आपकी एक नये सिरे से जिन्दगी शुरू हो रही है। मुझे विश्वास है कि आप सरकार के साथ तो न्याय करेंगे ही लेकिन साथ ही यह भी देखा जायेगा कि आप विरोधी दल के साथ भी कैसा न्याय करते हैं। यहां ऐसे भी प्रश्न उठेंगे जिनके ऊपर जजमेन्ट लेने में आपको दिक्कत हो सकती है। यह ऐसी संस्था है यहां हिन्दुस्तान के कोने-कोने से प्रतिनिधि आये हुए हैं और आज जो हमारी संसदीय शासन पद्धति है उसका स्तर नीचे गिर रहा है, ऐसा मैं देखता हूँ। मैं 8 वर्षों से सदन का सदस्य हूँ और मैंने इन वर्षों में जो देखा है उसके आधार पर यह कह सकता हूँ। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आपका जो अनुभव है, आपका जो तजुर्बा है और जिसको लेकर आपको यह नया मौका मिला है उस स्किल से, उस हुनर से और उस अनुभव से इस सदन को पूरा लाभ मिलेगा। इन दो चार शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ तथा अपनी पार्टी की ओर से पूरा-पूरा सहयोग देने का वचन देता हूँ।

श्री रबी राय: सभापति महोदय, मैं विरोधी दलों की ओर से और अपने दल की ओर से आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि आप राष्ट्र के एक सम्मानित व्यक्ति हैं एवं जूरिस्ट हैं। कल आपने हम लोगों को यह कहा कि आप इस सदन के और लोक सभा के बहुत से सदस्यों के टीचर भी रहे हैं। यह इस सदन का सौभाग्य रहा है कि आप से पहले डा. राधाकृष्णन और डा. जाकिर हुसेन जो इस सदन के सभापति के नाते काम कर चुके हैं, वे भी कभी अध्यापक रहे थे। मैं आपको यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि विरोधी दल प्रजातांत्रिक पद्धति का एक अभिन्न अंग है और हम लोग एक राष्ट्र के नाते कुछ सिद्धान्तों को मानते हैं। हम लोग इंग्लैटेरियन सोसाइटी में यकीन करते हैं। इसलिए संविधान में यह सिद्धान्त वर्णित है कि हम लोग प्रजातांत्रिक सेकुलर समाजवादी समाज को हिन्दुस्तान में कायम करना चाहते हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि इन सिद्धान्तों के ऊपर सारे सदन का विश्वास है। मान लीजिए, उस सिद्धान्त से शासक दल कभी हटता है या हम लोग जो विरोधी दल में हैं हट कर काम करते हैं तो आपकी यह जिम्मेदारी है कि आप हमको ठीक रास्ते पर लावें।

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हम लोग जो विरोधी दल में हैं, मैं शासक दल के सदस्यों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग रोटी और नागरिक स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई लड़ते रहेंगे। इसलिए हम लोग जो विरोधी दल के सदस्य हैं, मान लीजिये कोई तीखी आलोचना करते हैं जो कि संसदीय पद्धति के अनुसार है, मैं यह मान कर चलता हूँ कि आप इस काम को आगे करने में, देश की सार्वभौमिकता की रक्षा करने के लिए, प्रजातंत्र को बरकरार रखने के लिए आप हमारी सहायता करेंगे। मैं फिर अपने दल की ओर से और विरोधी दलों की ओर से आपको सम्पूर्ण सहयोग देने का वायदा करता हूँ।

Dr. (Smt.) Sathiavani Muthu: It is very pleasant duty to express my felicitations on behalf of the All India Anna D.M.K. in the Rajya Sabha on your assuming the distinguished Chair of this august House of the Parliament. On this occasion, I cannot but marvel at the validity of the Indian democracy which never failed to throw up such eminent persons in eminent positions. Sir, from the record of your brilliant career in the service of our glorious country, I derive a sense of satisfaction that the Chairmanship of the Rajya Sabha has been placed in such an eminent hand of our glorious motherland. Sir, you have been elected by consensus amidst all the controversies. It is not only a great tribute to your head and heart, but it is also that they should throw away their controversies in the national interest. When I speak about your outstanding personality, it is not merely on account of convention. I speak about your eminent personality keeping in mind your career of more than 40 years as an eminent jurist and as the Chief Justice of India. Sir, you had been the acting President of India in 1969. The Chairman is the custodian of the rights and privileges of Members of this House. I assure you, Sir, that we extend on behalf of our Party, our full co-operation and expect that our rights and privileges will be safeguarded in your hands. I would like to extend also my Party's co-operation to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House and to maintain the traditional glory of this House.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta: Sir, I rise to extend to you on behalf of our Group the felicitations of the Party, I represent in this House.

Sir, you have come to occupy the Chair which was once occupied in the formative days of this House by Dr. Radhakrishnan, who made the unique contribution, shaping the genius of this Institution to which you have the honour to belong. He was followed by other men of eminence in public life like Dr. Zakir Husain, Mr. V. V. Giri and others. And, therefore, Sir, we would expect the high traditions under their leadership of the House will be upheld and carried forward by you in the days ahead. You have the unique distinction also of presiding over a House in which the ruling party by a mischance of Constitution and democratic anomalies and otherwise happens to be a party of minority with barely 71 Members at present not even one-third of the total strength of the House. Sir, this is not merely a contradiction

in the make up of the two Houses, but a contradiction that reflects the political life of the country. In the past, Sir, we had the experience of the majority on this side of the House being ignored and neglected because the Government being a minority, thought that we should not be given due say or due place in the working of the House. You have even now certain things passed by the majority but disregarded by the Government that occupied those benches. It is an irony now and interesting and exciting that those who were with me on this side of the House constituting the majority now have gone to the other side carrying the tradition of minority there. And I do hope, Sir, neither you nor they, having learnt from their own bitter experience of the past will ignore the majority opinion in this House. It is not an issue of minority and majority only. Sir, we expect that the majority should be heard subject of course to the constitutional limitations and inhibition. Sir, besides you are also presiding over a House which is soon likely to undergo certain changes in the composition.

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Finally, Sir, what should I say in your praise? It is customary to praise the Chair. And, it is sometimes also customary for the Chairman to praise the opposition. I need not exchange such needless courtesies. You are a man of eminence. We have disagreed with you. Sir, when you held that property is not a fundamental right. In some other situations also we respectfully disagreed with you. Now, happily, we have come to a situation where property is held to be a fundamental right. These fundamental differences should be understood and their connotation properly drawn.

Sir, you will, no doubt, extend to the ruling party the rights and privileges that are due to them as the ruling party. Equally, we would expect that you would extend to us the same rights and privileges that are due to us as an opposition; all the more so because we constitute the majority in the House. Sir, our counsel, our wisdom had been shared only a few months back by them and I hope they have carried some good sense with them. I say this thing because the Treasury Benches are corrupting benches. Good men become bad but bad men never become good. That is our experience. So, Sir, I hope under your guidance we shall all behave according to the highest standards of democracy.

Sir, time has come when we need vigilance for our democratic institutions. Time has come when we need renovation of them. Time has come when we must see that the requirements of democracy and social justice for the people have precedence over the so-called precedents, May's Parliamentary Practice and other things like that.

Sir, I may say one thing in the end, namely, that one of the reasons for the great success of Dr. Radhakrishnan in this House was that he never read

the Rule Book. I can tell you that he had read many books. He was a voracious reader. But one thing he realised namely, that he would be losing his leadership, initiative, his own genius and talent and scholarship and his capacity to carry the House with him, if he looked into the dried rules and procedures of the House, or, for that matter, into the May's Parliamentary Practice. He responded to the promptings of life, demands of democracy and wishes of the people and to the extent he did so he rendered a great service to the House and to the nation. I do hope, Sir, that you would emulate the great example which your forebears left for you. We shall give you all our cooperation in the interest of democracy and for enhancing the prestige and honour of this great House.

Shri P. Ramamurti: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join all the Members and leaders of the various political parties in welcoming you to this House. I do not want to refer to extraneous matters while associating myself with what comrade Bhupesh Gupta said about your predecessors. I would like to point out, Sir, that you have a heavy responsibility in this House. I would like to remind the ruling party that after all they represent 42 per cent of the electorate; they do not represent the majority of the people of this country. Therefore, as far as this House is concerned, though you have been accustomed in other courts to legal debates on the interpretation of various clauses of the laws that have been enacted by this House, the Parliament, I want to tell you, is not only a legislative body enacting legislations but it is also a watch-dog of the doings of the executive. Many Members of this House are extremely perturbed at the way in which executive is assuming more powers to itself and subordinating Parliament to the executive. Therefore, Sir, whatever might be the rules, whatever might be the procedures that are laid down, it is necessary for you to take the traditions forward and to see that the Parliament really acts as the watch-dog of the executive and prevents the executive from carrying things down. Therefore, it becomes important that opportunity must be given to the opposition Members here to raise important questions of policy, important questions on the activities of the executive so that we really act as the watch-dog of the executive and do not allow the executive, running the Government in their own way without the wishes of the Parliament. That is a very important question that I would like to stress upon here.

Apart from that, as I said earlier, Parliament will have to reflect the struggles and the aspirations of the common people in this country and from time to time we would be raising the issues that are today agitating the minds of the various sections of the working people of this country and I know that time for it will have to be given by the Government. But I would look upon you to see to it that the Government agrees to give time for all important questions affecting the common people, the various sections

of the working people in this country who are struggling for a better life and their struggles have got to be reflected in this House and I hope that you will compel the Government to give sufficient time to all those questions to be raised and debated upon in this House so that the common people feel that this Parliament is really the custodian of their interests that it is a Parliament which reflects the real aspirations of the people and which debates upon their problems and it is not debating something with which they are not concerned. Therefore, Sir, I look to you to carry forward the traditions that have been created by your predecessors, particularly by the first incumbent, Dr. Radhakrishnan, and see to it that Parliament really reflects the entire aspirations of the people of this country.

Once again I associate myself with all those people and I would like to point out to you that in this work, you can depend upon our fullest cooperation.

Thank You.

Shri B. V. Abdulla Koya: I, on behalf of my party, Indian Muslim League and on behalf of myself, have great pleasure in congratulating you and welcoming you, Sir, as the Vice President of this great country and also as the presiding officer of this august body.

Sir, you have proved yourself as one of the eminent jurists of this country and I am sure that you will be able to prove yourself as one of the eminent custodians of democracy in this country.

I wish you success, Sir.

Shri V. Gopalsamy: Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party I extend my warmest congratulations to you. I have great pleasure in associating myself with the sentiments which have been expressed by our honourable Prime Minister and other distinguished Members of this House to felicitate you on your election to this high office of Chairman.

Sir, I am very glad, you have come to preside over this august House at a crucial time in our country's political history. All of us are aware that in our country, there is a fresh awakening and a new found confidence that our foundations of democracy are as strong as they should be and that under the leadership of our honourable Prime Minister, our country once again will resume its march in the right direction. I and also my colleagues feel extremely happy that at this moment we have, with us, you who have the unique and unparalleled experience in tackling the problems of law and justice. Sir, you have presided over the Supreme Court of India with dignity and honour. While keeping the dignity of your office, you did not miss to take note of the problems of the people. Sir, right from your Lincoln's Inn

days, you have shown great interest and understanding of the problems facing our nation. Your works as President of the Indian Society of International Law, as executive member of the World Assembly of Judges, your lectures in memory of Lajpat Rai and Feroze Gandhi, your publications on "Democracy in India and the judicial process" and also on "The South West Africa case" are well known and appreciated throughout the world. I am sure and confident that you will preside over this House with a deep sense of commitment to do justice to all. Once again, on behalf of the DMK, I congratulate you, Sir.

Shri Dinesh Goswami: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Independent Members of this House which constitute a substantial number and which may influence the voting pattern of the House to a great extent in the days to come. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleagues felicitating you. You have occupied the highest seat of justice in this country. But the atmosphere in which you have worked in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts will be vastly different from the atmosphere which you have experienced here and about which some indication was given by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta when he said that you must not look to the Rules Book, but you should be guided by the mood of the House. I know, Sir, as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, you will find it extremely difficult to depart from the Rules. But I hope you will also carry this in mind that this House reflects the mood of the country. Parliament reflects the mood of the country. Parliament reflects the mood of the people. Whenever the House becomes turbulent, it is not because the Members are turbulent, but because the atmosphere in the country is such that the Members feel agitated. To a certain extent, you cannot depart from looking to the Rules Book. After all, we know from our own experience that the judicial interpretation of a particular statute depends upon the conscience of the judge also. Therefore, I hope, you will interpret the Rules in accordance with the atmosphere prevailing in the country and in accordance with the mood of the House. Sir, I assure you our fullest co-operation and we have no doubt that under your able guidance and leadership, both the ruling party and the Opposition will get its due share and will get equal treatment from you.

Mr. Chairman: Madam Prime Minister, Mr. Leader and other honourable Members, I am overwhelmed by the kind words in which you have welcomed me to this office, and I am very grateful for the assurance to me of co-operation in my difficult task, a task to which I am completely new. After nearly 25 years of life as a Judge, I went into retirement for over eight and a half years but the confidence expressed by all political parties in India foreclosed my own choice and I undertook this burden. The gesture of confidence, which was then made and now reaffirmed encourages me and puts me at ease.

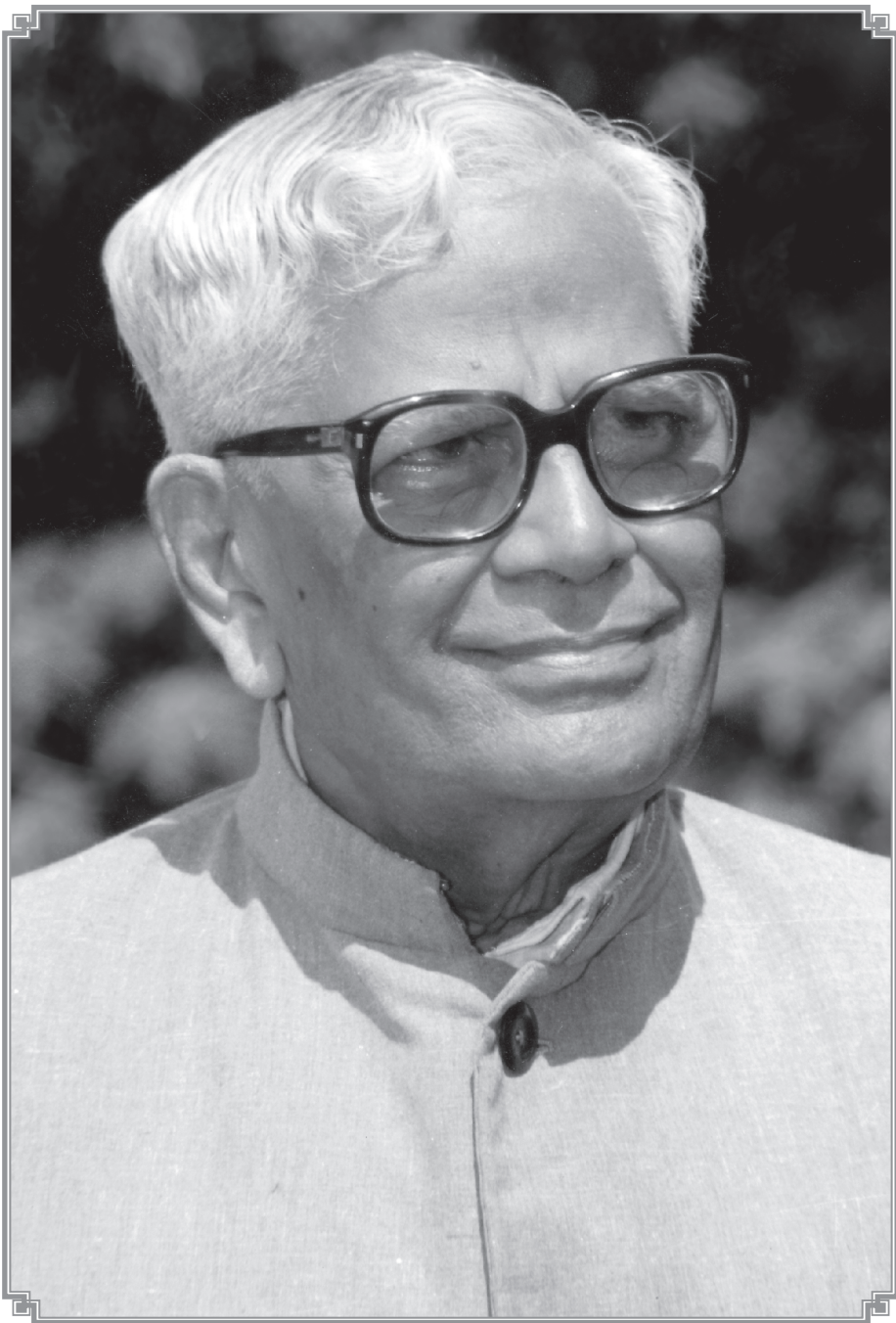
I can only renew my pledge of equal and respectful treatment to all of you and in return I crave your indulgence. When I make mistakes you must put them down to ignorance and not to any design. On my part, I am trying to learn and learn rapidly all that will be required of me.

Some of you are already known to me from before and I hope to make the acquaintance of others very soon.

Parliament representing the people faces today more problems than it ever did before. The country relies upon the wisdom and energy of the leaders it has chosen and it behoves us all in this House to discharge the trust placed in us by our country. Today, we have the pressures of our ever-increasing population, of inflation, of short supply of commodities which, added to the almost unbearable cost of oil supplies from abroad, makes our economic front gloomy. There is then the presence of danger on our borders which in recent days is giving us anxiety. These are matters which are going to engage your attention. These problems have a solution if we can pool our thinking and the country looks to us to devise the means to overcome all of them.

We have no time to lose if we are to come through successfully from our difficult problems. The time is, therefore, for action. We have chosen a democratic way of life which allows free expression of opinions and exchange of views. It also admits of differences and contradictions. But the problems I have outlined above must have their solution and the true solution can be found if we can look at the matter from the country's point of view because what is good for the country seldom admits of doubts and difference. We must, therefore, apply ourselves to this our task with determination to act and to act quickly.

Friends, thank you for the confidence you have expressed in me and I assure you that it has not been misplaced. Thank You again.



Shri R. Venkataraman

(4.12.1910–27.1.2009)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(31.8.1984–24.7.1987)

R. Venkataraman : A profile

VENKATARAMAN, SHRI R.: M.A., B.L., Doctorate of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Madras, Nagarjuna and Burdwan), Doctorate of Social Sciences (University of Roorkee); s. of Shri K. Ramaswami Iyer; b. December 4, 1910; m. Shrimati Janaki Venkataraman; 3 d.; Member, (i) Provisional Parliament, 1950-52 and (ii) Lok Sabha, 1952-57, 1977-79 and 1980-84; Union Minister holding portfolios of Finance and Defence, 1980-84; Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Lok Sabha; Member, Madras Legislative Council, 1957-62 and 1962-67; Minister holding portfolios of Industries, Labour, Co-operation, Power and Transport, Government of Madras, 1957-67; Leader of the House, Madras Legislative Council, 1957-67; Member, Planning Commission, 1967-71; Member, United Nations Administrative Tribunal, 1955-79 and its President, 1968-79; Chairman and President, (i) Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, (ii) International Jury for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, (iii) Indian Council for Cultural Relations and (iv) Indian Institute of Public Administration; Recipient, (i) 'Tamra Patra' for participation in the Freedom Struggle, (ii) Soviet prize for travelogue on Shri K. Kamraj's visit to the Socialist countries, (iii) Souvenir by the Secretary- General, United Nations for distinguished service as President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and (iv) Title 'Sat Seva Ratna' by His Holiness Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 31.8.1984 to 24.7.1987; President of India, 25.7.1987 to 25.7.1992; Died. Obit. on 12.02.2009.

Felicitations offered to Shri R. Venkataraman on 18 January 1985

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate you and welcome you as Chairman of the House. You come to this Chair in the long line of distinguished Chairmen, starting with Dr. Radhakrishnan. And you bring to this Chair a dignity and honour which, I hope, will keep the Rajya Sabha at a higher level and maintain a high dignity that the Upper House needs. The Rajya Sabha is traditionally known as the House of Elders. But we see the age becoming younger and younger. And I know, Sir, that you too are mentally very young and alive. And this will go well with the House. We look forward to a long co-operation with the Opposition and with yourself, Sir, in the Rajya Sabha.

Thank you.

Shri Dipen Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, let me take this privilege of associating myself with the Prime Minister of India to congratulate you on assuming the august office of Chairman of Rajya Sabha which was held by eminent personalities like Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain and others. Prior to your assuming this august office, we saw you as a very prominent member of the Union Council of Ministers handling very important portfolios like Finance and Defence. Basically you are a politician and so are we, and from that point of view we are on the same wave length. We know each other's requirements and it is, therefore, expected that a better understanding will prevail between the ruling party and the Opposition through you as the Chairman. You know better than me or anybody else that the major task of Parliament is to reveal the truth about the functioning of the Government to the people. And here lies the importance of the Opposition, and I hope the Opposition will be allowed to play that important role in the functioning of the largest democracy in the world. As Marxists we believe that progress takes place through contradictions and if one side of the contradiction is nipped, then, progress will be thwarted. Therefore, I expect that Opposition parties will get a better deal from you as Chairman in ensuring that progress takes place.

With these few words I congratulate you once again on behalf of my colleagues belonging to the CPI(M).

Shri R. Mohanarangam: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the All India Anna DMK I associate myself, with the Prime Minister of the country and my

colleague and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ghosh, in congratulating you on assuming the Chairmanship of Rajya Sabha. My relationship with you is very, very sentimental. I know you for the past thirty years when I was studying in college and I am your voter and you are my representative. I voted twice when you contested from South Madras Constituency in Madras. Whatever task was entrusted to you, you did it to the satisfaction of all. Whenever I pass through the industrial estates of Tamil Nadu, whenever I pass through the industrial estates of Ambattur or the industrial estates of Avadi, each and every owner of the estates would say, Mr. Venkataraman—familiarily known as RV—is responsible for the industrial development of Tamil Nadu. You have travelled throughout the length and breadth of the world. During the freedom struggle you were imprisoned for more than two years. All these things made your way up to this high post of responsibility. I was holding a certain post in my State and whenever I conducted any meeting or any programme, I would remember Mr. RV on almost all occasions. It is not an exaggeration if I point out one thing. Let me tell you what happened just two or three months before when I was conducting interview of a lady of 40 years of age who came along with her daughter to obtain my signature for a passport. After obtaining my signature for a passport, the mother told the daughter in Tamil, “Tatai kitte chollu”—which means, take leave of the grandfather. Till that moment I was under the impression that I was young and energetic. Only when that lady asked her daughter to get permission from her grandfather did I realise that I had grown old enough to be a grandfather. Sir, even after reaching that age of grandfather, still you look like a bridegroom.

Secondly, Sir, you were the Industries Minister of our State. You made Tamil Nadu as number one in the map of India. It has developed industrially to that extent for which you were responsible. When you were the Finance Minister of this whole country, you have considered almost all the States right from the lofty peaks of Himalayas to the sacred shores of Kanyakumari as one. You have done very excellent work for the betterment of this country. Now, you are here. Sir, I am not asking you as your voter or as one of the people of Tamil Nadu State to give me preference or consideration. But, in fact, I will try to catch your eye. But sometimes even this size of a man cannot usually catch the eye of the Chairman. Now, I personally feel that you would definitely take up the responsibility of giving that preference for a person who comes from this side. Sir, some consider me that neither I belong to the Opposition nor I belong to the treasury benches. I do not know why is it so? But I will tell you. Sir, that I belong to the ruling party. Whenever they bring forward good things, and whenever some controversial things come up here I will take up the role of the opposition party. My role is like that. Sir, what I would infact tell is that you are a man who will

consider every thing neutrally. That is why, Sir, on behalf of my All India Anna DMK Party, on behalf of our Members, I again congratulate you on assuming the charge of this Chairmanship.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction to me and to my colleagues in my Party that you have been elected as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Sir, my contact and association with you has spread nearly to three decades. Sir, you and I worked together in the First Lok Sabha in 1952. Since that time to this day, I have watched you at close quarters and also at a distance, and you had occupied places of power both in your State and also at the Centre. Sir, power and humility do not go together always. To use a Marxian phraseology, power represents thesis and humility represents anti-thesis. In your case, I find a synthesis of both. While in power, you have been humble. Sir, till the other day, you were in power, you enjoyed power. Now, you have shifted from power to status. You have shed power and occupied a place of honour now. You have not only become the Chairman of this House but you have also become the Vice-President of India. You are the Vice-President, Sir, without vice, if I may say so

Coming from me, you know what I mean. Sir, the majority in a parliamentary system, has a right to rule. The minority, the Opposition, has got a right to oppose. And it is for you to balance the two. In the parliamentary history of our times, we are facing a number of difficulties. We are in the most trying times of our history, if I may say so. As Presiding Officer of this august body, you have got a great responsibility. I am sure, you will exercise this responsibility with dignity, with decorum and to the satisfaction of all of us.

Sir, while exercising your authority here, may I make a request? You can give your ears to the other side of the House, not your eyes. But you must give your eyes to this side of the House. I am hopeful, in your dignified presence, the deliberations of the House will achieve a new level of dignity. I am also sure, in your presence, we will be establishing innovations, new and healthy innovations. You should prove to be not only a dignified Vice-President and dignified Chairman of this House, but also an innovative and vigorous Chairman of this House.

The young Prime Minister is here. May I request him that Rajya Sabha should be restored to its pristine glory, which it enjoyed once? It should achieve a new status. While the Lok Sabha performs its duties and responsibilities as representative of the people, the Rajya Sabha should perform its duties and responsibilities as representative of the States, in a federal structure. And it is we, who should be the guardians of the rights and privileges of the States of the Indian Union. May I hope and trust that

the Prime Minister and you, Sir, will give heed to this and whenever there is time, we should devote this time to discuss various subjects which are not discussed in the other House? This is what we have been pleading with the Chair all along.

Sir, in the end, on behalf of my party, may I compliment you and may I wish you well as the Chairman of this House?

Shri Jaswant Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege, on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, to welcome you as a member of our fraternity. For the last four years, you sat opposite us, across the well of the House and we did our best of discomfiture and irk you. Your elevation as the Vice-President of the country and as our Chairman is a just and due recognition of your long public life. A distinguished public life brings you to occupy this Chair which has been occupied by very distinguished Indians. You are perhaps, the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the first Vice-President who comes from public life. In that sense, you are nearer us in as much as the knitty gritty of politics is concerned. And you are far removed from us because of the distinction of your office, the very Chairmanship that you presently and rightly occupy. We congratulate you on this.

As Chairman you are the custodian of the privileges of all of us Members. Your authority as the Chair is cumulative authority of the House and of each of us as Members of this distinguished Assembly. We repose this authority in you, Sir, as our custodian, in full faith and in full confidence that in your hands that privilege, as Members of this House, is safe.

I would like to join the honourable Prime Minister and other Members in the Opposition in welcoming you, congratulating you and wishing you a distinguished, enjoyable and only at times irksome tenure as the Chairman of this House.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: आदरणीय सभापति जी, इस सम्मानित सदन के सभापति के रूप में आपका निर्वाचन होने पर हमें बड़ी खुशी है और हम आपको हृदय से बधाई देते हैं।

स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के वीर सेनानी, जिस खूबसूरती और सफलता के साथ आपने तमिलनाडु स्टेट में मंत्री पद सुशोभित किया था और केन्द्रीय सरकार के वित्त और रक्षा मंत्री की हैसियत से सफलतापूर्वक कार्य किया, इस सदन का प्रत्येक सदस्य आपसे यह अपेक्षा करता है कि उसी सफलता के साथ इस माननीय सदन की कार्यावलि का संचालन भी आप कर सकेंगे।

सदन के सदस्यों के अधिकारों की रक्षा आपके द्वारा होगी और बहुत ही योग्यता के साथ, निष्पक्षता के साथ आप कार्य का संचालन करते हुए सरकारी पक्ष और विपक्ष के सभी माननीय सदस्यों का विश्वास प्राप्त कर सकेंगे।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने आपके सम्बन्ध में जो विचार व्यक्त किए हैं और विपक्ष के हमारे अन्य साथियों ने भी जो विचार जाहिर किए हैं, उनके साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हुआ, आपकी

सफलता की पूर्ण आशा रखता हुआ, परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि आप सदैव यशस्वी भी हों और हाउस का संचालन बहुत सुन्दरता और खूबसूरती के साथ करते रहें।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मेरे लिए और मेरे दल भारतीय कम्यूनिस्ट पार्टी के लिए यह बहुत ही प्रसन्नता की बात है कि आप जैसे योग्य व्यक्ति को इस पद को सुशोभित करने का अवसर दिया गया है। आपका जीवन एक राजनीतिज्ञ का जीवन है, ट्रेड यूनियन आंदोलन और सरकार चलाने का, अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर भी विभिन्न विभागों के संचालन करने का भारी अवसर आपको मिला है। इतना बड़ा अनुभव आपको प्राप्त है जिससे मैं समझता हूँ कि राज्य सभा, जिसको कहा जा सकता है कि यह सिंहावलोकन सभा भी है, के काम में भारी मदद मिलेगी।

प्रधान मंत्री ने जो आपके प्रति उद्गार प्रकट किए हैं, मैं उनके साथ सहमत हूँ। मैं यह भी आपसे कहना चाहूंगा कि इस चुनाव के बाद विरोध पक्ष काफी घायल होकर निकला है और प्रजातंत्र के लिए विरोध पक्ष का मजबूत रहना बहुत ही जरूरी है। इस अवसर पर जो चेयर का काम है वह और भी ज्यादा बढ़ जाता है और इसीलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि जब प्रधान मंत्री अपेक्षा करते हैं कि उनके दल के ही लोग विरोध पक्ष का भी काम संभालें, तो इस सदन के विरोध पक्ष को यह अवसर मिले कि हम लोग अपनी बातें रख सकें। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आप जैसे योग्य व्यक्ति को इस पद पर जो आने का अवसर मिला है, उसके लिए मैं बधाई देता हूँ और आपकी पूरी सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

धन्यवाद।

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to add my own voice and the voice of my party colleagues in congratulating you on your elevation as the Chairman of this august House and also as the Vice-President of India.

Sir, you bring to this august office a varied experience in the administration, in the legislature and generally in public affairs.

You have been a Minister in the State and the Centre also for a long period. Sir, being a Minister will be both an advantage and a disadvantage and the proceedings in the House can be influenced to a certain extent. Since you have worked as a Minister, you know very well how to bale out the Ministers when they are in trouble, as you have just now done in the Question Hour. And being a Minister you also know how the Ministers dodge or try to dodge and here we need your help. I hope you will come to our rescue whenever a Minister tries to dodge the House or mislead the House and catch him in the act and help the House also.

Sir, with your experience, you will no doubt be a friend, philosopher and guide to all the Members here, particularly to the young Members to whom the Prime Minister has rightly referred. This House had never seen so many young members in its history and I hope the Prime Minister will ensure that more and more young Members will come to this House in future also.

Sir, all our privileges are in your hands now. Democracy flourishes when the system of checks and balances functions well, as you very well know. We are happy that the Prime Minister has started well in trying to enlist the cooperation of the Opposition. We are ready to reciprocate the same provided the Government and the Prime Minister genuinely act upon their desire and assurances.

Sir, I do not expect you to be partial. But anytime you feel inclined, be partial towards this side because we need your protection.

And lastly, if you allow me a little frivolity, the Chairman's functioning is often guided by whether he is suffering from spondylitis or not because you have to turn your head to the left, to the centre and to the right. When I came here first and saw my seat I thought I was very fortunate in just being before the Chairman. But unfortunately I found that your predecessor always looked to the left or right and never to the centre. So if you suffer from spondylitis, I am at an advantage, but I will request you to look to all sides and see that justice is done to all the sides.

Sir, I wish you all success in your assignment and wish all of us better luck during your tenure. Thank you.

Shri Murasoli Maran: Sir, today it is my privilege to join honourable Prime Minister and other honourable Members in welcoming you and congratulating you. We are pleased that a son of Tamil Nadu has been given an opportunity to serve as the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of the Council of States. It is a fitting tribute bestowed upon you for your long and distinguished career in public life. Sir, throughout our career, you have exhibited sobriety and wisdom coupled with extraordinary courage. Mr. Dipen Ghosh said that the Opposition wanted a better deal. I am sure, Sir, we will get it from you because, having been under the shadow of Mr. Kamraj you had the courage to oppose the Emergency; you did so by writing bravely against the Emergency in the front-page article of *Swarajya* founded by the great Rajaji, when you were its Editor—though you supported it at a later stage. Sir, you know the pulse and the anxieties of the Opposition because, if I may say so in a lighter vein, you were sitting as an Independent Member also in the Lok Sabha for a short duration during Janata days. Therefore, I have no doubt that you would be even-handed in running the affairs of the House, because you know the mood of the Opposition also. In Tamil Nadu, because of your political skills, you are called a great Chanakya. In fact, the playground of Tamil Nadu has lost its best player, but what Tamil Nadu has lost is a gain to the Council of States.

Sir, you have got legislative experience for more than a quarter of a century—in the Constituent Assembly, in the State Legislature and

in Parliament. I am sure you would run this House with extraordinary ability. I, on behalf of my party, offer you, Sir, our best cooperation. Sometimes, in this House we may have to test your eardrums and that too during the Zero Hour. Our previous Chairman used to run away from the scene the moment the clock struck twelve. I am sure, as the honourable Prime Minister has put it, you are young in spirit and I think you will stay with us during these testing times. Thank you, Sir.

Shri S. W. Dhabe: Sir, on behalf of the United Association of Members, the constituents and independents, I join the honourable Prime Minister and other opposition leaders to felicitate you on your election as the Chairman of this House. Sir, we have seen politicians presiding over this House and also a judicial person, your predecessor, Justice Hidayatullah.

The august office of Chairman requires that not only he must balance the views of the different political parties but also bring impartiality in the discharge of his functions towards all the constituents who are here. Sir, we have also seen you, as my friend rightly said, defending the Government as Defence Minister and also as Finance Minister very ably and many times disarming us with the answers and clarifications which you used to give us. But now your role is entirely different. As soon as you occupy the Chair, the august office, you are free from political affiliations or political parties and whatever views you had propounded as a Minister.

Sir, it is expected that this House will be able to discharge its functions smoothly under your leadership and also I hope the high traditions and conventions built in this House over a long time will not only be maintained but also restored to their own glory. On behalf of myself and my friends I wish you all success in your tenure as Chairman.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto: Sir, on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, I join the honourable Prime Minister and other friends in congratulating you on your being chosen as the Vice-President of India and, consequently, the Chairman of our House.

Sir, I may share certain secrets which you told me, with the other Members of the House in order to prove your integrity and honesty. When you were the Defence Minister, I saw you in the Central Hall with a small key in your hand. I asked you as to which key it was that you were holding in your hand round your finger. You were pleased to tell me, "This is the key of my telephone at my residence. I do not want that my telephone as Defence Minister should be misused. So, when I come to office, I see to it that it is locked."

The second thing that you told me and I share with all the Members here is that as Defence Minister you told me that you were getting from home Rs. 1,000 a month to meet your expenses.

Finally, Sir, you were always, at least twice a week, feeding us with a cup of coffee, in the Central Hall.

Now, Sir, you have occupied a position in which you have not only to look to the interests of the ruling party but to the Opposition. I am sure that under your leadership Members from the Opposition will get the same treatment, if not better than the ruling party Members.

I, on behalf of the National Conference, again congratulate you and also join the Prime Minister in saying that the sense of humour which is lacking now in many Parliaments of the world, should be injected in this House also.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, I am deeply touched by the very kind references you made to me. I am not vain enough to think that I deserve all that but I shall be modest enough to admit that they are the goals which I will have to strive to achieve.

India is one of the biggest democracies in the world. It is not enough that it is the biggest democracy in size. It must be the biggest democracy in quality, and this can be done only if Parliament, both the Houses, maintain very high standards in debate, in discussion, in interpellations and in every one of the other activities connected with Parliament.

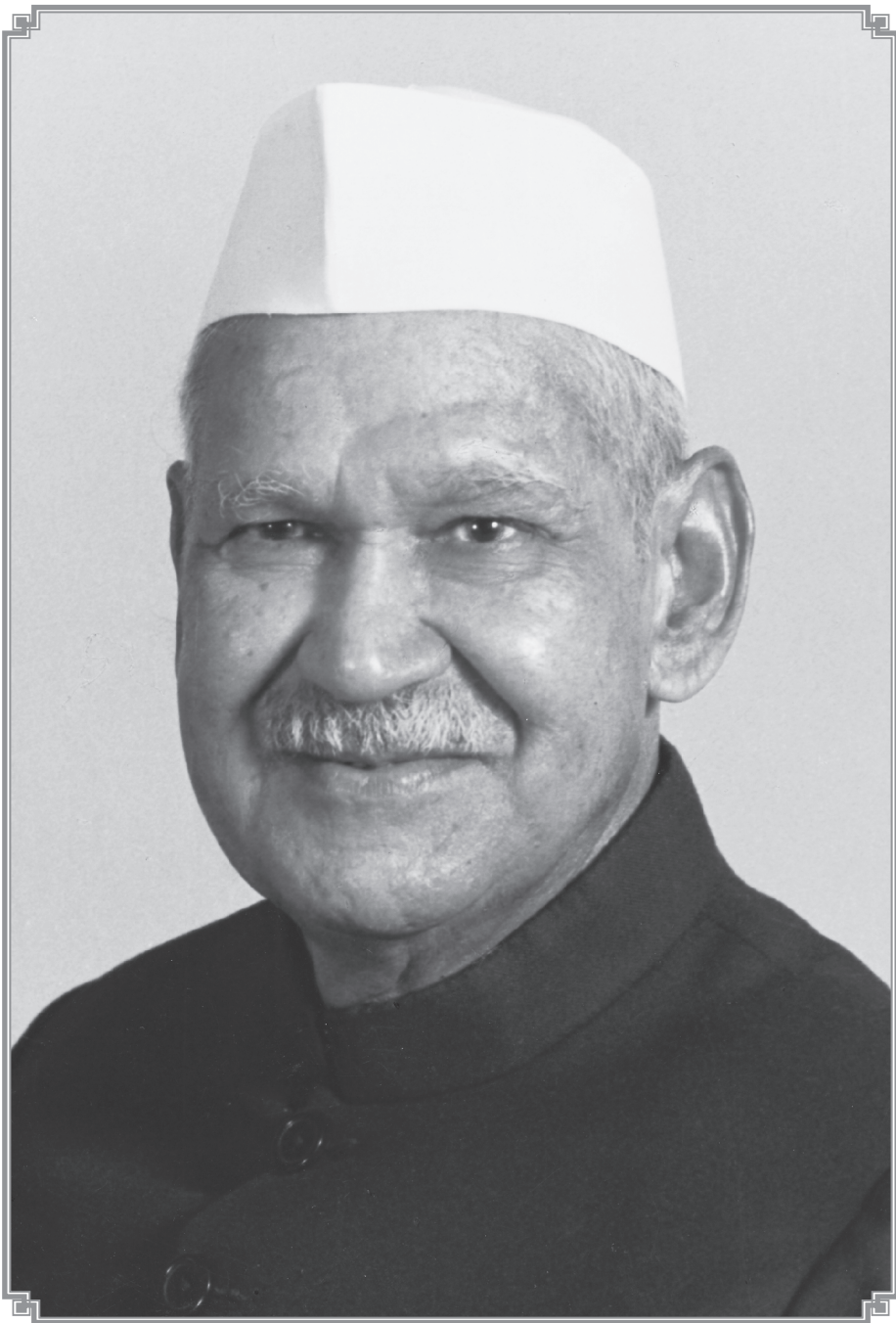
In all my long years in politics over 25 years, in one or the other Houses, I have never been even in the panel of Chairmen. In that sense, I am a novice in this office. Well, to quote Shakespeare again, which I am very fond of doing in the debates, "I am not yet so old, but yet I may learn."

Well, I can appreciate your anxieties that the pristine glory of this House should be restored. I am well aware that very high traditions have been established by people like Dr. Zakir Husain, Dr. Radhakrishnan and a number of others. They were all giants that India had produced. Well, I can only tell you that I shall endeavour to walk in their footsteps to follow their example.

I was told that I should not lend my ear but lend my eye to this side. I have proposed doing both, not only lend my ears but also lend my eyes to all sides of the House. If in the exigencies, I am not able to do so it is not for want of goodwill but only because of the pressure on time in parliamentary proceedings.

I shall only confine myself by saying that I look forward to a very pleasant and a very fruitful association with you in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.



Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

(19.8.1918–26.12.1999)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(3.9.1987–24.7.1992)

Shanker Dayal Sharma : A profile

SHARMA, DR. SHANKER DAYAL: M.A., LL.M., Ph.D. (Cambridge University), Diploma in Public Administration (London), Bar-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn) Fellow, Harvard Law School, Zurich University and Paris University, Doctorate of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) (Universities of Vikram, Bhopal, Agra, Sri Venkateswara, Tirupati, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya and Mauritius); s. of Pt. Khushilal Sharma Vaidya Shastri; b. August 19, 1918; m. Shrimati Vimala Sharma; 2 s. and 2 d.; Member, Bhopal Legislative Assembly, 1952-56; Chief Minister, erstwhile Bhopal State, 1952-56; Member, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, 1956-71; Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh, 1956-67; Member, Lok Sabha, 1971-77 and 1980-84; Union Minister for Communications, 1974-77; Governor, (i) Andhra Pradesh, 1984-85, (ii) Punjab, 1985-86 and (iii) Maharashtra, 1986-87; Chairman, (i) International Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, (ii) International Jury for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, (iii) National Committee for Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Centenary Celebration and (iv) National Committee for K.M. Munshi Centenary Celebrations; Recipient of Chakravarti Gold Medal for Social Service; Author of (i) Congress Approach to International Affairs, (ii) Studies in Indo-Soviet Co-operation, (iii) Rule of Law and Role of Police, (iv) Readings in Indo-Soviet Friendship and Co-operation, (v) Jawaharlal Nehru: The Maker of Modern Commonwealth, (vi) Jawaharlal Nehru Selected Speeches and (vii) Eminent Indians; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 3.9.1987 to 24.7.1992; President of India, 25.7.1992-25.7.1997; Died. Obit on 23.02.2000.

Felicitations offered to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma on 6 November 1987

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I felicitate you on your election as the Vice-President and as the Chairman of this august House.

In you, Sir, we have a renowned and highly respected figure. You have held high offices as Chief Minister, as Cabinet Minister, as the Congress President and most recently, as Governor.

We welcome you as the Vice-President and as the Chairman of this House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been a scholar and an authority on international law and the Constitution, on history, and more especially on our culture. As a teacher you have taught many of the Members sitting in this House. Now you will be their mentor and guide. We are privileged, and indeed fortunate, to have you at the helm. The position you hold has been held by many highly respected and admired figures in the history of our Parliament. Let me assure you of the fullest cooperation of the Government and I have no doubt that your wisdom will prevail over this House.

Thank you.

Shri Dipen Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of myself, the other members of my party, the CPM, and by other colleagues in the Opposition, I join the Prime Minister in offering our warmest felicitations to you on your assuming the august office of the Vice-President of our country and as Chairman of this august House, Rajya Sabha.

Sir, You have been in active politics for a long time, and we too are still in politics. And, therefore, from one way we are at the same wave-length. You will surely, therefore, appreciate our requirements in the Opposition while presiding over this august House. The ruling party, by virtue of its majority, will have the final say—good, bad or indifferent. But before that the Opposition must be given the opportunity to place their point of view. Earlier, the dignified persons who held this august position here, particularly Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, and lastly who is now the President of our country, Shri R. Venkataraman, had looked to this particular point, and I hope you will follow their foot-steps and give the Opposition

a hearing on various issues that this House will confront from today onwards when it will be in session.

Sir, again, I offer our felicitations and welcome you to this House as Chairman of this House. Thank you.

Shri Aladi Aruna alias V. Arunachalam: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Anna-DMK and on my own behalf, I congratulate you for having been elected to the office of Vice-President of our Republic. It is a matter of great pleasure to know that you have been elected unanimously by both Houses of our Parliament. After Dr. Radhakrishnan and Justice Hidayatullah you have been elected with consensus of all political parties. It shows your eminence and remarkable enlightenment, fairness and judicious approach. Sir, in maintaining the dignity and decorum of this House the Anna-DMK extends its support without any reservations. May I remind you that the dignity and decorum of this House is maintained not only because of the cooperation from all political agencies but also by the personality which holds office.

Sir, the paramount responsibility of this House is to protect the interests of the States. That is why it is called Council of States. Unfortunately during the post-independence period transgression into the jurisdiction of the State has become a regular feature of the Government. Unless it is properly checked, the purpose and the very objective of this House will be undermined. The AIADMK Party is always at your disposal to maintain the prestige of this House. Once again I felicitate you.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, Telugu Desam, and myself, I offer you our warmest felicitations on your assumption of office as Chairman today. Sir, your election to this high office has a special significance in that you have been a consensus candidate of both the ruling party and all the opposition parties. Sir, while agreeing to the consensus; we have put ourselves in a disadvantageous position. We know that. We have to be guided by you and we have to be more restrained perhaps because of the obligation we have taken upon ourselves. We felt that among the candidates considered, you are the most ideal and fit to occupy this office because you combine in yourself age with wisdom, wisdom with tact and tact with statesmanship.

Sir, as Chief Minister, as Central Minister, as the President of one of the leading parties and as Governor, you have had wide administrative experience. Added to that, you have the political acumen and wide knowledge of constitutional law. Sir, you are a worthy successor to a number of distinguished people who occupied this Chair. Your predecessor, Mr. Venkataraman, has handled the affairs of this House most tactfully.

Since he is no longer occupying the Chair here, I can confess that we had a perfect understanding with him. That understanding even extended to confiding in him about our plans for walk-outs and noise in the House. We kept confidentiality and we expect the same type of understanding from you and also the confidentiality which we were maintaining with the previous Chairman.

Sir, the people say that you are a leftist. We would like to know by experience whether you turn more to the left or to the right of the House.

Lastly, I know that when you were the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, you had a picture of Lord Venkateswara in your office. You always looked to him. You told me also that whenever you are in doubt, you look to Lord Venkateswara for guidance. In this House, you may not be able to have a picture of Lord Venkateswara, but I will constantly remind you of Lord Venkateswara, as a representative of Andhra Pradesh. I won't say as a representative of the Lord, but as a representative of Andhra Pradesh, I will be a constant reminder to you of your devotion to Lord Venkateswara. May he guide you to be more impartial, more tactful and more fair in dealing with the affairs of this House.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, November 6, 1987 is a very important day in your life. You have taken over this august Chair today. On my own behalf, on behalf of my Party, and on behalf of other colleagues here, I sincerely welcome you to this Chair. I say this with feeling because my association with you has been very very long indeed, a very meaningful association. I do not want to recall my long association now because of paucity of time.

Sir, pedagogy to Vice-Presidency of India is a long journey. You were a pedagogue to begin with in the Lucknow University where I was a student myself. You taught Constitutional History there very successfully. You were not a bad teacher at all. Then fate had a hand in your life, and indeed fate had definitely a hand when you were chosen unanimously to the very important place of Vice-Presidency of India. In this play of fate, both the Ruling Party and the Opposition had a role to play. During the time when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the Opposition were differing widely on various issues, we agreed, both the Ruling Party and the Opposition, the Prime Minister and the Opposition leaders on your candidature; it was a happy augury. And you are the Vice-President of India, you are the Chairman of our House. You have seen life, occupied many places of importance. You were a Chief Minister, you were a Cabinet Minister here, you were a Governor and now the Vice-President. Besides, you had managed the affairs of the political organisations. So, you have the experience of an administrator as well as manager of political parties. You have the knowledge as a teacher, experience of an administrator and organiser of political parties, and more than all the ability and competence to manage public affairs.

Sir, you are the Vice-President of India. I hope you are the Vice-President without being 'vice', bereft of any vice. You have combined in yourself a long experience and knowledge. That I hope will help you and help us in this House to carry on our task.

Sir, your duty as the Chairman of this august body is very difficult indeed because you are occupying it at a very difficult time. It is not enough to keep the law and order in the House, however, much it is important. It is more necessary, more important to keep up the dignity, the norms, the traditions of this House. More than all this, Sir, it is your onerous responsibility to see that this Parliament, this House of ours, which is a limb of Parliament, a part of Parliament, sheds all its weaknesses, becomes strong. It is fragile for various reasons. There have been onslaughts on parliamentary institutions in India. There has been considerable erosion of its importance, its relevance even. At this juncture you are occupying this Chair. It is your duty, Sir, not only to uphold the dignity of the House but to keep the balance even between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition.

As the days go on, the accountability of the administration is also affected, accountability of the administration to the Houses of Parliament. As the presiding authority, it is your task to restore its importance, its personality. All of us are one here in spite of the fact that we are divided between various political parties. Respect for parliamentary institutions is dwindling in the country and parliamentary institutions are in a state of crisis, if I may say so. The Government has become very authoritarian and the master, the Parliament has been reduced to insignificance. Therefore, Sir, without taking much of the time of the House I request you as the Chairman of the House in future to safeguard the interests of both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition evenly and the Opposition at this particular hour, juncture is very important. Though they are divided, we are one on various issues. This should guide you, Sir, in your role and conduct.

May I, Sir, in the end wish you well and hope and trust your career as the Vice-President of India, and the Chairman of this House, will be remembered for a long time to come. I will be failing in my duty if I don't say one word for your illustrious predecessor, Shri Venkataraman. My colleague has already spoken about him. He did really well and you have succeeded him and also succeeded many many illustrious predecessors.

Sir, in the end I wish you the best.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: मान्यवर, भारतीय जनता पार्टी की ओर से और अपनी ओर से मैं आपको त्रिवार बधाई देना चाहता हूँ।

पहली बधाई इसलिए कि आप केन्द्र में वापस आ गये हैं। तीन प्रदेशों में राज्यपाल के पद का और उसके दायित्व का गम्भीरता से और गरिमा से पालन करने के बाद केन्द्र में आपकी वापसी स्वागत योग्य है। यहां से आप सारे देश को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं, इसलिए हमें प्रसन्नता है। दूसरी बधाई इसलिए कि उप-राष्ट्रपति के नाते आप राज्य सभा के सभापति हैं और देश के इस दूसरे सदन से, महत्वपूर्ण सदन से सदस्य के नाते नहीं, लेकिन सभापति के नाते आपको सम्बद्ध होने का अवसर मिला है। मान्यवर, बिना राज्य सभा में रहे राजनीति का पूरा प्रशिक्षण, पूरा अनुभव पूरा नहीं होता। मैं यह अनुभव लेता रहा हूं। राज्य सभा यह दूसरा सदन है। यह दूसरे सदन की जिम्मेदारी का ठीक तरह से पालन करें इसकी ओर मेरे मित्र ने संकेत किया है। आपको राज्य सभा को देखने का भी अवसर मिलेगा और राज्य सभा के संचालन के दायित्व का भी आपको पालन करना होगा। तीसरी बार बधाई इसलिए दे रहा हूं जैसा कि अन्य मेरे मित्रों ने कहा आप भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति के महत्वपूर्ण पद पर सर्वानुमति से चुने गए हैं। आज जब सत्ता पक्ष और प्रतिपक्ष के बीच ठनी हुई है, जब तलवारें तनी हुई हैं तब आपका निर्विरोध सर्वसम्मति से निर्वाचन यह भारतीय लोकतंत्र की शक्ति का प्रकटीकरण है। अगर सत्तापक्ष इसी तरह से युक्ति-युक्त रवैया अपनाए और प्रतिपक्ष का सहयोग लेने का प्रयत्न करे तो सब मामलों पर नहीं बहुत-से मामलों पर राष्ट्रीय सहमति का विकास किया जा सकता है, ऐसे मामले सबके सहयोग से निपटाए जा सकते हैं।

सभापति जी, आपका सार्वजनिक जीवन लंबा और अनुभवों से परिपूर्ण है। लेकिन राजनीति के साथ आपने जीवन के और पहलुओं की उपेक्षा नहीं की है। अनेक भाषाओं पर आपका अधिकार है, अनेक विश्वविद्यालयों में आपने शिक्षा प्राप्त की है। अनुभव की यह सारी पूंजी उप-राष्ट्रपति के नाते, इस सदन के सभापति के नाते हमें लाभान्वित करेगी, यह मैं आशा प्रकट करता हूं। आप भोपाल में जन्मे, भोपाल एक देशी रियासत थी। मैं भी एक देशी रियासत में जन्म लेने वाला व्यक्ति हूं। उस समय स्वाधीनता के लिए लड़ने के लिए लोकतांत्रिक सरकार की स्थापना के लिए संघर्ष करना कितना कठिन था और उस कठिन परीक्षा में से आप निकले। भोपाल के मुख्य मंत्री के पद को आपने अलंकृत किया और फिर आपकी सफलता की यात्रा शुरू हुई, लेकिन इस सफलता की आपको कीमत भी चुकानी पड़ी है। आज मुझे गीतांजलि का स्मरण हो रहा है। भाई माकन हमारे बीच में नहीं हैं। एक वज्रपात हुआ वे राष्ट्रीय एकता के शहीद बने। आपकी पीड़ा शब्दों में प्रकट नहीं की जा सकती है। श्रीमती शर्मा की वेदना भरी जवानी में, भारत की राजधानी में इस तरह से वे निर्मम हत्याएं। आपको जब-जब हम देखते हैं, हमें पंजाब की त्रासदी का स्मरण होता है। यह बात बार-बार हमारे मन और मस्तिष्क में टकराती है कि स्वाधीनता के 40 वर्ष बाद देश में यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण परिस्थिति क्यों पैदा हुई? मगर उस शोक को आपने पी लिया है, देश की सेवा के लिए उस जहर को आपने कण्ठ में धारण कर लिया है। आपके मुख से एक भी शब्द ऐसा नहीं निकला, जो कटुता पैदा करने वाला हो, जो भाईचारे को खत्म करने के विघटनवादियों के मनसूबों को पूरा करने वाला हो। उस दिन हमारी नजरों में आपका सम्मान बहुत बढ़ गया।

आप हमारे सभापति के रूप में बैठे हैं। इधर बैठने वाले हम संख्या में कम हैं, मगर हमारे तर्कों में ज्यादा बल होता है। कठिनाई यह है कि तर्क गिने नहीं जाते और स्वरों की गिनती होती है। लेकिन पक्ष और विपक्ष में आप निष्पक्ष भूमिका निभायेंगे इसका हमें विश्वास है। इसी आशा से, इसी विश्वास से हमने आपके निर्विरोध निर्वाचन में सहयोग दिया है। मैं राज्य सभा में दूसरी बार आया हूं।

पहले भी मैं लोक सभा में हारने के बाद आया था। मगर तब राज्य सभा कुछ अलग थी। क्षमा कीजिये, अभी कुछ महीनों का मेरा अनुभव अच्छा नहीं है, अब जो पीठासीन हों, जो सभापति के आसन पर बैठे हों, वे अगर मेरा पूरा वाक्य भी न सुनें और बीच में काट दें और फिर रिपोर्टों को कह दें कि यह लिखा नहीं जायेगा, तो हम तो बेमौत मारे गये। मैं समझता हूँ ऐसी हत्याएँ अब सदन में कम होनी चाहिये।

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सभापति महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि आपके सभापतित्व में राज्य सभा अपने पूर्व गौरव को प्राप्त करे और सबके सहयोग से यह सदन देश के लोकतन्त्र की न केवल धड़कन बने बल्कि देश के लोकतन्त्र को सबल बनाने का एक साधन सिद्ध हो।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं पुनः आपको बधाई देते हुए अपना आसन ग्रहण करता हूँ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा: आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति एवं इस माननीय सदन के सम्मानित सभापति पद पर निर्विरोध सर्वसम्मति आपके निर्वाचन पर मैं अपनी और अपने दल-लोकदल की ओर से आपको बधाई देता हूँ एवं आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। पिछले बहुत वर्षों से आपके सार्वजनिक जीवन की मुझे जानकारी है। स्वतंत्रता-संग्राम के वयोवृद्ध नेता, भोपाल के मुख्य मंत्री, कांग्रेस के प्रेसिडेंट, भारत सरकार के कम्यूनिकेशन मिनिस्टर, विभिन्न प्रदेशों के राज्यपाल की हैसियत से जिस प्रकार आपने कार्य किया है, उसी के फलस्वरूप ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि इस माननीय सदन के इस पद को जो आप सुशोभित कर रहे हैं और सर्वसम्मति से आपने सभी लोगों का अपनी कार्य शैली से सम्मान और विश्वास प्राप्त किया है, मुझे यह विश्वास है कि इस सदन का आपके नेतृत्व में, आपके सभापतित्व के काल में गौरव बढ़ेगा। आपके निर्वाचन में इस सदन के सभी सदस्यों का जो विश्वास रहा है वह विश्वास आपके द्वारा इस सदन का कार्य-संचालन जितनी अधिक निष्पक्षता के साथ होगा, उतना ही अधिक इस सदन का गौरव बढ़ेगा, उतना ही आपका गौरव बढ़ेगा, उतनी ही इस सदन के कार्य-संचालन में आपको अधिक सफलता मिलेगी।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं पुनः हृदय से आपकी सफलता की कामना करते हुए आपका गौरव बढ़े, इस सदन का गौरव बढ़े, आपको बधाई देता हूँ और हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri N. E. Balaram: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of myself and my party I offer my felicitations. I know that you are a great scholar and a man of rich experience in politics. I am very glad that you have been elected as the Chairman of this House and the Vice-President of this country. Once again I would like to offer my felicitations to you on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

Shri Murasoli Maran: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my DMK party and on my own behalf I whole-heartedly welcome you on your election as Vice-President of this great republic and the Chairman of this illustrious House. We all know you have a brilliant academic career. In fact, you have been in the teaching profession and for a long period. For nine years, you taught law in the Lucknow University and then you taught law at Cambridge also.

Here I would say, perhaps after Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan you are the only teacher to have come here to occupy the highest post. So, it is a great tribute to the teaching community of our nation. I think Dr. Zakir Husain was also a teacher. So, you belong to that noble tribe of teachers who can guide us. Sir, many of your students are here as Members. So, you have got a very good lobby here. In fact, I would say, our House is also very much like a classroom—not like your Cambridge University but like a village school. You have to meet many recalcitrants more often, but, Sir, you can counsel and conduct the House in a nice manner.

Sir, I for one would not accept that this is the House of Elders. No, it is not a House of Elders, it is the Council of States, a part of our federal system. Therefore, Sir, we have got certain traditions. As honourable Vajpayee was saying, we have noticed that our words had been often butchered. In this House there had been a tradition to raise many important public issues after the Question Hour. Somehow or other that right of the Members has been taken away. Therefore, I would request you to restore that pristine glory of this House once again and give us back the right that we have lost. That is my request.

I know, Sir, that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made use of you as the personal emissary and you had visited Tamil Nadu many a time and also you returned to Delhi with great success. I know that. Sir, this morning along with all the opposition group leaders I met you. I was simply astonished by your diplomacy and persuasive power. Sir, I do not want to let the cat out of the bag as my honourable friend, Shri Upendra who told you how he was dealing with your predecessor, I would say that I am very much worried because of your persuasive abilities. We the opposition people, have to be very careful with you because you are a type of diplomat who will kill us with kindness. So we have to be careful. With these words, I offer you our whole-hearted cooperation in the conduct of the business of the House.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and on my own behalf and as Chief Whip of the United Association of Members of this House, I offer my felicitations to you for being elected as the Vice-President and Chairman of this House. I vividly recall an incident in 1964 when you were the Minister of Industry of the State of Madhya Pradesh. There was a meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board to be held in Bhopal and I, as Chairman of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, had also to attend that meeting. We left in a train from Delhi. There were torrential rains and the train got stuck up at a place near Gangapur, I think. You were also travelling in the same train. The first thing that you did on that occasion was that you came out of your compartment and ensured that every passenger in the train got his food.

That was your great achievement and I saw how you worked in that capacity. Of course, when we reached Bhopal, the meeting was already over, although you were the Industry Minister there.

I also vividly remember that when you were a Member of the other House, you were also travelling in the same Matador for M.Ps. to and from your house as other M.Ps. would do. We lived in the same Canning Lane. Sir, you are an embodiment of humility and wisdom and I trust and feel sure that in your hands the prestige of this House will remain secure and safe.

I again offer my heartiest felicitations to you, Sir, and hope that under your kind guidance this House will fulfil the task that has been assigned to it by the Constitution of India.

Shri Chitta Basu: Sir, I join the Prime Minister and other distinguished Members of the Opposition in extending, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, heartfelt and sincere felicitations on your being unanimously elected as the Vice-President of this great republic and the Chairman of this House.

Sir, this House has got its own distinct features and responsibilities to discharge. As it is the Council of States, this House has greater responsibility of looking after the interests of the States which constitute this great Union of India. You, Sir, as the Chairman of this great House happen to be solely and undisputedly the custodian of the rights and privileges of the Members of this House. We, the Members of the Opposition, are sometimes faced with certain situations in which I would urge upon you, in the interest of the dignity of the House and in the discharge of your responsibility of maintaining the decorum of the House, that you should show us a little more indulgence. We, as you know, Sir, as Members of the House, are always amongst the people, in the midst and thick of politics. There is no virtue in concealing it. And we have to associate ourselves with the hope and aspirations of the people outside. We are also to articulate their hopes and aspirations. Sir, you have been, in the past, in the very thick of politics and I don't think that you repent for it. It is a glorious part of your brilliant career. You know the emotions, sentiments, hopes and aspirations of the people who are not here, who are outside this House. You have represented the vast masses of our country at different places and you have done it successfully. You have rich and varied experience, and I hope and believe that with your rich and varied experience you would guide us, help us, as Members of this House with the particular role that we have to play from this side of this House, to discharge our responsibilities.

We in the Opposition, as I have mentioned earlier, have got our own role and we shall play it, and we can play it better if you have the generosity of showing a little more indulgence to this side of the House because on us rests a bigger responsibility to bring about changes in the policies of the Government and the attitudes of the Government.

Again, Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, extend my heartfelt and sincere felicitations to you.

Thank you.

Shri Nagen Saikia: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I and other Members of my party, AGP, are very happy on your election to the glorious office of Vice-President of this great country and on your assuming Chairmanship of this august House. We think it is a matter of pride for the whole country to have a man of knowledge and wisdom as the honourable Vice-President of this country.

Sir, the country finds in you a rare combination of the personality of a scholar and the personality of a political thinker and political worker, without any conflict between the two. I hope and believe that your personality will guide not only this august House but also the whole nation.

With these few words, Sir, I, on behalf of my party, AGP, and also on my behalf, offer my respectful felicitations to you.

Thank you.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: माननीय सभापति जी, 21 अगस्त को उप-राष्ट्रपति के पद पर आपका निर्विरोध निर्वाचन हुआ और 4 सितम्बर को आपने उस पद के लिए शपथ ग्रहण की। इस नाते आपका इस राज्य सभा के और इस सदन में सभापति का आसन ग्रहण करने का प्रथम दिन है। मान्यवर, आप का दीर्घकालीन प्रशासनिक और राजनीतिक अनुभव रहा है। जहां मध्य प्रदेश में आपकी जन्मस्थली रही है, आपकी ननिहाल रही है वहीं पर आपने अपना राजनीतिक जीवन भी प्रारम्भ किया और राज्यपाल के पद पर आंध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र तथा पंजाब में रह कर इन पदों की गरिमा को आपने बढ़ाया है।

मान्यवर, लोकतंत्र सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों के आधार पर चलता है। इस सदन में विपक्ष की संख्या कम है और आपने स्वयं कहा है कि सभापति के नाते आपका काम एक एम्पायर की तरह है। लेकिन मान्यवर, मैं यह समझता हूं कि जहां संख्या के आधार पर, बहुमत के आधार पर, निर्णय होते हैं, वहां पर जो कमजोर वर्ग है, मेरा मतलब विपक्ष से है, जिसकी संख्या कम है, उसके लिये आपकी ओर से विशेष संरक्षण और विशेष आशीर्वाद की जरूरत है। मान्यवर, इस देश की प्रथम व्यवस्थापिका, सेंट्रल लेजिस्लेटर के जो प्रथम भारतीय अध्यक्ष थे, श्री विठ्ठलभाई पटेल, उन्होंने अपने स्वागत भाषण में कहा था कि:

“I belong to all, and I belong to none.”

मैं सबका हूँ और किसी का भी नहीं हूँ। मान्यवर, इसी तरह से पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने उनके चित्र का अनावरण करते हुए इस देश की संसद में कहा था कि:

"Speaker is the symbol of the nation's freedom and liberty."

मान्यवर ठीक यही बात आपके लिये भी कही जा सकती है। आज आप उस गरिमामय पद पर हैं जिस पर डा. राधाकृष्णन, डा. जाकिर हुसैन, श्री वी.वी. गिरी और आपसे पूर्व श्री वेंकटरमण रह चुके हैं। इन चारों विभूतियों ने इस देश के राष्ट्रपति के पद को भी सुशोभित किया। मान्यवर, श्री मारन की इस बात का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि पूर्व के कुछ वर्षों में इस सदन के सदस्यों के अधिकारों में कटौती हुई है। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि उन अधिकारों की आप रक्षा करेंगे और उनको पुनर्जीवित करेंगे। आप सदन के रक्षक हैं और इस सदन के जितने भी सदस्य हैं, चाहे वे सत्ता पक्ष के हों या विपक्ष के हों, उनके अधिकारों का आप संरक्षण करेंगे इस आशा और विश्वास के साथ मान्यवर मैं इस देश के लोकतंत्र और उसके द्वारा आपके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करता हूँ।

Shri Tridib Chaudhuri: Mr. Vice-President and Chairman, Sir, I rise only to add my voice to the sentiments of felicitations and welcome that have been already voiced by so many distinguished Members of the House.

Sir, knowing you as I have been for the past so many years, I have known that you have never allowed differences in political opinions to affect personal relations or your fight for the just rights of everyone. Sir, you have added lustre and distinction to the various high offices that you have occupied in your varied and distinguished career. I hope and have great confidence that you will add greater distinction to the office that you have come to occupy as Vice-President and Chairman.

Thank you.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my proud privilege to felicitate you on behalf of the Akali Dal and on my own behalf on your election to the august office of Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

You, as Governor of Punjab, endeared yourself to all Punjabis, and it is to your credit that, in spite of being in politics for such a long time and having held important organisational and administrative offices, you have managed to remain non-controversial and command the confidence and respect of all parties. It is a great achievement, and I am sure you will adorn this office with credit. I wish you, Sir, well and look forward to this House performing its constitutional and political duties with competence while maintaining its decorum as the House of Elders under your able guidance.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री बेकल 'उत्साही': मोहतरम्,

आप आए बज्म में ले कर चिरागे दिल का नूर,
अब उजालों से अन्धेरे दोस्ती फरमाएंगे।

हमारे आदरणीय अटल जी का और हमारा सम्पर्क सन् 1957 से है। इसलिए उन्हीं की तरजुमानी मैं कर रहा हूँ। दो लाइन मैं अपने प्रधानमंत्री जी के माध्यम से आपको समर्पित कर रहा हूँ:-

गौरव और खुशी के धन से खुद को मालामाल किया,
आंखों से स्वागत और दिल से आपका इस्तकबाल किया।

उस ने दिया जवाब अनोखा इस ने अजब सवाल किया,
इस हाऊस में बैठ के हमने क्या-क्या नहीं कमाल किया।

शोर-शराबा हंगामों में वक्त का आदर कर न सके,
अपनी बातें मनवाने को फिर भी बहुत मलाल किया।

अन्दर बैठ के अखबारों की हर सुरखी में उलझे रहे,
बाहर क्या-क्या बीत रहा है, यह भी नहीं ख्याल किया।

राजनीति के रा से ता तक कुछ पहुंचे कुछ डूब गये,
अक्सर इस खींचातानी में देश का रूप निढाल किया।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल: सभापति जी, आज आपने जिस पद को सुशोभित किया है, माननीय नेता सदन, विभिन्न पार्टियों के नेताओं ने जो आपको बधाई दी है मैं उससे अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ। सभापति जी, मैं आपको वयोवृद्ध तो इसलिए नहीं कहता क्योंकि आप उम्र में मुझ से थोड़े छोटे हैं परन्तु जो पद आपने ग्रहण किया है आपने मुख्य मंत्री के पद से लेकर केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमण्डल में तथा मेरी पार्टी के अध्यक्ष पद को, राज्यपाल पद को, विभिन्न पदों को सुशोभित कर के आप यहां तक पहुंचे हैं। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है डेमोक्रेसी जिस का जनता और नुमाइंदों से संबंध है जिस देश की जनता और नुमाइंदे सजग तथा सावधान होते हैं उससे उसका गहरा संबंध है। परन्तु सदनों से डेमोक्रेसी का बहुत गहरा संबंध है। पक्ष और विपक्ष का तो यह कर्तव्य होना चाहिये कि सरकार के सही कामों का दिल खोल कर के समर्थन करें उसमें संकोच न करें। डेमोक्रेसी तभी सफल होती है। सरकार का यह कर्तव्य होता है कि विपक्ष के सही सुझावों को मान लेने में उसे कोई संकोच नहीं होना चाहिये। मैं गुरुपदस्वामी जी से इतना निवेदन करूंगा कि उन्होंने सदन के अनुशासन का दायित्व आप पर छोड़ दिया है मैं उनसे कहूंगा कि सदन में अनुशासन का दायित्व सभी सदस्यों का है चाहे वह विपक्ष के हों या पक्ष के हों। अटल जी ने बहुत भावपूर्ण बधाई दी है उससे मैं अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ परन्तु जो पक्ष और विपक्ष की तलवारें तनी हुई हैं उससे मैं सहमत नहीं हूँ। डेमोक्रेसी में वाक्-युद्ध और तर्क युद्ध होता है परन्तु तलवारें नहीं चला करती हैं।....सभापति जी, मैं आपका हृदय से सम्मान करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि आपके द्वारा यह सदन और इस देश की डेमोक्रेसी सुरक्षित रहेगी। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको पुनः शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

Shri Thomas Kuthiravattom:* Honourable Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to offer my sincere felicitations to you in Malayalam, my mother tongue. I fully associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by my distinguished colleagues here. Sir, on behalf of my party, the Kerala Congress from the small State of Kerala in the southernmost part of this

* English translation of the Malayalam speech.

large and great country, I offer my heartfelt felicitations on your being elected as the Vice-President of the Republic and Chairman of this august House. Sir, you have held many high positions before occupying this high office. I wish you all the best in your new assignment as well. May God bless you.

Mr. Chairman: Honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the House and honourable Members, I am most touched by the warmth and kindness with which the Prime Minister and honourable Members have welcomed me to this House and the generous sentiments expressed here. It is with humility that I have entered upon this office. I pray that I may be enabled to uphold the high traditions of the Rajya Sabha. I am conscious of the invaluable contributions made by my great predecessors including specially Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain and Shri R. Venkataraman. I shall endeavour with your cooperation to follow their light in materialising the will of the House.

The Rajya Sabha as a deliberative body can bring to every issue an outlook of mature, dispassionate and sensitive contemplation in consonance with the lofty idealism of the stalwarts in our nation's history. The House thus has a vital responsibility to fulfil *vis-a-vis* the past, the present and the future. While we address ourselves to this task, the eyes of the world outside perceive our every mood and motion. The people of India hope unfailingly to benefit from the wealth of patriotism, knowledge and wisdom that abounds in this House. I am fortified by the presence here of personages who have been in the forefront of our national life and have long parliamentary experience. Their contributions from day to day will be an invaluable element in our proceedings. Equally, I am happy that the House has honourable Members who while young in years have the marks of wisdom on their brow. As a Persian saying has it “बुजुर्गी बा अकलस्त ना बा माह-ओ-साल”, that is, a person is respected as an elder not so much by the age in months and years as by the wisdom he displays. So I would like to repeat that this is the House of the Elders. So in the House I look forward to dignified discussion guided purely by perceptions of the national interest and I hope that in doing so, honourable Members will be mindful and considerate about each others rights at all times, more especially when a coincidence in their views eludes them. We could with advantage keep in mind what Voltaire is said to have stated “I might disapprove what you say, but I will defend to death your right to say it.” वैसे भी हिन्दी में कहावत है “निन्दक नियरे रखिए...” It is perfectly in consonance with our own thought emanating from ancient origins. The Rigveda enjoins: “आ नो भद्राः कृतवो यन्तु विश्वतः”

On my part I pledge myself to do all that I may during my term of office to enable you to participate in the deliberations of this House in due and appropriate manner.

Once again, I thank you most sincerely for your most generous words of felicitations. I offer my salutations to the *gana nayaks*. मैं आप सब गणनायकों को प्रणाम करके अब कार्य का श्रीगणेश करता हूँ।



Shri K.R. Narayanan
(27.10.1920–9.11.2005)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha
(21.8.1992–24.7.1997)

K.R. Narayanan : A profile

NARAYANAN, SHRI K.R.: M.A. (English Literature), First Class First, University of Travancore, Kerala, B.Sc. (Economics), First Class Honours, London School of Economics; s. of Shri Kocheril Raman Vaidyan; b. October 27, 1920; m. Shrimati Usha Narayanan; 2 d.; Lecturer, University of Travancore, 1943; Journalist with 'The Hindu' Madras and 'Times of India' Bombay, 1944-45; London Correspondent of 'Social Welfare'—a weekly from Bombay edited by Shri K.M. Munshi, 1945-48; Joined the Indian Foreign Service, 1949 and served with the Indian Missions in Rangoon, Tokyo, London, Australia and Hanoi and held different positions in the Ministry of External Affairs; From 1954 to 1955 taught Economic Administration at Delhi School of Economics and was also Joint Director of the Orientation Centre for Foreign Technicians; India's Ambassador to Thailand, 1967-69, Turkey, 1973-75, The People's Republic of China, 1976-78; Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, 1976; After retirement from Foreign Service in 1978 was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University in January 1979 and held the post till October 1980; Appointed Ambassador to United States of America, 1980-84; Had been Member of Indian delegation to (i) United Nations General Assembly, 1979, (ii) the U.N. Security Council in November 1985 on Namibian Independence, (iii) Conference of Non-aligned Nations at Harare in 1986 and (iv) the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly in May 1986 on the critical situation in Africa; Elected to Lok Sabha, 1984, 1989 and 1991; Union Minister of State for (i) Planning, 1985, (ii) External Affairs, 1985-86 and (iii) Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Space, Electronics and Ocean Development and Vice-President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1986-89; Member of the Universal Academy of Cultures, Paris; Honorary Fellow of London School of Economics; Honorary Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore; Honorary Fellow of Centre for Development Studies, Kerala; Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*), University of Toledo, USA; Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*), Australian National University; Australian National University has instituted an annual "K.R. Narayanan Oration"; Awarded Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship in 1970-72 for study of Nehru's Non-alignment; President, (i) Indian Institute of Public Administration and (ii) Ramakrishna Mission Institute; Chancellor of Delhi University, Panjab University, Pondicherry University, Assam University, North-Eastern Hill University and Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University); Visitor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University Institute of Journalism, Bhopal; Chairman of, (i) Jury of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, (ii) International

Jury for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. (iii) The Advisory Committee for the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award, (iv) The Jury for International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, (v) The Jury for Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, (vi) The Jury for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections, (vii) The Jury for Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change and (viii) Jury for G.D. Birla Awards for Humanism, India's Heritage and Culture and Rural Upliftment; Author of, (i) "India and America: Essays in Understanding", (ii) "Images and Insights" and (iii) "Non-alignment in Contemporary International Relations" (Joint Authorship); Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha 21.8.1992 to 24.07.1997; President of India, 25.07.1997 to 25.07.2002; Died Obit. on 23.11.2005.

Felicitations offered to Shri K.R. Narayanan on 25 November 1992

The Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my Government and my party and all the Members of this House, may I extend a very warm welcome to you. We feel privileged to have you with us here to conduct the proceedings of this House.

The rich experience in such diverse walks of life as journalism, academics, diplomacy and politics that you have brought with you will, I am confident, be of immense value to all of us. Your erudition and intimate knowledge of parliamentary procedures will be a source of inspiration and guidance. Your quiet confident demeanour that endeared you to your colleagues in the other House will help this House in functioning smoothly. For our part, we assure you of our full co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, we have worked together so long that we have got used to look upon you more as a brother. Now it will be a little difficult to look upon you in an exalted position.

I cannot help recalling the invaluable service you rendered to this country as our Ambassador to the United States. Yes, diplomats have a job cut out for them. But you helped India; you helped the Government in more ways than as a diplomat, particularly in the academic field. I do not recall any other Ambassador having done so much as you did. I shall never forget the great contribution in that sphere which you rendered as Ambassador. It is not easy for the same diplomat to be successful, on behalf of India, both in China and the United States. The job is so different; the atmosphere is so different, and I am glad, and I am proud of you that as India's first Ambassador to China after a period of comparative tension, you were able to bring down the tension and bring our relations to almost normal level within a very short time. This is the kind of persuasiveness which I found in you and I am quite happy to see you here because the same persuasiveness will be needed in a greater measure in this House. I wish you all the best.

The Leader of the House, Shri S. B. Chavan : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to tender very respectful and cordial felicitations to you on your election as the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Sir, today is your first day of occupying the distinguished Chair of this august House after your assumption of office as the Vice-President of India on August 21. May I, therefore, on behalf of all of us, extend a very hearty welcome to you!

It is really a question of welcoming you to this House only in a new capacity. You are no stranger to this House, having been Minister of State, holding the portfolios of External Affairs, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Space, Electronics, and Ocean Development, for four years.

In your election to this exalted office, Members of Parliament have fulfilled the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and acted in consonance with the secular beliefs of Jawaharlal Nehru. However, it is your accomplishment that makes you a distinguished choice. You had proved to be an able diplomat, an academician of repute and an efficient parliamentarian.

You have a variegated and highly successful record. I may mention here that your term in the United States as Indian Ambassador was highlighted by a new turn to Indo-US relations. As Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, you were instrumental in widening the scope of the University. As Minister of Science and Technology, you were instrumental in implementing the missions of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, to transform the tradition-bound India into a progressive, modern nation.

Your life has been a saga of struggle against adverse circumstances, social and economic. You faced and overcame them, undaunted and undeterred, to traverse from village to Vice-Presidency of India. Without doubt, your wide-ranging experience as teacher, journalist, academician, diplomat, administrator, Member of Parliament, Minister and author will stand you in good stead. In electing you, therefore, to this high office, we are not only honouring you but honouring ourselves. I have no doubt that you will be a fine example of constructive co-operation among political parties and of India's vibrant democracy. With these words, Sir, I once again extend to you, on behalf of the entire House, our warmest felicitations.

The Deputy Chairman*: Honourable Chairman, Sir, it gives me great pleasure, today, to welcome you, along with Members of the Rajya Sabha, as the Chairman of this august House. This House of Elders has had the privilege of being chaired by eight outstanding luminaries, and you, Sir, represent yet another jewel in this chain of illustrious personalities.

During my tenure as the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, I had the proud privilege of working under the Chairmanship and benign guidance of Shri R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, who went on to adorn the highest office of this country. Similarly, Sir, I shall now look forward towards your kind guidance, co-operation and confidence. It will be my constant endeavour to fulfil, to the best of my abilities, the tasks and responsibility you bestow upon me.

Needless to say, Sir, that your very presence will bring grace and discipline to the functioning of this House.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

In conducting the proceedings of the House, you have a vast repository of experience to draw from. Besides being an eminent writer, journalist, teacher of economic administration and international affairs, you, Sir, have had national and international exposure as a seasoned diplomat and a capable administrator.

We are honoured to have in you a man of wide and varied experience. You have been the Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University. Your interests in national and international affairs will surely enrich the Members during discussions. Your understanding of the masses and the political temperature of this country has earned you the distinction of having been elected to the Lok Sabha for three consecutive terms and your administrative capabilities were fully demonstrated under your Ministership of Planning, External Affairs, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Electronics and Ocean Development.

You had taken up challenging and innovative responsibilities in the past. Now that you are on other side of the House, you will surely contribute towards healthy and fruitful discussions on national and international issues. Though the Members of this House are forthright in putting forward their views, their commitment and zeal sometimes results in heated discussions and hurt sentiments. Your presence would stimulate honourable Members to be more diplomatic and reasonable, I hope, in putting forth their points before the House. You embody the qualities of gentleness and firmness, both proving to be your strength in running this House with ease and efficiency.

I welcome you again and assure you of my fullest cooperation in conducting the proceedings of this august House and if I remember the words of our great poet, Dr. Sir Mohd. Iqbal, perhaps he said them for a person like you:

यकीं मोहकम अमल पैहम, मोहब्बत फ़ातहे-आलम।
जिहादे जिंदगानी में ये हैं मर्दों की शमशीरें।

Translated into English, it means unflinching confidence and continuous striving, love and affection to the whole world, these are the swords for those people like you to win over the world in the battle of life. These words must have been said for people like you. I thank you very much and felicitations to you again.

सदन में विपक्ष के नेता, श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहब, जिन्दगी की मजबूरियां भी अजीबो-गरीब होती हैं। कल आप पहली बार तशरीफ लाए और यह सदन की कुर्सी-ए-सदारत को संभाला, लेकिन कल हम लोगों की बैठक बड़ी मुख्तसर थी, हमारे वे साथी जो हमसे बिछड़ गए थे उनको याद किया और सदन खत्म हुआ। स्वागत की बात आज पर रही। आज बकायदा कारोबार इस सदन का शुरू हो रहा है। आप कुर्सी-ए-सदारत पर जलवा अफरोज हैं। आपका इस्तक्रबाल, आपका स्वागत।

फारसी की एक बात है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि अगर पहली ईंट टेढ़ी रखी जाए तो उस ईंट पर बनाई हुई दीवार अगर आसमान तक भी पहुंचे तो टेढ़ी होगी। इसी मायने में अगर पहली ईंट सीधी रखी जाए, वो फारसी में कहावत है “खिश्ते अव्वल गर निहज में मार कज, ता सुरैया भी रवद दीवार कज”, पहली ईंट अगर दुरुस्त रखी जाए तो उस पर बनाई हुई दीवार आसमान तक भी जाएगी तो सीधी जाएगी। आपके चुनाव का तरीका ही बहुत काबिले तारीफ था। हिन्दुस्तान की हर सियासी जमात ने आपको इतफाके-राय से चुना। यह चुना जाना ही इस चीज की दलील है कि आपकी रहनुमाई में जब यह सदन चलेगा तो मजबूती के रास्ते से चलेगा, कामयाबी के रास्ते से चलेगा, इसका कारोबार खुश-उसलूबी से पूरा होगा।

मैं और मेरी पार्टी खुले दिल से आपका स्वागत करती है। मैं उन तजुर्बात की तफसीलात में जाना बहुत गैर-जरूरी समझता हूं क्योंकि बहुत सारे हजरात ने उनका जिक्र कर दिया बल्कि मैं यह मानता हूं कि हर सियासी और जिन्दगी के हर कौमी पहलू पर आपका तजुर्बा मुकम्मल भी है और कामयाब भी है। यह नया तजुर्बा, इस सदन की सदरत का तजुर्बा, मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि यह तजुर्बा भी उन्हीं रास्तों पर चलेगा, जिन रास्तों पर आप कामयाबी की मंजिलें तय करते रहे हैं।

दुबारा अर्ज करना चाहूंगा कि आपका स्वागत है और यह यकीन दिलाना चाहूंगा कि मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से पूरे एहताराम, पूरी इज्जत, पूरे तावून के साथ आपका कारोबार चलेगा। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with immense joy and pride that I join the Prime Minister and other Members in offering warm felicitations to you on your election as the Vice-President and also I am welcoming you as Chairman of this House on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, the Janata Dal. Your candidature commanded spontaneous support from all the political parties across the board, which is proof positive, if proof was ever needed, of your multisplendoured merit.

Everybody in this House knows about your brilliant academic record and about the fact that you have been a distinguished author, an eminent educationist, a great diplomat, a successful Minister and a good parliamentarian. We also know that in your 20's you were imaginative enough to have gained a personal audience with the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and you were gifted enough, in your 20's itself, to have been a favourite student of that celebrated Professor, Harold Laski and to have been handpicked by none other than Jawaharlal Nehru for induction into the Foreign Service.

In 1990, I had the rare opportunity of spending a few days with you in Moscow in undivided solitude. I had occasion to have a glimpse into your multifaceted personality.

You are scholar extraordinary. What is more, you are a scholar with a difference. Your scholarship, though massive, is not of the mildewed or pedantic kind. It is modern, multidisciplinary. practical and professional. It is said in the Bible, “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” Everybody is struck by your gentleness, but I have seen, Sir, behind your

gentle exterior you possess a beautiful blend of firmness of purpose and clarity of direction. We are, therefore, very proud and fortunate to have in you a person who combines in himself versatile talent, profound commitment and cheerful temperament. It was Lord Tennyson, I think, who said—and I quote—“Wearing all that weight of learning lightly like a flower.”

It is known from your chequered career that you have risen from the lowest rung of society to this very exalted office. I am pleasantly surprised to note that the wear and tear of your long social march has not left any trace of fatigue on your face. If anything, this odyssey while deepening your understanding psyche has only broadened your smiles. In your conduct of the proceedings of this august House, you will need to use your smiles and frowns too. As a Member sitting on this side, I can only request you to reserve your smiles for this side of the House and frowns may be directed towards the places where they are well-deserved.

With these words, Sir, I pledge to extend my unstinted co-operation on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, I welcome you once again, Sir, Thank you.

Shri Dipen Ghosh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a proud privilege to felicitate you as the Chairman of this august House. Literally you have a many splendoured life, from a journalist you rose to be the Vice-President of our country and thereby the Chairman of this House. Our Prime Minister was right when he mentioned particularly your role which you had played as a diplomat in bringing a thaw in the hitherto embittered relations between the two great neighbouring countries in Asia. I hope that a person like you, the persuasiveness in you, would bring a thaw in the embittered relations between the two sides of the House, would certainly help in bringing together the two embattling sides in this House, on the right and the left, particularly at a point of time when the nation is facing very serious problems, sometimes confrontationist issues. Obviously, this House cannot remain oblivious to what is happening and what will be happening outside of this House. As the representatives of the people we may reflect the feelings of the people inside the House, either from this side or that side. I hope that you as the Chairman of this House will be in a position to bring a rapprochement between the two sides and take the nation to a better future and a greater advancement.

Sir, already the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Deputy Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Janata Dal have stated a lot about your personal qualities and already we have got a taste of it on the eve of this session how your persuasiveness could avoid a confrontation and I hope that this spirit will last as long as you are sitting on that Chair and we are here.

With these few words, on behalf of my party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), on behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf, I once

again felicitate you and welcome you to this House as the Chairman of this august body. Thank you.

Shri Yashwant Sinha: Sir, I join my colleagues, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, to felicitate you on this very happy occasion.

When I rise to relate myself to you, Sir, I feel a special kinship. A certain part of your background is similar to my background. I have, therefore, a special reason for rejoicing in your elevation.

Sir, much has been said about your many-splendoured personality, the many facets of your personality so far. I feel that anyone of these facets would be a matter of pride for the life-time of an ordinary human being. If he had held any of the positions that you have in the past, that would be considered the epitome of achievement for an, ordinary or even a distinguished person. But you have gone from one mile-post of success to another and I have no doubt, in voicing the sentiments—I am sure—of many here in this House, that you have still miles to go before you rest. It has been said that some people derive their dignity from the Chair they occupy and some people lend dignity to the Chair they occupy. You have always lent dignity to the various chairs that you have occupied in the past and I have no hesitation in saying that this particular exalted Chair that you are occupying will also get some dignity from you. You have, in your life, translated into practice the ancient saying of 'simple living and high thinking' and it is an example for all of us and for the rest of the country.

I am sure that during your tenure here we will have a very good time together. I can only tell you, I would like to warn you, well, you might have managed the Chinese and the Americans, but it might be, at times, difficult for you to manage us in this House. But, as my colleague, Mr. Dipen Ghosh, would say, you have already won our hearts in the very brief meetings that we have had with you yesterday morning and this morning. We do realise that whatever excitement that might be there in our hearts is immediately cooled when we interact with you. I am sure this is the way it is going to be. We may be naughty, we may be difficult at times, but I am sure, in your wisdom, you will be able to direct the House and conduct its proceedings in the manner in which you have done it so far.

With these words, I join my colleagues, as I said, in offering our congratulations and felicitations to you and wishing you all the good luck for the future.

Thank you.

Shri Murasoli Maran: Honourable Vice-President and Chairman, Sir, I feel highly elated to join hands with my friends, on behalf of my party, the DMK, and on my own behalf, in offering encomiums to you.

To use the phrase of Rabindranath Tagore: "From the humble among the poorest, the lowliest and the lost section of society" you are the first one to reach this high office and you can rightly be called the common man's Vice-President. Your choice is an eloquent testimony to the fact that the Indian society is passing through a critical stage of social change and the impact is most striking among the lowest strata of society because these strata had remained relatively immobile in the past and their progress cannot be stopped in future. Therefore, your victory is a victory of our ideas and an assertion of the sense of social justice. That is why you have got a remarkable outpouring of national affection and national respect.

Your life is a saga of struggle and conflict, trials and tribulations and finally of success and achievement. You are like one of Bernard Shaw's characters who never blames circumstances for what they are and who never believes in circumstances to favour him but assiduously and dogmatically makes circumstances, creates circumstances. When there were hardly any concessions, when it was difficult to pay even two rupees per month as school fee, you found your way to become an honoured journalist, diplomat, academician, administrator and a great politician. That is why, when the Dewan of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, just offered a clerical job to you in spite of your excellent academic credentials, you refused it probably to become the Vice-President of India.

Like Dr. Ambedkar, for you, darkness, as the poet has said, is light enough to pursue your goal. It is my fond hope that your life will enthuse our younger generation because you made it by working hard and by trusting the logic of events which always favour the bold, the active and the prepared. As Jaipalji has stated you have been brought up under the tutelage of the legendary Professor Harold Laski. It is yet another feather in your cap. More than anything else, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had many gifts to the nation and you are one among them. We are proud of you. As a successful diplomat we know your amiable disposition, tact, persuasive skills and understanding of men and matters and you would be practising Dale Carnegie all the time and therefore, we have no doubt that you would be holding the scales even or appear to hold the scales even. More than anything else, you were the Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University—a tumultuous institution—and had an insight into all the operational forces of Indian politics. I have got an interesting news to remind you that at the time when you were the Vice-Chancellor, the student union leader, who gheraoed you, is here as an honourable Member. He is none other than Shri Digvijay Singh, who was a Minister of State in Chandra Shekharji's Government. I don't think he will repeat the performance. He told me that even at that time, you tackled the situation in a very diplomatic way. It seems the students made an offer to you to take meals and you refused to take meals until the students also took meals. You defused the situation in such a way with a Gandhian approach and we have no doubt

that you would be a great success in this House with such a powerful weapon in your hands.

Sir, on behalf of my party, I offer fullest co-operation to you.

Thank you.

Shri G. Swaminathan: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad that I have got this unique privilege and opportunity to offer my felicitations to you as the Chairman of this House. In the recent elections in USA, one of the candidates, Mr. Clinton, who has been recently elected as President of that country, was born in a place called 'Hope'. Some of my friends who came back from USA and who had watched the elections told me: "To a large extent, the slogan was that Clinton was born in 'Hope' and he is contesting the election to give hope to America." That was the slogan that was given in that country. When I was going through your bio-data, I found that you were born in Travancore State in a place called Uzhavoor. Uzhavoor in Tamil means agriculture. Most probably that is the meaning in Malayalam also. In India, as everybody knows, 75 per cent of the people are living in villages and agriculture is the most important thing in this country. Sir, as one born in a place called Uzhavoor which represents the agriculture of this country, I am sure that you will represent the poor people of this country and you will help this august House to voice their aspirations.

I also find that you were born in a family of *Vaidyas* who had been practising traditional medicines. It has also been said that your father was practising traditional medicines in his village. In spite of the fact that you have travelled many times abroad and you have been our diplomat in many countries, you belong to a family which has been practising traditional medicines and you will definitely maintain the traditions, the culture and the ethos of this country, in spite of your long innings in the other places. It has been said that you have been our diplomat in many countries starting from Rangoon and you had been in China, in USA and many other countries. I also understand from Jaipalji that you were in Moscow too as one of the diplomats. Many people when they go abroad assimilate only wrong things of the other countries and come back to our country. Only a few people go and select the best out of the other countries. You are the one who had selected the best in other countries the best culture, the best in every country and you have come back. You had proved it from your first appointment in Rangoon, you picked up the best lady in Rangoon and married her and made her your best half. He told me how you assimilated the best things of other countries. We will be able to gain from your experience. It has also been said that you have been a poet, a journalist and an educationist. My friend has also said that all parties have unanimously elected you to this House. Only one more thing I will add regarding your persuasiveness before I end my speech. Yesterday when we had been there, you said, "It so happens that sometimes I have to start Rajya Sabha with

Obituaries.” Then you also mentioned that it may not be an ill-omen because when you went as an Ambassador to China and when you landed in Peking, most probably, the Head of the State died and you were informed about it. They also said that you would be able to present your credentials only after a long time because the Head of the State died. Immediately you sent a message to the Foreign Office, “I am sorry the Head of the State has died and I may be able to present my credentials only after a long time. But I am happy that the funeral is not mine.” With that we all laughed and we were all happy, the heat of the discussion yesterday with that kind of anecdote you mentioned went deep into our heart.

I take this opportunity to felicitate you on behalf of the AIADMK party to which I belong and of which party I am a leader, I wish you all the best as the Chairman of this House and during your Chairmanship, we also wish ourselves all the best so that we will be able to conduct the proceedings harmoniously.

Thank you very much.

Shri N. E. Balaram: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with great joy that I am joining my colleagues to felicitate you on this occasion. Our personal friendship for the last four decades does not permit me now to speak much. You as a true Gandhian and I as a true Marxist, were working together on several occasions and I know those experiences. So I do not say anything at this juncture about that.

As a scholar, educationist and great social reformer of uncommon brilliance, your services will be remembered by all sections of the people, in all walks of life, that you have served. I think that your rich experience in different walks of life will definitely enrich the contribution of the House to the betterment of the society. I do not want to say anything more than that. I extend the full co-operation of my party to you. Thank you, Sir.

Shri Mentay Padmanabham: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I offer my sincere felicitations to you on your unanimous choice as the Vice-President of India and also as the Chairman of this august House on behalf of my party, Telugu Desam, and on my own behalf. You have rich and varied experience as an academician, as a diplomat and as a politician. You have done your greatest service to this country as a diplomat and your stint as the Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University is still remembered by a number of students as we as the staff of the University as a period when the institution had achieved tremendous reputation. My friends on this side have said many things and expressed their feelings about your achievements and I don't want to repeat any of them. At the end, I extend our full co-operation to you as Chairman of this House on behalf of my party and on behalf of my colleagues. Once again, I offer my congratulations to you.

Shri P. Upendra: Sir, on behalf of the non-aligned, unattached and miscellaneous Members of this House I extend a warm welcome to you as Chairman of this House. Your election as the Vice-President of this country is a great tribute to the vibrant democracy that we are having in this country which enables even a man of the humblest beginning to reach such a position of high eminence. It is also a recognition of your qualities as a leader and also as an erudite scholar. Your near-unanimous election is an indication of the supreme confidence various political parties have in your capacity to handle this difficult job. I am sure, with your scholarship, your temperament, your knowledge and your experience you will be able to make this job a successful one. Though the Rajya Sabha is considered as a House of Elders, it is much younger in behaviour and response. It is turbulent at times though some of the trouble-makers, like me, have been neutralised since then. When your name was announced as the Vice-President, some people and the media said that you were too soft for this job. But I know that behind the facade of softness there is firmness, a firmness coupled with tact. Moreover, for a man who handled the affairs of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, it should not be difficult to handle the Rajya Sabha.

We are fortunate in having you as the Chairman of this House. A glorious future awaits you and I am sure, by the turn of this century Mahatma Gandhi's dream will be fulfilled and you will occupy the highest office in this land.

Thank you.

Shri G. G. Swell: Mr. Chairman, others including the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the House have narrated the highlights of your long, chequered and distinguished career before you came to occupy your present office as the Vice-President and the Chairman of this House. We have known each other for some time. My vivid recollection is the many encounters that I had with you in the Parliament Library where you were often seen browsing at journals, magazines and papers and where we had occasion to sit down together and exchange information and views on various important events, national and international. Those encounters will now be only memories. They are behind us. You as Chairman, I as a Member of this House will still have occasions to meet and exchange views on various events and developments. I am happy that circumstances have led you to occupy the present Chair where you have to run the affairs of this House and I am more than sure that with your intellectuality, your information, your rationality, your pleasant personality, your pleasant exterior, you should be able to control this House, which sometimes can be boisterous and troublesome. The qualities that you have, are just the

qualities that this House needs. The qualities that you have, are just the qualities that this country needs today. We are living in difficult times. We are living in times when confrontation seems to be the order of the day. We are living in times when tempers are high. This House is in a way a reflection of the nation and the way this House behaves will, to a great extent, influence the shape and the development in the nation. Much will depend on your performance. Intellectuality, rationality, information, these are just the things that are necessary and very much depends on the man sitting in that Chair. To allow these qualities to come to the surface, where do we see these things? I have had the experience of sitting in the Chair of the other House where I had tried them and I found that it worked. Sir, whenever the House is in trouble, when the Members, know that you are fair, you like to do the best for them, and more than that, you follow every word that they say, that you appreciate their information, their articulation, the Members will respond to that kind of approach, the House will become more receptive, more rational in its discussions. You, Sir, have a responsibility. I wish you godspeed. We welcome you and we wish you every success.

Thank you.

Shri H. Hanumanthappa: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while joining my other senior colleagues, I am unable to control myself on this occasion being the mover of the resolution to place the demand of redeeming the wishes of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, before the nation. Having thrown the ball into the ring, for some time, I was a worried man. That was the situation, an occasion when the air was thick between merit and Mandal. I was confronted everyday by my friends and even the Press friends asked me whom I was having in view. I had only one belief. Even Mahatmaji did not have anybody in view when he placed the demand before the nation. Let the *Daridranarayana* occupy the highest post in this country.

Sir, during those two months when we were confronted with these questions, I spent many sleepless nights, having moved the resolution. The capacity of the intelligentsia of this country was able to find out a man who could be an administrator, an ambassador, a vice-chancellor, a Minister and a parliamentarian and who could also be Vice-President of India and President of India when the occasion comes. Today I welcome you, I felicitate you and I also thank all those people who are responsible, all the parties, all the leaders including my party leader and the Prime Minister for redeeming the wishes of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I thank one and all who are responsible, who have lent their hand including all my friends who worked with me throughout and all the party leaders and every citizen and every country man. I thank them for giving an opportunity to the Daridranarayana not only in name but who actually had no money to pay

the fees, who could not have higher education who had no facility and who later on with the help of Scholarship, with the help of a Maharaja, could come up. All this has been narrated. This is the real Indian, this is the real Indian villager occupying the highest place, which was the wish of Mahatma Gandhi. I once again welcome you and felicitate you on this occasion.

Shri Vishvjit P. Singh: Sir, in unison with all my colleagues who have spoken before me, I welcome you to this august House. You have a very special responsibility. For the first time in my life I find myself in total agreement with my friends in the Opposition who have praised you. My friend, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, spoke the truth when he quoted from the Bible, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

You are meek, Sir, in the sense of humility rather than any weakness. You are meek, Sir, in the sense of gentleness again, rather than any weakness. Everybody must be surprised why I am speaking today. I have a certain right to speak because I have been your neighbour for many years. Living in the house next to yours, I have seen you at close quarters. I am exercising my right as a neighbour. I wish to warn you, don't believe in everything that you have heard today. There are many testing times ahead of you but don't worry. These very people who have praised you today, tomorrow they will trouble you a lot. I am a seer of the future. With these words I congratulate you once again and welcome you amidst us.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम: सभापति महोदय, आज सर्वोच्च सदन की सर्वोच्च कुर्सी पर पदासीन होने पर मेरी हार्दिक बधाई स्वीकार करें। स्वतंत्र भारत के राजनैतिक इतिहास में पहली बार आपके व्यक्तित्व के रूप में देश के कमजोर वर्गों को यह सम्मान में समझता हूँ कि मिला है। जो आपको यह सम्मान मिला है संविधान के तहत, इससे सारे देश के कमजोर वर्ग के लोग गौरवान्वित अनुभव करते हैं। महोदय, आज बाबा साहब डा. अम्बेडकर की भावनाओं का एक समादर इस देश में हुआ है। राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी की आत्मा भी प्रसन्न हो रही होगी। आपके चुने जाने में सभी राजनैतिक दलों ने जो सहमति दिखाई वह सभी लोग बधाई के पात्र हैं। मैं उनको भी बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने समाज के कमजोर वर्ग को गांधी जी की भावना की अनुसार, बाबा साहब डा. अम्बेडकर की भावना के अनुसार देश की सर्वोच्च कुर्सी पर बैठने की बात की और राष्ट्रीय बहस का मुद्दा बनाया—वह थे वी.पी. सिंह जी और मैं अनुसूचित जाति, जन-जाति के संसदीय फोरम को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने भी एक अपनी मांग राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर रखी थी। इन सबके फलस्वरूप यह अवसर मिला, यह वक्त आया कि आज आप इस विद्वान सदन की सर्वोच्च कुर्सी पर आसीन हैं। मेरी आशा है कि आपकी विद्वता और अनुभव से भारत के संसदीय इतिहास में एक नया पन्ना जुड़ेगा और आपके इस पद पर आने से—जो एक बहुत बड़ी विद्वता का पद माना जाता है—देश में एक जो पुरानी विचारधारा चली आ रही थी कि विद्वता किसी वर्ग विशेष में ही सन्निहित है, उस पर भी कुठाराघात होता है। पार्टी लाइन से ऊपर उठ करके सदन में जो स्वतंत्र विचार रखते हैं उन लोगों की ओर से और अपने दलित वर्ग के संसदीय साथियों की ओर से मैं आपको हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ और आपका स्वागत करता हूँ।

इन्हीं चंद शब्दों के साथ, मैं पुनः आपको हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ।

Mr. Chairman: Honourable Prime Minister—though he is not at the moment here—honourable Leader of the House, honourable Deputy Chairman, honourable Leader of the Opposition, leaders of all the political parties, honourable Members.... I am deeply moved by the kind, warm and generous words with which you have welcomed me to this House of Elders, as it has been called. Actually, this is the first time I have been praised in this manner straight in my face. Perhaps, this is an earnest of speaking other things also straight in the face. If the speeches were not full of such goodwill and relieved by such wit and humour, the characteristic of this House, it would have been almost unbearable for me. As I said, I have not been used to such praise ever in the past. I stand here with great humility before you today. This is a Chair which has been adorned by such eminent personalities as Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, Shri V.V. Giri, Shri G.S. Pathak, Shri B.D. Jatti, Shri M. Hidayatullah, Shri R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. It is not easy for me to rise up to the great traditions set by these great Chairmen of this House. But I think that these traditions will be an inspiration to me. At the same time, they make me feel very humble and they fill me with a sense of heavy responsibility. My only hope is that with your goodwill, with your co-operation and with your generosity, it would be possible for me to fulfil the heavy responsibilities that have been placed on me. I find here many familiar faces because I have had the good fortune to interact with this House as a Minister of State sitting in the Treasury Benches. I had tremendously enjoyed and profited a great deal from that experience. And to see the old, familiar friendly faces and many new friendly faces makes me feel a little at home at least on this day of felicitations. And I think that is a good beginning.

The manner in which I was elected and the manner in which all of you have expressed your goodwill towards me makes me a little bold to face this House. A mention has been made to the element of social justice in this election. I also feel that my election was a very powerful expression of the sense of fairness and justice that resides deep down in our society. In spite of its differences, its inequalities, I think we have to strive to give some scope to this inherent sense of fairness and justice that is in our society. If we do so, it will come to the surface and I think many of our problems will become manageable.

My previous experience has been mentioned by almost all the honourable speakers. But I doubt very much if my previous experience would be very relevant to this. One honourable Member has already pointed out that it may not be just like managing the Chinese or the Americans. That

management was within the framework of certain diplomatic rules and etiquette. There are rules and regulations, etiquette and traditions in this House also. Therefore, I think as long as we play according to the rules, it would be possible for me to manage this House. The other thing which has really struck me in my election is that it is a manifestation of our democracy. We do not often realise how precious this democratic heritage of ours has been. I think it is because of this and because of the freedom which allows the expression of differences and discontents that we have been able to survive, cohere as a nation when many other nations have not been able to do so. It is through this, shall I say the magic of democracy which brought about a certain unity among all parties, that I have had the good fortune to be elected to this high post. My honourable neighbour has mentioned that this is the first occasion that he found it possible to agree with people on the other side. I do sincerely hope that this will not be the last occasion. I think it is absolutely necessary for us to carry on the traditions of agreeing to certain basic things. A great Dutch philosopher had once mentioned that democracy means to learn how to differ decently. I think that is the secret of the success of the parliamentary work also. All of us have differences and some of these differences would be very, very intense, sometimes based on deep ideological divisions. But the art of parliamentary democracy is in the expression of these differences. We have to learn the art of differing decently and this has been manifested in this House and in our Parliament on innumerable occasions. I believe that the other things are only exceptional. Even the Mother of Parliaments has been called a great talking shop.

This is also a great talking shop. One of the Professors who taught me, Dr. Popper, the Logician, used to define the human being as a talking animal, a discussing animal. That is the distinguishing quality of the human being. If that is so, then, a talking shop is very important and discussing and talking about things is a substitute for brute and blind action. It is a kind of, shall I say, Parliament is a kind of mighty bloodless substitute for violent revolutionary action. And, as long as we learn how to talk about our ideas, that will lead to wise and civilized action here as also outside in the nation as a whole. Therefore, I feel that even tumultuous debates are not fruitless. They are ultimately productive because they are a substitute for non-peaceful action, non-peaceful interaction among the people. This great quality of democracy, I think can be maintained if we fix our attention on certain basic things.

Gandhiji used to say that when you are in doubt about any decision, you imagine the face of the poorest man you have seen and see if what you are going to say or do will benefit this poorest man. I think if our debates here are centered on the problem of the poorest man, if we bear

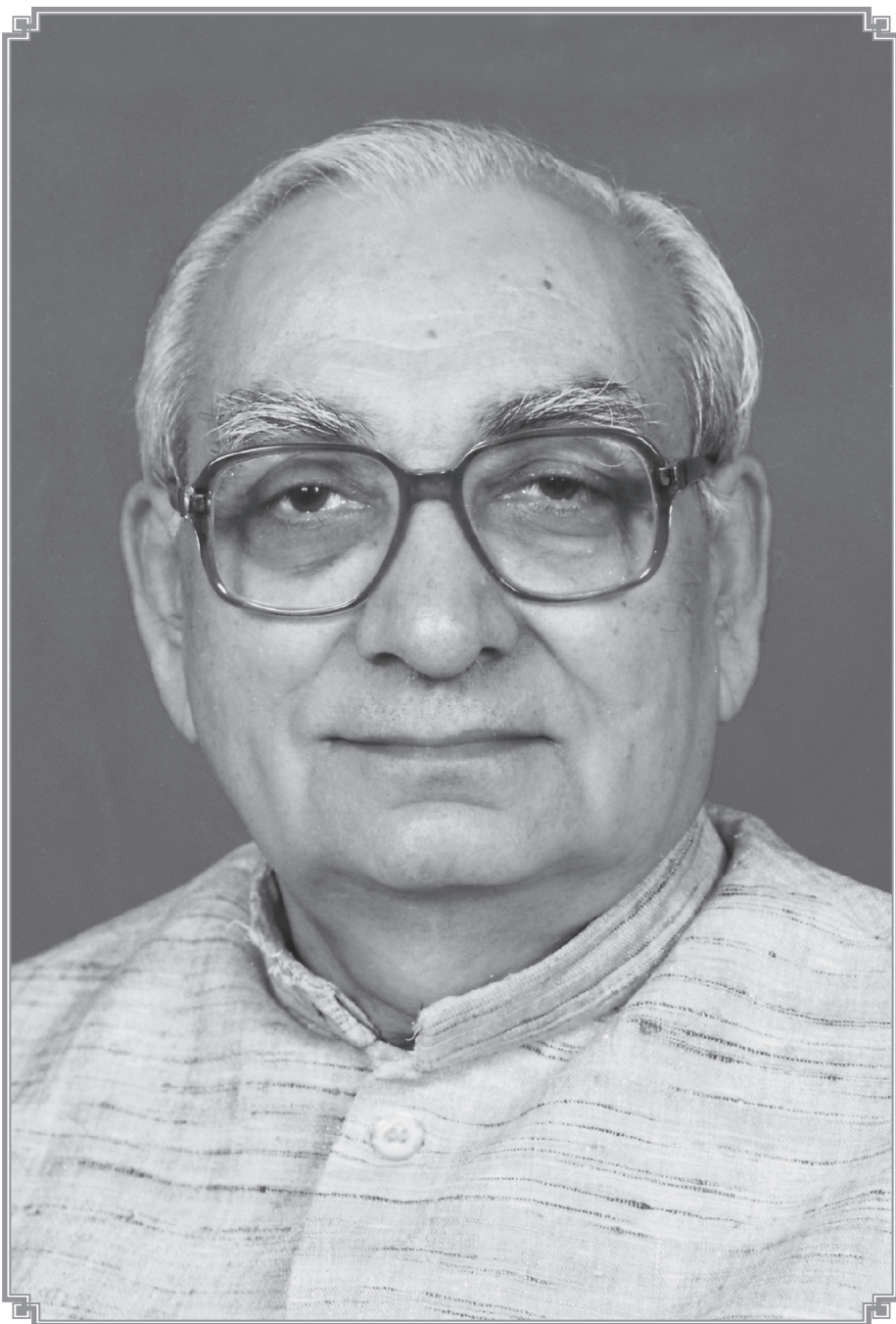
in mind the face of the common man in India, then, I think we will automatically get a minimum basis on which we can agree while the methods of helping this poor man may be debated. We may have many differences about it. But the fundamental aim of all our words, all our actions, should be directed to the benefit of the common man in India. That would be the only basis, the sure basis, on which we can take common action and find a certain minimum unity.

We are today, I think, passing through a great crisis. Our values are being eroded from every side, by a kind of pervasive process. There is a certain visible and invisible disintegration of values taking place which we cannot face at one place at all. And, if we have to prevent this, the invisible eroding of the value systems in this country, I think we have to put the common man at the centre of things and direct our attention to him. Then, I feel, everything else will fall in place.

You have given me this very heavy burden of presiding over this august House, I know that it is not easy for me probably to control this House. But I can assure you that as someone who believes in the free play of democratic rights and as someone who believes that from the clash of words and ideas and opinions truth will finally emerge, I would strain every nerve to give full scope for discussion, full scope for expression, to every Member of this House.

But, of course, that has to be within the framework of the rules of the game. And that has also to be controlled, if I may say so, by what Gandhiji used to say, "I obey only one dictator; that is my watch." And, I think, one has to look at the clock also and obey the clock, if not the rules, if we are to debate. I think, Parliament obviously has to be a very lively place. It cannot be a tame club. It has to be full of excitement, full of debate. Without it, I think, you do not run a Parliament but some other kind of a tame club. And one should welcome such things. Otherwise, it would be very uninteresting to sit here for the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman. I also can assure you that it would be my endeavour, constant endeavour to uphold the rights and privileges and the dignity of this House and every Member of this House because if you do not uphold this dignity, the rights and privileges of this House, then there would not be any platform on which we can erect our edifice of democratic Government. And in this, I hope you will lend me co-operation, support and goodwill in the same way you have offered me such overflowing goodwill and support when you elected me to this high office. I want to thank you for the very generous words, encouraging words you have said today. And I also want to thank you for something which was behind it, the support you gave me for my election to this high office which I had never dreamt of, never.

Thank you all.



Shri Krishan Kant

(28.2.1927–27.7.2002)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(21.8.1997–27.7.2002)

Krishan Kant : A Profile

Krishan Kant, Shri: M.Sc. (Tech.); s. of Late Lala Achint Ram; b. February 28, 1927; m. Smt. Suman Krishan Kant; 2 s. and 1 d.; Founder Secretary, The Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (1961-70), of which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the President and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Chairman; He was the Editor of the Quarterly Journal "Science in Parliament"; Chairman, Committee on Railway Reservations and Bookings, 1972-1976; Founder Secretary, The People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights in 1976; He held prominent offices in the Parliamentary and Organisational wings of Congress Party and later the Janata Party and the Janata Dal; He was a Member of the Executive Council, for several years, of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Member, Rajya Sabha, 1966-77; Member, Lok Sabha, 1977-79; Governor: Andhra Pradesh, 7.2.1990-21.8.1997, and Tamil Nadu, 22.12.1996-25.1.1997 (Additional Charge); Chancellor, Delhi University, Panjab University, Pondicherry University, Assam University, North-Eastern Hill University and Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University); Chairman, Jury of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, International Jury for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, The Advisory Committee for the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award, The Jury for International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, the Jury for Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, The Jury for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections, The Jury for Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha from 21.8.1997 to 27.7.2002; Died on 27.7.2002 (In Office). Obit. on 29.07.2002.

Felicitations offered to Shri Krishan Kant on 25 November 1997

The Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an extremely happy privilege on my part to felicitate your coming here. This Chair, Sir, from the beginning has been occupied by personalities of great eminence. I am glad and I hope that the whole House joins me in saying this, that your coming to adorn this Chair is again in keeping with the same tradition. We welcome you.

We are also happy that you had the privilege of being a Member of this House for several years. It has been only twice – this is the second time – that an honourable Member of this House has been elevated to this Chair. The first was Dr. Zakir Husain, and, I notice, you are the second coming here in the same tradition. Therefore, I share the joy of the entire House in felicitating you.

This House is familiar to you. Most of the Members are known to you personally. Therefore, I am certain that under your leadership this House will gain a lot in its prestige and also in the contribution it makes to run our democracy. We feel extremely happy that you occupy this Chair with the background of the tradition of freedom struggle, particularly in this fiftieth year of our Independence. Therefore, I felicitate you not only on my behalf but also on behalf of the whole House. We will be very happy to cooperate with you always. We look up to you for leadership of the House.

The Deputy Chairman*: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my proud privilege to welcome you to this august Assembly of which you were a Member. Now you will be the custodian of this House, as the honourable Prime Minister has said, in the fiftieth year of India's Independence.

It is our privilege to have you as the custodian and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I personally feel happy that you come from the same faculty of science as I do. You worked for the C.S.I.R. and I also worked for it. In a way I have a double relationship with you.

This House, I am sure, has changed, if not quantitatively, definitely qualitatively, and it will be a happy thing for you to know, and we would also like to know what change you have found since you left the House and now that you have re-joined it.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, I have worked with three Vice-Presidents and you will be the fourth one. I assure you all the assistance that you would require from the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

I am sure your Chairmanship of the House will enrich the House, the contributions of the Members and it will go down in history as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. Thank you.

सदन में विपक्ष के नेता, श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहब, खुशामदीद। आपका इस्तकबाल करता हूँ, स्वागत करता हूँ। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि यह सदन की खुशनसीबी है कि आप जैसे भरपूर तजुर्बेकार शख्स ने राज्य सभा की चेयरमैनशिप की जिम्मेदारी संभाली है। आपने सियासत को हर रंग में देखा है, सियासत के हर रंग में हिस्सा लिया है। 1947 से पहले जंगे-आजादी में आपके कदम अव्वल सफ़ों में रहे। 1947 के बाद मुल्क के तामीरी कामों में मुख्तलिफ़ पहलुओं में आपके कदम पेश-पेश रहे हैं। अपनी जिन्दगी का बेहतरीन हिस्सा आपने मुल्क और कौम की खिदमत में लगाया है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि आप अपने किरदार और तजुर्बे की रोशनी लेकर इस सदन में आए हैं तो आपने इस सदन की रोशनी में इजाफा किया है। नारायणन साहब को जब विदाई तकरीब दी जा रही थी तो मैंने यह कहा था कि यह सदन एक चमन है और इस सदन के मैम्बर बुलबुलें हैं, जो मुख्तलिफ़ सुरों में चहचहाती हैं। हम लोगों का ताल्लुक अलग-अलग सियासी जमातों से है। बहुत सारे अहम मसलों में हम मुख्तलिफ़ राय रखते हैं, हम लोग सियासी सफर में हमसफर नहीं हैं, न सही। हम अपनी बातचीत में हमनवा भी नहीं हैं। लेकिन दो रिश्ते बहुत मज़बूत हैं, जिसमें हम सब उन रिश्तों की डोर से बंधे हैं और ये रिश्ते हमवतनीयत से ताल्लुक रखते हैं और हमनशीनी से ताल्लुक रखते हैं। हम लोगों में खट-पट भी होती है, लेकिन हम कभी माकूलियत के दायरों से तजावुज नहीं करते।

सदर साहब, यह सदन आपके हवाले है, आप इसके रखवाले हैं। हमें यकीन है कि जो रिवायतें आपने अपनी तवील सियासी जिन्दगी में कायम की हैं, उन रिवायतों के ज़रिए से आप इस सदन का काम चलाएंगे।

मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से आपको भरपूर तआव्वुन का यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अगर मुझे यह सदन इजाज़त दे कि उस रिश्ते की रोशनी में जिसका मैंने अभी जिक्र किया हमवतनीयत और हमनशीनी का रिश्ता तो मैं यह हिम्मत करना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे सदन की तरफ से आपके लिए पूरे तआव्वुन का यकीन दिलाऊँ।

सदर साहब, आपको एक बहुत अच्छा सेक्रेटेरियेट मिला है, बड़ा एफिशियेंट और स्मार्ट सेक्रेटेरियेट मिला है, एक बहुत जहीन और तजुर्बेकार डिप्टी-चेयरमैन मिली हैं। मुझे इन डिप्टी-चेयरमैन साहिबा के नाम पर ऐतराज़ रहता है हमेशा, बहुत ही अफसोसनाक है, पता ही नहीं लगता कि “हैप्तुल्ला” क्या है? अगर मैं कोई कुफ़्र की बात नहीं कर रहा और नाऊजुविल्ला कहकर यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मैं अल्लाह होता तो मैं इनसे नाराज़ हो जाता। यह अल्लाह के नाम से “हैप्त” जोड़ रखा है, इसका कोई मतलब नहीं है। न “हैत” है, न “हैबत” है, “हैप्तुल्ला” है।

अच्छा देखिए, इनका नाम है “डा. नजमा हिब्तुल्ला”, “हिब्तुल्ला” यानी गॉड्स गिफ्ट यानी अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा। अब यह अलहदा बात है कि यह अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा अकबर साहब के हिस्से में आ गया है। मैं तो यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि यह “हिब्तुल्ला” यानी अल्लाह का तोहफ़ा आपको भी रास आएगा।

सदर साहब, एक दफ़ा फिर मैं आपको तहेदिल से मुबारकबाद देता हूँ, खुशामदीद कहता हूँ, आपका ख़ैर-मक़दम करता हूँ और दुआ करता हूँ आपकी कामयाबी के लिए। जिस तरह से कामयाबी के परचम आप लहराते रहे हैं, राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन की हैसियत से भी आप कामयाबी के परचम लहराएँ। शुक्रिया।

श्री सीताराम केसरी: आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आज हमें हार्दिक आह्लाद, आनंद और हर्ष हो रहा है आपके इस गरिमामय स्थान पर आने से। मैं आपके व्यक्तित्व की ओर झाँक रहा हूँ। आपकी भावना और आपकी निर्भीक वाणी आज भी सदन में प्रतिध्वनित हो रही है। स्वाधीनता के पचासवें वर्ष में आप इस स्थान पर आए हैं और उपराष्ट्रपति बने हैं। आपने हमेशा भारत और उसके हित में तथा स्वाधीनता के संग्राम में कुरबानी दी है। आपके इस आसन पर आने का हमें हार्दिक आनंद है।

महोदय, स्वाधीनता संग्राम के अवसर पर एक बार गांधीजी ने कहा था कि हम चाहते हैं कि देश के दलित वर्ग का आदमी राष्ट्रपति हो। जो इस स्थान से गए हैं श्री नारायणन, वे आज राष्ट्रपति हैं, हमें इस बात की हार्दिक खुशी है। आज मैं हिंदुस्तान की आजादी की लड़ाई के इतिहास के पन्नों में झाँककर देख रहा हूँ कि श्री कृष्णकांत जो इस गरिमामय स्थान पर बैठे हैं, उनकी वाणी आज भी प्रतिध्वनित हो रही है। उनके व्यक्तित्व की गरिमा को मैं जानता हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि राष्ट्रहित में हमेशा इस सदन में आपकी वाणी प्रतिध्वनित होती रही है। आपका व्यक्तित्व समन्वित व्यक्तित्व है और वह भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस की संस्कृति का प्रतीक है।

मैं जानता हूँ कि सदन में विभिन्न विचारधाराओं के लोग रहते हुए भी जहां तक राष्ट्रहित का सवाल है, हम सब एक हैं। विचारों में टकराव अस्वाभाविक नहीं है। हम लोगों के बीच विवाद के विषय भी होते हैं लेकिन जब राष्ट्र का हित सामने आता है तो टूटने का विषय नहीं बनता। मेरा विश्वास है कि राष्ट्रहित में जो आपने बलिदान दिया है और आपके परिवार ने बलिदान दिया है, उसी पृष्ठभूमि में आप आने वाले समय में भी राष्ट्रहित को सामने रखेंगे।

इन्हीं संभावनाओं के साथ हमें आज गर्व है कि आप इस स्थान पर आए हैं। इस सदन के आप सभापति हैं। आप गरिमापूर्ण हैं और आप इसकी गरिमा रखेंगे, यह मेरा विश्वास है। क्योंकि सदन का सभापति पद स्वयं एक गरिमापूर्ण पद है इसलिए हिंदुस्तान की आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर आप सरीखे स्वतंत्रता सेनानी को इस आसन पर पाकर हमारा दिल, हमारे साथी, सभी दिलों के लोग, जैसा मैंने कहा कि चाहे भाषा कोई भी बोलें, विचार चाहे कोई भी रखें, सबका हित राष्ट्रहित है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका हार्दिक अभिनंदन और स्वागत करता हूँ। जयहिंद।

Shri E. Balanandan: Sir, this is a solemn occasion for me to welcome you as the honourable Chairman of this House. We know that you have been upholding certain values without caring for the consequences. We also know that you stood for democratic values. This forum, that is, Rajya Sabha, is a place where we have to practise democracy. Under your able guidance, we will be able to practise democracy in this House. Though we are called elders, at times, we will be behaving like youngsters. We may behave in an extraordinary manner. But you, with your experience of a long political life, will be able to lead this House to uphold democracy to the extent possible. From our side, our party will be extending full cooperation to you. I once again congratulate you on assuming this high office.

Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar: Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party and our leader, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, I welcome you as the tenth Chairman of this august House. Sir, as former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, you have won laurels from the people of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, you have got a special place in the hearts of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Your simplicity and dynamism will enhance the prestige and glory of the great temple of democracy. I once again welcome you, Sir. Thank you.

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति महोदय, हमारे लिए अत्यंत सौभाग्य और गौरव का विषय है कि आप भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति चुने गये हैं और साथ ही हमारे इस माननीय उच्च सदन के सभापति भी। मैं अपने दिल की ओर से, पूरे सदन की ओर से, सभी सांसदों की ओर से और अपने व्यक्तिगत रूप में आपका स्वागत करता हूँ, आपको बधाई देता हूँ और अभिनंदन करता हूँ। देश को स्वतंत्र कराने में जिन महान परिवारों ने बलिदान और आहुति दी, उनमें से आपका परिवार अग्रणी परिवार रहा है। कौन नहीं जानता कि आपके पिता लाला अचिन्तराम जी न केवल स्वतंत्रता से पहले विशाल संयुक्त पंजाब प्रान्त के अपितु पूरे देश के अग्रिम नेताओं की पंक्ति में से एक व्यक्ति थे। आपने उस गौरवशाली परम्परा का बखूबी निर्वाह किया है। आप देश के न केवल जाने-माने और सुलझे हुए राजनेता अपितु एक निष्ठावान समाजसेवी और गांधीवादी ही नहीं बल्कि अन्य विषयों और देश के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों के ऊपर आप एक विद्वान और उद्भट चिन्तक माने जाते हैं, हमारा सौभाग्य है कि आपका मार्गदर्शन हमको मिलेगा और यह गौरवशाली परम्पराएं, आदर्श और जीवन-मूल्य और अधिक पुष्ट होंगे और देश को न केवल आपके नेतृत्व में सम्मान प्राप्त होगा अपितु उसको विकास की ऊंची से ऊंची सीढ़ियों पर अग्रसर होने का अवसर भी प्राप्त होगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से सौभाग्यशाली मानता हूँ अपने आपको क्योंकि आप मेरे पिताश्री स्वर्गीय रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री के व्यक्तिगत अनन्य मित्रों में से रहे हैं और वह पितातुल्य वात्सल्य, स्नेह और मार्गदर्शन आपका मुझे सदैव ही मिलता रहा है। अब क्योंकि मेरे सदन के आप अध्यक्ष रहेंगे तो यह सान्निध्य और अधिक घनिष्ठ होगा। मैं पुनः आपको शुभकामना और बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और आपकी दीर्घ आयु की कामना इस भाव के साथ करता हूँ कि आपके नेतृत्व में देश और ऊंचे-ऊंचे कदम विकास के पथ पर रखता रहेगा। पुनः आपको बधाई।

Shri G. Swaminathan: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK party to which I belong and also on my own behalf I am very happy to associate myself with this felicitation and to say a few words on this occasion. I am also thankful for the time given to me. A few days ago, after your election as the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Janardhan Reddy, who was also a former Member of the Rajya Sabha – I learnt it from *The Hindu* – gave you a party in Hyderabad to felicitate you. I read that during the eleven years when you were a Member of this House you had been in the forefront in putting questions in this House and you were among the three persons who had been asking the first three questions in the Rajya Sabha in those days. At that time you were embarrassing the Ministers with questions and you never allowed them to leave without answer and you never spared them. I came as a Member in 1986. At that time, one of the Members, Shri A.G. Kulkarni, continued that process and we were happy with the same. There is a reason why I am mentioning this here. I am sorry to say – I think the Prime Minister and those who are sitting on the Treasury Benches will not mistake me, if I say so – that as Members of the Opposition and as leaders of our political parties we are not very happy with the answers given by some of the Ministers or by many of the Ministers. When we put pointed questions, they say evasively something which is very vacillating or something different or something not up to the point. Many times the Chairman of the House had to come to our rescue and to direct the Ministers to come better prepared and to answer the questions properly. Why I am mentioning this is, we are very happy that we have now an honourable Chairman, who had been in the forefront in putting questions in the House when he was a Member of this House. I am sure that you will fully sympathise with the Opposition and see to it that whenever the Ministers do not give proper answers, you will look into that and you will direct them to give proper answers. Why I am mentioning this today is that they should be careful hereafter and without your directing them to be so.

Another point is this. I am also happy to read in the newspapers, as has already been mentioned by Dr. Rajkumar, an honourable Member of the House, that the honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, had felicitated you. One former Congress Chief Minister had felicitated you and Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, who is the present Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, had also felicitated you. I was really surprised to see a Chief Minister felicitating a Governor. There is a proverb in Tamil:

Marumagal machiya mamiar illai

It means that 'no daughter-in-law appreciates the mother-in-law'. Sir, it has always happened that the Chief Minister and the Governor are at loggerheads in most of the States in India. I have also seen cases where the Chief Minister refused to talk to the Governor. There had been occasions when, for months, the Chief Minister never met the Governor, never briefed the Governor. It has also happened, I may say, that there had been differences of opinion between the Prime Minister and the President. There had been occasions when the Prime Minister even refused to meet the President. I do not want to quote who did that and why. The point is, the Chief Minister of a particular State appreciates the Governor and gives a farewell party to him, not for leaving the place! There had been Chief Ministers giving fabulous parties either on the retirement or on the transfer of the Governor, not because they were in love with the Governor but because the Governor was leaving the State. Here is a Chief Minister who not only gave a party but also saw to it that you were elevated as the Vice-President. That speaks greatly of the rapport that you have acquired with the Chief Minister.

I would like to say one more thing, Sir. Both you and the honourable Prime Minister Shri Gujralji hail from West Punjab which is now in Pakistan. Both of you come from a territory which was originally the land belonging to the whole of India. Why I am saying this is, a good rapport between the Prime Minister and the Vice-President is also very necessary. Now that you are here, I am sure you will have a very good rapport so that in these days of escalation of animosities all around – which I hope will come down – your counsel to him and his counsel, his advisory capacity, and the conversations between you, may go a long way to see that everything goes on well.

Finally, I would wish to say two things. Sir, I have heard that during your period you were a champion of electoral reforms and you were a champion against criminalisation of politics. You also wanted that the issues of reforms and black money be taken up. I understand that you retired in 1977. After so many years in Parliament, in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha, the main debate is on electoral reforms and criminalisation of politics and corruption about which the honourable Prime Minister has also mentioned recently. We are now trying to bring in the Lokpal Bill. I also know from the papers that during your period as a Member, you went to Bihar when one of your supporters said, "I appreciate that you are fighting against black money in elections and corruption. It is not only the Ganga that is to be purified; the Gangotri is also to be purified. Black money starts not later but during the elections". These are three or four most important points today and I hope that you will give full advice for their deliberations.

I came to this House in 1986. And, as a Member, during my period, I have already seen three Chairmen. One was Mr. R. Venkataraman. He was the Chairman and then he was elevated as the President. The second was Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. He was also the Chairman and was then elevated as the President. The third was Mr. K.R. Narayanan. He was also the Chairman and then was elevated as the President. They were all very eminent persons and I had the occasion to felicitate them. I am happy that I have yet another occasion to felicitate a person of your eminence. I am all the more happy that all the three before you were elevated to be the Presidents. I hope that you will also be elevated as the President. The Chair you occupy is also lucky. This is the luckiest Chair I have seen. Thank you.

Dr. D. Masthan: Honourable Chairman, I rise to felicitate you, on behalf of the Members and leaders of the AIADMK-II party from Tamil Nadu. Sir, I attach a lot of significance and importance to your elevation as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Vice-President of India when this country is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its Independence. I am sure this House takes up a lot of reforms which will take the country forward towards a bright future. Sir, just now our honourable Member, Swaminathanji, mentioned that there is no mother-in-law who is appreciated by the daughter-in-law. But as far as we, the Members of the AIADMK, are concerned, let me assure you, we will be daughters-in-law who will definitely be appreciated by the mother-in-law and we assure the fullest cooperation and I am sure our country will definitely march forward under your leadership. Once again, let me convey my heartiest felicitations on behalf of the Members and leaders of the AIADMK-II party from Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

श्री संजय डालमिया: सभापति महोदय, आपके उपराष्ट्रपति पद ग्रहण करने व राज्य सभा के सभापति के पद ग्रहण करने पर, मैं आपको अपने दिल की ओर से बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। आप जिस जमात से आए हैं वह स्वाधीनता संग्राम के सेनानियों की जमात है। हमारे लिए यह बड़े सौभाग्य की बात है कि हिन्दुस्तान की स्वाधीनता की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ पर हम लोगों ने आप जैसे महानुभाव को चुनकर अपना उत्तरदायित्व पूरा किया है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि जो स्वाधीनता की लड़ाई आपने व आपके अन्य सहयोगियों ने जिन मुद्दों के लिए लड़ी है, उनको पूरा करने के लिए राज्य सभा में हमारे योग्य जो भी काम करने हेतु आयेगा, हम आपके नेतृत्व में उस पर ध्यान देकर, अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करते हुए पूरा कर सकेंगे। हमारी आजादी के जो पहले पचास साल गुजरे हैं, आगे के जो पांच या दस साल हैं इनमें हम पहले पचास साल से ज्यादा तरक्की करके दुनिया को दिखा देंगे। आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ पर हमने ऐसे-ऐसे लोगों को राष्ट्रपति व उपराष्ट्रपति पद के लिए चुना जिनके नेतृत्व में भारत को आगे बढ़ाने में हम पूर्ण सफल होंगे। इसी के साथ मैं पुनः अपने तथा अपने दिल की ओर से आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ।

Shri J. Chitharanjan: Respected Chairman, I am extremely happy to welcome you to the seat of honourable Chairman of this House and also to that of the Vice-President of the Republic. Sir, you have participated in the freedom struggle and afterwards you have had a very long political career and throughout your political career you have been known to be a person who was an ardent advocate of democracy and democratic principles. In the same way, you have upheld the principles of secularism and you have always stood for progressive policies and views. Sir, during this period, politicians as a whole are under a cloud because a large number of scams have taken place. Generally, it has been considered that politicians are not above corruption. But it is a generally accepted fact that you have always been above corruption and you have always fought against corruption and you have fought for electoral reforms against criminalisation of politics and such other things. Therefore, when you are occupying this Chair, I am sure and confident that you will uphold all these causes. While you are the Chairman of this House, I am sure you will uphold the honour and dignity of this House, you will recognise and protect the rights of the Members of this House. As some of my colleagues have pointed out, your advice and counsel will be very helpful to the Government also. I don't want to speak more.

Once again, on my personal behalf and on behalf of my party, I heartily welcome you to the high seat that you are occupying at the moment. Thank you, Sir.

श्री सतीश प्रधान: महोदय, मैं शिव सेना और युनाइटेड पार्लियामेंटरी ग्रुप की तरफ से आपको बधाई देता हूँ। महोदय, इस कुर्सी पर हमारे देश के बहुत सारे नेता, महानुभाव बैठे हैं और उन्होंने यहां से इस देश की गरिमा को बढ़ाया है और सदन की एक गौरवशाली परम्परा स्थापित की है। ऐसी जगह पर आप आज स्थापित हुए हैं, इसका मुझे अभिमान है और गर्व भी है। आपने आज तक जिन्दगी में अपनी खुद की परम्परा डाली है और अपने उसूल खड़े किए हैं और किसी भी हालत में उनको आपने आगे बढ़ाने की कोशिश की है। ऐसे व्यक्ति के, इस स्थान पर आने के बाद मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस सदन की गरिमा और बढ़ेगी, सदन की गौरवशाली परम्परा और बढ़ेगी। इस सदन में सदस्यगण भी इसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए ठीक ढंग से बर्ताव करेंगे, यह भी मैं आशा करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

Dr. Karan Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while warmly felicitating you on your election as the Vice-President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, I would like to draw your mind back to thirty years when as a Cabinet Minister I began coming to this House regularly, every week to answer questions. My friend and colleague, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral and I would probably be the two people who could bear out what Mr. Swaminathan has said that when

you were sitting where I am now, you used to ask us very well-informed, most pointed and often embarrassing questions. It is, therefore, a matter of particular pleasure to see you now elevated to this high office. We are sure that with your vast background and experience as a backbencher—as far as I know, you were always sitting in the backbench or in the Chair—you will be able to safeguard and maintain the interests of this entire House. My very warm felicitations to you.

Shri Parag Chaliha: Sir, it becomes my duty on behalf of the AGP, the Asom Gana Parishad, to warmly felicitate you on your assumption of this high and very responsible office. My joy is more pronounced in the sense that you had your full share in our struggle for Independence. I am very glad that as one who staked his life for the cause of Indian Independence, I have with me at least one of the supreme personalities of this House who had his share brilliantly completed as a freedom fighter.

Sir, the North-East is very much in the news, not in an ideal connotation but certainly in a deplorable condition, in a deplorable context. And our present Government is wedded to the task of doing something which the North-East has never had so far. We hope that the neglect or the exclusiveness which the North-East has been complaining for long would be removed in not so distant a future.

Under your superb guidance we will be able to do whatever is entrusted to us. Sir, we have had the fortune to know you as a freedom fighter and as a Congressman in the sixties and the seventies and also your fearlessness and alertness in the House. Therefore, my joy knows no bounds in felicitating you, which I do very sincerely and with great expectations for the future. Thank You.

Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi: Sir, I join my distinguished seniors in offering you felicitations on this happy occasion. All along you have been known as a crusader for all good social causes. You tried valiantly to ensure that there is accountability of the Government and a corruption-free society. One remembers very well the kind of public opinion you tried to create on various issues, apart from fighting valiantly on many issues in this very House.

I would also like to mention that I saw you as a Member of the other House in action in a particular place where I happened to occupy a small position. Your activities as a publicman of longstanding are well known, since you share the legacy of the freedom struggle and also the legacy of the best that this country represents through its civilization and culture. But as a local representative of that particular place I found that you did

two very difficult things. The first one was of educating people about the problems and difficulties and as to where their responsibilities and duties lay. Secondly, you also tried to ensure that there was a proper rapport between the administration and people and there was a kind of mutual understanding which the country needed all along. I have no doubt that in this position of high dignity you represent the best of the essence of Indian culture. I look upon you as the custodian of public interest and dignity as well as the rights of Members of this House. I once again felicitate you, Sir, on the auspicious and happy occasion. Thank you.

Shri V. P. Duraisamy: Sir, on behalf of D.M.K., I felicitate you on your elevation to the high office of the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. We look upon you for guidance in the years ahead, as also for protection of our interests and rights in all ways. Thank you.

Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani: Sir, I join this august House in conveying my respects and regards on this very auspicious occasion when an eminent person like you is elevated to the post of Vice-President of the country.

Sir, in you we see the symbol of our traditions. As a freedom fighter, as a patriot, as a nationalist, as a politician with integrity, your personality will be able to do much for the strengthening of our national cause. Sir, you are a true symbol and a true representative of the composite culture of India. Coming from Lahore, which was once a great centre of our Hindustani culture, a land of Urdu language and literature and also very much connected with the history of our country, and having worked in South India for a long time and now being elevated to the office of Vice-President of the country, you will be able to make a great contribution to national awakening. Sir, I am aware of the fact that you are very much fond of *Allama Iqbal*. So, I would like to felicitate you by quoting a couplet of that great renowned poet of our great heritage:

तू शाही है परवाज़ है काम तेरा
तेरे सामने आसमां और भी हैं

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Hon'ble Members, I am deeply grateful for the kind words that have been spoken about me. It makes me all the more conscious of the heavy responsibility that is cast on me.

One honourable Member asked me: What difference did I find in the House? One visible difference is the painting of Dr. Radhakrishnan just in

front of me in the House. Many years before, as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha he sat on this Chair, with very great dignity and distinction and guided this House with utmost brilliance in the formative years of our Republic. I had the privilege of being a student in the University where he was my Vice-Chancellor – the Banaras Hindu University. I still possess his personal certificate to me. That certificate has been a perennial source of encouragement. At a personal level, I shall continue to draw inspiration from this portrait of my teacher and the first Chairman of this House and derive the strength to abide by the lofty standards he set for all of us. I shall always remain conscious that this Chair has been occupied by men of exceptional eminence, from Dr. Radhakrishnan to our present President. This is a humbling thought.

Some honourable Members mentioned about my being very active during Question Hours and in raising questions in the House, when I had the privilege of being its Member. Yes, that is so; and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. The sight of a Minister struck dumb by the quality of a Member's question, or, a Member bowled over by the Minister's sharp wit, is an enduring spectacle of the parliamentary drama. It makes all – even the tallest, look so vulnerable, so fallible and so human. The right to ask question filled me with a sense of uplifting power – the power to hold the whole system accountable to the enquiry of the representative of the people. The atmosphere in this House pulsates with the energising power of democracy. No one is left untouched.

Life does strange things. I never wanted to become a Governor, I was persuaded to become one. Earlier, as a Member of Parliament, I never wanted to be on the panel of Chairmen either in this House or in the other House. And today, I stand here as the Chairman of this august House. I consider this to be the continuation of a journey started and a role defined, several years ago, as an MP. Then, I asserted my identity by asking questions. Now, I will encourage you to assert your identity by never surrendering that essential prerogative of the MP – the right to ask questions. I assure you that I will protect your right to ask questions – regardless of whether you belong to the Opposition or the ruling party or the alliance. In return, all I ask of you is a promise, that you will never give up the MP's inalienable right to question the Government. I say this because, in the last few years, situations have arisen when Members themselves put forth the demand that the Question Hour be suspended on a given day. I found this somewhat paradoxical – Members wanting the Chairman's nod to give up a right, they always fought to protect. Suspending the Question Hour, as a political statement, may gain you a few momentary advantages, but is sure to impose a heavy cost in terms of the slow erosion of your rights as MPs. When you give up the Question Hour, you fritter away the sacrifices of all

preceding generations who fought and suffered to secure for us the right to question the dictator which lurks behind every Government. The Question Hour is the life-breath of parliamentary democracy. When you give up the Question Hour, even for a day, you weaken the ongoing struggle to enforce higher accountability on the Government in power; you weaken the evolution of the parliamentary democracy.

I certainly hope you won't give up that precious right of yours or whittle it down for anything else. I promise that I will stand by you in enforcing these standards, whether you are in the Opposition or on the other side of the House.

I have always remained an admirer of the joint family system and I consider this House to be a large joint family. It has its faults and foibles, its traumas and weaknesses, its protagonists and its opponents – but the joint family functions so long as its members are united on the necessity to make it function. They are not expected to give up their self-interest *in toto*, but only enough to create that essential common space on which every member agrees. As Chairman, it shall be my primary responsibility to help find and, even enlarge, that common space in the midst of political, group, ideological, regional and even personal oppositions. With your cooperation, I hope to succeed.

During the seven and a half years that I served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, the State have had five Chief Ministers. Each was a unique personality with his own distinctive approach to politics. But it should be said to the credit of our constitutional arrangement, that it possesses enough flexibility to adapt to the new policy impulses and approaches. If we function according to the rules of the game and downplay our egos and self-interests, we have in our Constitution an excellent adhesive to keep the country together. It provides the motive force to strengthen national unity, and realise our potential to rise to those great heights, to which any nation can, and should, aspire.

My thoughts go to the titanic people's struggle that often preceded the victory of parliamentary institutions. Often these struggles coalesced with national liberation struggles, like our own. In the fiftieth year of our Independence, it is wise to remind ourselves of our struggle for independence and the leadership of one of the most remarkable men in all history – Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi's was not just a struggle against imperialism, it was essentially a revolution in human character and social values. Gandhi gave us our freedom; but he also gave us our credo.

He reminded us of the virtues of orderly institutions and, discipline even in street actions. In 1918, when he was fasting in Ahmedabad jail on the labour issue, some workers said to him, "We will organise a *hartal* in Ahmedabad". Gandhiji shot back, "And how will you ensure everybody's support for the *hartal* when some are known to be opposed to it?" The workers confessed that they planned to enlist the support of some anti-social elements to intimidate the dissenters to fall in line. Gandhiji would have none of it. He sternly warned them: "If you hold a *hartal* or *bandh* with the support of anti-social elements now, India, when free, will be ruled only by anti-social elements. Never do such mindless acts". That was Gandhiji. "Means", for him, remained as important as the "ends". In his philosophy, "means" and "ends" were convertible. Both had to be moral.

I was always keen to know why the parliamentary system found favour with Gandhiji. The Congress bulletin of 1937 throws a flood of light on this. Gandhiji, as you know, was against office acceptance by the Congress. But after the 1937 elections he advised the Congress in favour of office acceptance. He considered it as a further stage in the development of non-violent experiment. His advice surprised many at that time. He explained: the acceptance of office was not to be a venture in the field of power politics, but a serious attempt, on the one hand, to avoid a bloody revolution and, on the other, to avoid mass civil disobedience.

Even though he himself was the progenitor of mass civil disobedience, he always held that '*satyagraha*' and mass civil disobedience could not be resorted to everyday, or even frequently. He authorised mass civil disobedience, as a part of our freedom struggle, in 1920, then in 1930, again in 1932, eight years later in 1940 and, then in 1942. He used '*satyagraha*' not as an over-the-counter medicine, but as a rare therapy. His '*satyagraha*' enjoined the highest rectitude in the leader as well as in the follower, it was moral action to be employed to achieve only the highest goals and, not for temporary political benefits. What we see today in India may be some form of democratic protest – actions, but these are surely not '*satyagraha*'. '*Satyagraha*' was the end – result of Gandhiji's search for a non-violent process of power which would be inspired by truth and love and, thus could be a substitute for bloody revolution and mass civil disobedience. But look at what is happening today? '*Satyagraha*' is becoming '*duragraha*' and '*bandh*' is becoming '*duragandha*'. If we have to get this '*duragandha*' out of our system, we will have to go back to Gandhi again. As '*satyagraha*' cannot be organised frequently, had he been alive, Gandhiji would have attempted to use every election as some form of '*satyagraha*', where truth could be asserted and truthful men elected to

public office. If we are able to translate this idea of Gandhiji into practice, it would go a long way in strengthening parliamentary democracy in India.

Happily, I find there is a unique convergence of Gandhiji's ideas and the ideas of the other outstanding son of India, Babasaheb Ambedkar. In his last speech to the Constituent Assembly, before it adopted the Constitution, Babasaheb referred to the Buddhist Bhikku Sanga and the political system of ancient India in which all the modern rules of parliamentary procedure were practised. He then raised a question: Why, in the march of history, did that democratic system lose out? Will we lose it a second time? That is the question – that warning, we must always bear in mind. Babasaheb referred at many places to the divisions in our society and its moral weaknesses. If we want to not to lose democracy, then our parliamentary institutions must necessarily become instruments of national unity and social cohesion. It was this unity of India that was the core of Babasaheb's philosophy and approach. In his last speech, he referred to the historical events where a Hindu betrayed a Hindu, a Muslim betrayed a Muslim, a Sikh betrayed a Sikh. Why, he asked, did that happen? Because of the pursuit of self-interest, as he himself answered. In this process, collectively we betrayed India. He remained, till the very end, deeply concerned about the unity of India. What is happening now? The dreaded phenomenon of caste-politics is eating into our vitals. Religion has become divisive. Gandhiji wanted to spiritualise politics. Unfortunately, a situation has arisen, where we have to spiritualise religion, because religion itself has become politics.

How do we go about correcting these aberrations? What are the parliamentary institutions to do in such a situation? At different places, at different times – Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Lohia, talked of transcendence, which, they rightly held, was the hallmark of the Indian civilization – the core of the Indian culture, indeed of the entire Asian culture. We have to ensure that parliamentary institutions become instruments of transcendence of unifying people, elevating them to a higher spiritual plane and making them more conscious of the higher goals they are to subserve.

Dr. Ambedkar was a strong advocate of constitutionalism. He was basically against the concept of class war and class struggle. He disapproved of civil disobedience, because he thought, it could be the cause for chaos and anarchy. Gandhiji was of the view that non-violent struggles strengthened constitutional processes and could avert violent action. In spite of this difference, both Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar, were for constitutional and non-violent methods of change and even revolution.

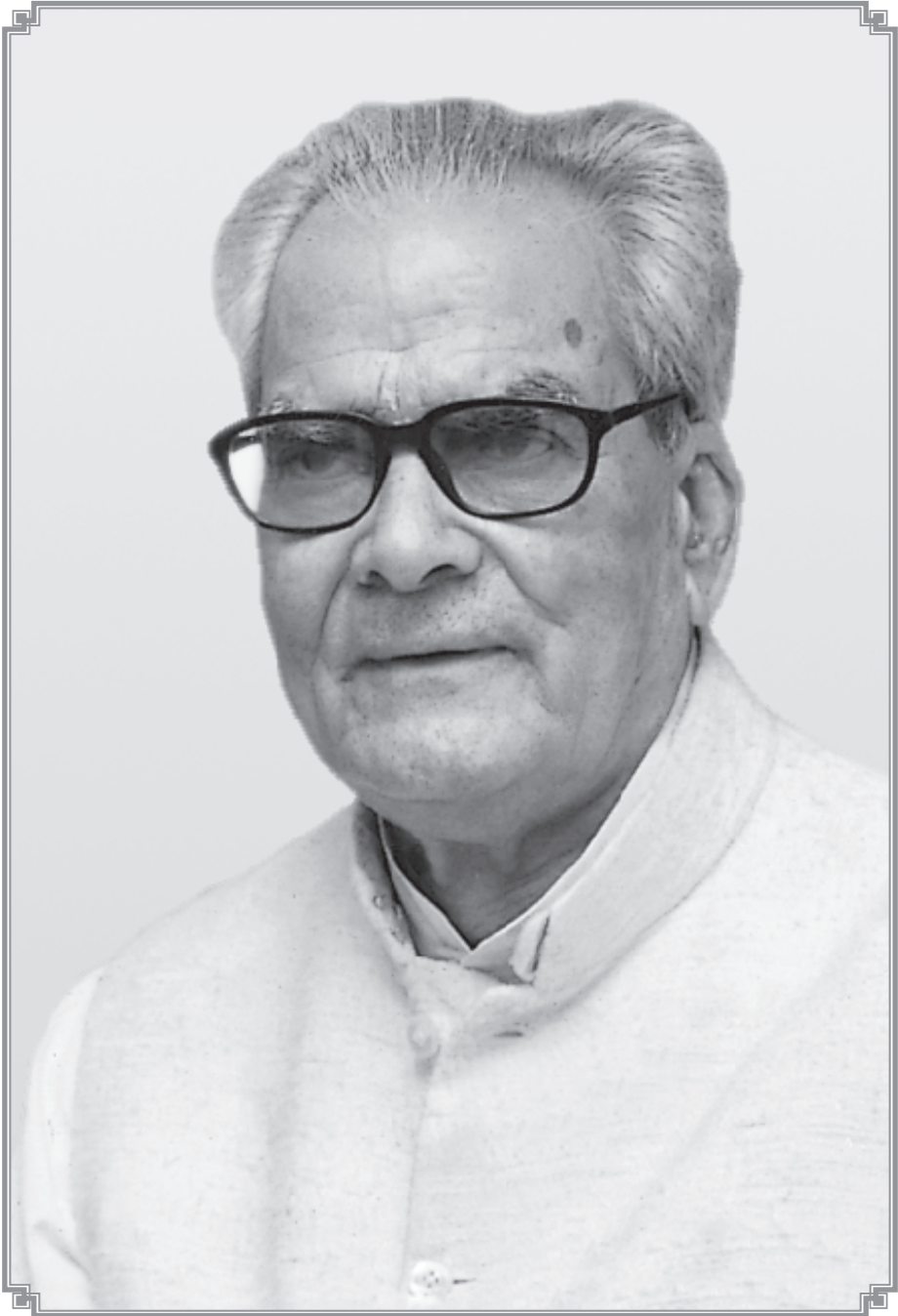
Honourable Members, the new millennium is only three years away. As a nation, we have begun our preparations. We shall be discussing for four days, the new challenges that are awaiting us. Some members referred to the spectre of criminalisation, others referred to something else. I believe, that the greatest challenge to us, along with ensuring the material well-being of our people, will be to ensure their moral and spiritual regeneration. The earlier civilizations, history tells us, rose and declined over distinct periods of time. Today, in the modern-age civilization, the rise in material prosperity is simultaneous with the spiritual and moral decline of the human race. The processes of rise and fall are going on simultaneously. That is why while addressing the economists in 1915 in Allahabad, Gandhiji raised two questions. Those questions remain valid even today for all Indians. His first question was: Does development mean development of man? Then he put his second question: Does economic development mean development of moral man? He believed, it did not. So, he gave a warning by citing historical examples; Rome suffered a moral fall when it attained high material affluence. So did Egypt and so, perhaps most countries of which we have any historic record. And lo and behold ! Gandhiji who read the *Gita* daily, said, "The kinsmen of the royal and divine Krishna too, fell when they were rolling in riches". He warned us all about the consequences of such unbalanced growth. His warning has lost none of its relevance in our times.

The parliamentary institutions, are the moral fulcrum of our country. Pursuing economic and social development is no-doubt, an imperative; but so is moral regeneration of our people.

I have been overwhelmed by the kind words spoken by my friends here. It is difficult for me to express adequately my gratitude for their generosity. My father once told me, "In public life you will receive abundant, even excessive love and severe rebuke, all at the same time. If you are right, never get despondent with the rebuke. Keep the treasure of love as a precious fragrance in a little box close to your heart. Take a pinch everytime a rebuke saddens you or a criticism bothers you". Honourable Members the love showered on me today will be the precious reservoir from which I will draw solace during moments of despondency. I am grateful to you for vesting me with the valuable asset of your affection.

Before concluding may I say: parliamentary institutions are the temples of democracy. They are the Gangotri from which people expect purity and probity to flow incessantly to enrich the material and moral life of the country. I am sure that in the Rajya Sabha, the House of Continuity and in the Lok Sabha, a House of Change; we have a splendid blend of change and

continuity in our Parliament. That is the Indian tradition, that is our *dharma*. It will set the moral tone and temper of our society while building a new India. In this task, I will be your first servant.



Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

(23.10.1923–15.5.2010)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(19.8.2002–21.7.2007)

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat : A Profile

Shekhawat, Shri Bhairon Singh: High School; s. of Late Shri Devi Singh Shekhawat and late Shrimati Bane Kanwar; b. October 23, 1923; m. Smt. Suraj Kanwar; 1 d.; Chief Minister of Rajasthan (First term) 22nd June 1977–16th February 1980; Leader of the Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, 1980–1990; Chief Minister of Rajasthan (Second term), 4th March 1990–15th December 1992; Chief Minister of Rajasthan (Third term), 4th December 1993–29 November 1998; Leader of the Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, December 1998–August 2002; was Member of Eleven Legislative Assemblies except Fifth Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan; As Chief Minister during 1997–80, launched the landmark programmes such as *Antyodaya*, Food for Work, *Apna Gaon and Apna Kaam* with focus on poverty alleviation, imprisoned for 19 months during Emergency; Author of A Collection of Speeches : "*Chinatan Aur Avdharna*"; Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha from 19th August 2002 to 21st July 2007; Died. Obit. on 26.07.2010.

Felicitations offered to Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat on 20 November 2002

प्रधान मंत्री, श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी, मुझे एक और सुखद् कार्य पूरा करना है। सचमुच में पचास वर्ष के राजनीतिक जीवन में जिनके साथ मेरा संपर्क रहा, सहयोग रहा, स्नेह रहा, उनको पचास वर्ष के बाद राज्य सभा में सभापति के रूप में अभिनंदित करने का मुझे अवसर मिलेगा, इसकी सुखद् कल्पना मैंने नहीं की थी।

सभापति जी, कल्पना करिए 1952 की, आधी शताब्दी बीत गयी, आप धूल से उठकर माथे का चंदन बन गए हैं। 1952 में हम लोगों में से बहुत से न संसद में थे, न विधान सभा में थे, उस समय आपके नेतृत्व में जनसंघ का निर्माण हुआ और पहले ही संकट का सामना करना पड़ा जब स्वाधीनता के बाद जागीरदारी उन्मूलन का विधेयक आया। राजा-महाराजा, ठिकानेदार समझते थे कि उनके स्वार्थों की रक्षा के लिए कोई-न-कोई तो आवाज उठाएगा, लेकिन आप के नेतृत्व में और उपाध्याय जी के मार्ग दर्शन में भारतीय जनसंघ ने फैसला किया कि जागीरदारी का उन्मूलन होना चाहिए और बिना किसी मुआवजे के होना चाहिए। उन्हें काम चलाने भर के लिए धन दिया जाय, इसका विचार होना चाहिए। यह उस समय बड़ा क्रांतिकारी कदम था। आप को छोड़कर आप के सारे साथी पलायन कर गए। आप मैदान में डटे रहे और पचास साल से डटे हैं—कभी विधान सभा में हैं, कभी राज्य सभा में भी थे, कभी मुख्य मंत्री हैं और मुख्य मंत्री पद नहीं मिला तो विरोधी दल के नेता हैं, आगे फिर मुख्य मंत्री बनने के लिए रास्ता खुल गया। आप योग्य प्रशासक, किसानों के प्रतिनिधि, राजनीति कुशल... सब को साथ लेकर चलने की आपकी अपूर्व गुणवत्ता, आज आप हमारा दिशा-निर्देश करने के लिए राज्य सभा के सभापति के रूप में उपस्थित हैं। हम उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में आपका अभिनंदन करते हैं। आपका मुख्यमंत्रित्व-काल अंत्योदय के लिए याद किया जाएगा कि लाइन में खड़ा हुआ जो आखिरी व्यक्ति है उसकी पहले चिंता करो और उसकी चर्चा विदेशों में भी हुई। काम के बदले अनाज देने का शुभारंभ हुआ। लोग काम पर लगें, भूख का सामना कर सकें, लेकिन भिक्षा नहीं कुछ परिश्रम हो की परिकल्पना आपके चलते हुए साकार हुई। और भी बहुत सी बातें हैं।

सभापति महोदय, आज जब मुझे कहा गया कि मुझे आपको बधाइयों का सिलसिला शुरू करना है तो मैंने सोचा कि देखें कि “हू इज़ हू” में क्या लिखा हुआ है। “हू इज़ हू” में आपका वर्णन इतने अनेक शब्दों में किया गया है, इतने विशाल ढंग से किया गया है कि मैं तो चकित रह गया। आपका जीवन-वृत्त ऐसा ही है—कृतित्ववान, हर परिस्थिति का सामना करने के लिए तैयार, राजनैतिक आदर्शों में निष्ठा, उस निष्ठा का पालन करते हुए सब को साथ लेकर जाना। यह आपकी प्रतिभा है, यह आपका परिश्रम है, यह आपकी तपस्या है कि आज आप यहां तक पहुंचे हैं। हम आपका अभिनंदन करते हैं। हमें आपको बधाई देने का अवसर मिला, इसे हम अपने लिए सौभाग्य की बात समझते हैं।

The Deputy Chairman*: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a proud privilege for me to welcome you here. As the hon'ble Prime Minister said, you started your political career in 1952. I think, I was still in the school—I don't remember the class—when you started your political career. As the hon'ble Prime Minister said, in spite of all the constraints, you got yourself involved against the *Jagirdari* movement. I can understand, coming from a State like Rajasthan, it must have been very difficult for you to get yourself actively involved in that. You worked in Rajya Sabha also. After all, Rajya Sabha is the representative body of States. During your membership in Rajya Sabha, however short it might be, you contributed greatly with your experience of grass-root level working. You are known for Community Empowerment Programmes. Especially, I will mention three of them: *Lok Jumbish*—'jumbish' is an Urdu word which means 'movement', *Janmangal and Shiksha Karmi*. These are very important programmes for the empowerment of people that we have always been wanting to. The hon'ble Prime Minister has referred to the poverty alleviation programme, *Antyodaya*, and your *Apna Gaon and Apna Kaam*, I think, is one of the most important programmes, because today we see lack of job opportunities in their own places, in the villages, and people migrate to cities. Most of the metropolitan cities are choked with migration of people from villages...

That is the basic programme which you took up. And referring to *Antyodaya*, which is a poverty alleviation programme, there is no wonder the former World Bank President, Mr. Robert McNamara, called you the second Rockefeller. We are proud of it.

A lot of people talk about empowerment of minorities. I would not say that a lot has not been done for minorities, but you were the first Chief Minister in the country to create a State Wakf Authority. And apart from that you promoted Urdu,—which is my mother tongue, although I am speaking now in English,—even though it is not really the language of Rajasthan. You promoted not only Urdu language, but Arabic and Persian languages also, in your State.

As far as the family planning is concerned, you were the first person to start the implementation of the two-child norm in the elections for the local bodies. I wish we could continue the same at the national level also, then, the Prime Minister would have less problem with over population of the country.

Sir, the most important thing is—it is also the concern of everybody now-a-days—your concern for women and children. Your work for the empowerment of the girl child is commendable. We just celebrated the Children's Special Session at the United Nations. And I am sure, the Prime

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

Minister, while addressing the United Nations Assembly, must have mentioned in his speech that we should invest in our children because investment in children is investment in our future.

You conceptualised the idea of the Raj Laxmi Scheme, which is an endowment policy for the girl child. It was later adopted by the Unit Trust of India. I was involved with the launching of this programme of the Unit Trust of India in my State, Maharashtra. It has been a very successful scheme.

Sir, I know you are a proactive Chairman. The Prime Minister has just now mentioned that he has half-a-century's association with you. I cannot say the same about myself. I did not have even six months association with you. But, with whatever little association I have had, I can say that you are a proactive Chairman.

In this House, many legislations will be passed, many discussions will be held; and many important policy decisions will be announced by the Government. As far as the upliftment of women and children is concerned, we have a lot of hope in you.

In our ethos we talk about Lakshmi, Parvati and Durga, and we think about them only when we are offering prayers to them. But when they come in the form of women, we either put them on the funeral pyre of their husbands or beat them or rape them. We could witness it from what happened in the capital city of Delhi where we all live. In broad daylight, an incident happened in *Khooni Darwaza*, and it really became a "*Khooni Darwaza*". A girl, not an ordinary girl, but a fourth year student of Medical College was raped there. When these incidents are happening, how could we say that empowerment of women is there. I would like you to take action on these issues.

Sir, we believe in the ethos of *Ardhanarishwara*. Parvati has got all the attributes of Shiva. We are not asking for even half of the empowerment. This is a partnership between men and women, in general, in public life and in personal life. Mr. Prime Minister, you are there and leaders of the various political parties are there, and Dr. Manmohan Singh, who is my bench-mate, is here. I would say that while you are in the Chair, we have a hope. The women and men—some of them—will be with me in saying that if you really believe in empowerment of women, you must do something for them. First, give us empowerment, which is a high point of democracy. It is remaining only as a promise, year after year, session after session, week after week. Sir, I discussed this matter in your Chamber as to when we are bringing the Women Empowerment Bill. But, instead of women empowerment, what we get is beating and rape in the streets. I have a lot

of hopes in you because, on drought, you did call a meeting and took action. With this pro-activeness, you are not going to be just a person ringing the bell and letting people speak, but you would give a direction to the debate in this House, a proper debate in this House, so that we can solve some of the problems facing our country.

Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my proud privilege, on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf, to extend to you a most cordial welcome on your assumption of the august Office of Chairman of our Council.

Sir, your public life, extending over half a century, is an epitome of wisdom, knowledge and experience, which we are very proud to say, will be a very important asset for us as we deliberate in this august House. You have been the Chief Minister thrice of a very dynamic State of ours; you were responsible for many innovative programmes involving the uplift of the poorest sections of our community; your life-long commitment to the welfare of the farmers, particularly, the small and the marginal farmers, will always remind us about the ultimate purpose of politics, *i.e.*, the service of the poor, by working together, we all can get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflict millions and millions of people in this country of ours.

Sir, we have entered the twenty-first century and we face enormous challenges and opportunities. The task before us is to face those challenges boldly and seize the opportunities now on the horizon with a vision and faith in the destiny of our people. Human knowledge is now growing at a pace which was unthinkable even two decades ago. Modern science and technology have made it possible, as never before in human history, that chronic poverty, ignorance and disease do not have to be the inevitable lot of a majority of humankind. We have, therefore, to take full advantage of modern science and technology and to impart to all our social, economic and political processes what Jawaharlal Nehru used to describe as 'scientific temper'. In international relations, what was simply unthinkable, some fifteen years ago, has become a norm in international relations. This poses not only huge challenges, but also offers new opportunities. Whether we like it or not, the process of globalisation has thrown up new challenges and new opportunities. As a nation, we can meet those challenges and seize those opportunities if we re-define the role of politics in this complex polity and society that India is.

Politics has become an instrument of being merely a ticket to power. We have to go back to its original role, as Gandhiji first defined it as an

instrument of purposeful social change. We have to look upon politics as a creative means of reconciling and harmonising societal tensions, which are built into the body politic of a poor country embarked on the path of modernisation and development. For this it is very essential that we should set our sights high, a new vision about the future of our country in which those who divide our people on the basis of religion and caste have no place.

Sir, in all this, we derive enormous satisfaction and inspiration from your own life of public service extending over 50 years. As I said in the beginning, your wisdom, your knowledge and your experience are today our great assets. Therefore, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you once again as Chairman of this House. We look forward to your guidance. From our side, we offer you our fullest cooperation in discharging your responsibilities as the Chairman of this august House.

सदन के नेता, श्री जसवंत सिंह: माननीय सभापति जी, साधारणतया प्रधान मंत्री जी के द्वारा आपको बधाई दे देने के बाद मेरे पास बहुत कुछ कहने को होते हुए भी बहुत कम रह जाता है कि मैं कहूं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में और माननीय अटल जी के रूप में दोनों रूप में आपको अपनी बधाई दी। यह वास्तव में एक बहुत यूनीक अवसर है कि इसी सभा में आज तीनों ऐसे व्यक्ति हों जिनका राजनीतिक जीवन आधी शताब्दी से लम्बा एक साथ गुजरा हो। सभापति जी, आप, माननीय अटल जी और आडवाणी जी ने यह लम्बी यात्रा आज से बराबर 50 साल पहले शुरू की थी। सोचा भी नहीं था कि आप जब यहां होंगे तो अटल जी प्रधान मंत्री के पद पर होंगे।

लम्बा राजनीतिक जीवन कई माननीय सदस्यों का है। यह नहीं सोचा था कि आप इस पद पर होंगे, अटल जी प्रधान मंत्री के पद पर होंगे और आडवाणी जी उप प्रधान मंत्री के पद पर होंगे। आज से 36 साल पहले मैं जब फौज से इस्तीफा देकर आया, पहली बार आपसे मिला। जयपुर में नहीं मिला था, शायद आपको याद भी नहीं होगा कहां मिला था। मैं आपसे मिला था। वहां से यह लम्बा रास्ता शुरू हुआ। मैंने भी तब यह नहीं सोचा था कि ऐसा सुअवसर आएगा। कहां 36 साल पहले के दिन और कहां आज आप भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति के पद पर हों और मुझे ऐसा सौभाग्य मिले कि मैं इस जगह से आपको बधाई दे सकूं, ऐसा नहीं सोचा था।

वास्तव में, जब आज यह सुअवसर मुझे मिलता है तो मैं इसे एक प्रकार की चुनौती समझता हूं। यह किसी प्रकार का रिवार्ड है ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूं, यह चुनौती है कि आने वाले वर्षों में, जो 36 साल गुजरे हैं, जो लम्बा रास्ता गुजरा है, इस सभा के योग्य, इस देश के योग्य हम कुछ कर पायें, इसी संकल्प के साथ आपको, मैं अपनी ओर से, दल की ओर से, सदन की ओर से आश्वस्त करना चाहूंगा कि आपके कार्यकाल के दौरान हम आपको सम्पूर्ण रूप से पूरा सहयोग देंगे और सहयोग देते रहेंगे ताकि सदन का सुचारु रूप से संचालन हो सके। जिस लक्ष्य से हम यहां आते हैं उसे पूरा कर सकें। आपको पुनः बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar: Sir, it is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of my Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my colleagues in this House. आप क्यों हंसते हो? आप सोनिया गांधी जी के लिए बोल लीजिए। इसमें भी आप ऐसा करेंगे तो कैसे चलेगा। मैं खुशी से अपने लीडर की तरफ से भी चेयरमैन साहब को बधाई दे रहा हूँ। Sir, as a Chief Minister of Rajasthan, you have won laurels of the people, Sir, you have 50 years experience in political life, we are most fortunate to be with you to learn more and more things, which you have experienced in your life. Sir, I assure you on my own behalf and on behalf of TDP Members that we will give the fullest cooperation to you to uphold the dignity and decorum of this House. Sir, thank you very much.

Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely happy to felicitate you as Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Vice-President of India. Our House, Rajya Sabha, is playing an important role in the democratic polity of our country. It is a fact that the democratic polity is facing many stresses and strains. It is also a fact that despite all these stresses and strains, our democratic polity is gaining strength. We belong to different political parties. On certain issues our views are similar. On certain issues, we have different perceptions and approaches. In the society also, there are different sections of the people, different classes. On certain matters their interests are similar, on certain issues their interests are not similar or confronting. Certainly, all these differences, diversities are reflected in the House. Through the democratic process, we try to evolve consensus on certain issues. It may not be possible to evolve consensus on certain other issues. Where we cannot evolve a consensus, we try to debate, we try to discuss. Sir, you are the facilitator of this democratic process in this House. You are our guide. You have very vast experience in the democratic process. You have been a political leader. You have very rich experience in administration and, above all that, you have a very lovable and pleasing personality. We are looking forward to you for your leadership and guidance. We extend you our unstinted support in upholding the democratic tradition of this House. With this, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Communist Party of India (Marxist), I once again felicitate you, Sir.

Shri P. G. Narayanan: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to tender my respectful felicitation to you on your election as the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of this august House. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, the All India Anna D.M.K. Hailing from farmers' family, you had experienced a lot of trials and challenges. So, yours had been a saga of struggles. You faced and you had overcome them undauntedly, to traverse a path from village to the Vice-President of India. You had undergone imprisonment for 19 months during the Emergency to uphold the democratic values. You became a

Member of the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan in 1952, which was the first election to be held in free India. You adorned the office of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan three times. During your tenure as Chief Minister, you were instrumental in eradicating completely the practice of burning of a widow in the name of *sati*. You gave the uppermost priority to the welfare and development of the downtrodden and the minorities. Sir, being a man of wide and varied experience, you can control this House effectively by your general approach. Sir, you will be able to conduct the proceedings of this House harmoniously. I wish you all the best. On behalf of my Party, I offer my fullest cooperation to you, Sir. Thank you.

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we feel that we are being honoured by having been given an opportunity to congratulate you on your greatness. Sir, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on my behalf and on behalf of the DMK Party. I feel great pleasure in welcoming you as the Chairman of this august House as well as the Vice-President of India. We feel that your life is more or less equivalent to and comparable with the life of this great nation. You had also faced so many odds in your life as this nation had faced. You had overcome all the difficulties in the same manner as this nation had overcome them. Sir, when you were elected as the Vice-President of this great nation, on that occasion, we, along with the leader of our Parliamentary Party, Thiru Murasoli Maran, came, met you and congratulated you. Sir, we belong to the regional parties. You know, Sir, at the present moment, the regional parties are also playing an equal role in shaping the destiny of this great nation, as is the case with the national parties. We believe in equality in all walks of life, including the gender justice. Therefore, we stand by the request made by the Deputy Chairperson regarding the representations of the other half of humanity. Sir, when the Bill comes, definitely we will support it and see that the other half also takes its place in this august House.

Sir, you belong to the agricultural community. You know the position of agriculture in this country and we all, cutting across party lines, are striving hard to see that people come up to the international levels. Sir, in this task, we hope that the entire country will stand as one man. Sir, whenever the nation confronts problems, on any national issue, this august House always stands as one man. I remember one instance when Chavanji was the Home Minister. At that time, a constitutional vacuum was about to be created. Then, he called the Opposition—at that time, we were in the Opposition—he explained what the situation would be if the Resolution was not passed as it stood. Then we understood the difficulty of the Treasury Benches. We told them, "All right, we will stage a walk-out after having expressed our opinion. You just get through with the Resolution". At that time, we were in the Opposition, we kept our promise and honoured our

commitment and saw to it that the Resolution got through this august House. In such a manner, Sir, cooperation has been extended from all sections of the people.

Sir, our country is multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-national more or less as a sub-continent. Therefore, as Shri Ramachandran Pillai has said, interests may sometimes clash when there are different classes living in a society, but we have to reconcile in such a way that democracy finally upholds its own place. Therefore, when we come to know that you had given equal opportunities to Urdu and Persian languages in your State, we feel that if the Central Government is a ship, you are the lighthouse for that. We know what problems the people are facing in respect of language. Therefore, we feel, Sir, that under your guidance, this august House will further enhance its prestige by maintaining democracy. Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party, the Leader of the DMK Party, and also on behalf of the Leader of the Parliamentary Party, we give our assurance that we will cooperate the maximum possible with you to uphold the decorum of this august House. With these words, Sir, I conclude. Thank you very much, Sir.

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव: सभापति महोदय, मैं अपनी समाजवादी पार्टी और अपनी तरफ से आपका इस महान सदन के सभापति के रूप में अभिनन्दन करता हूँ, स्वागत करता हूँ और वंदन करता हूँ। श्रीमन्, बहुत लंबे अर्से से जब से मैं राजनीति में आया, आपका नाम सुना करता था और जब आप राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री हुए, तब आपको देखने का अवसर भी मुझे प्राप्त हुआ। एक सामान्य परिवार में पैदा होने के बावजूद बिना किसी समर्थन के आप अपने बल पर राजस्थान के कई बार मुख्य मंत्री हुए। यह उन करोड़ों लोगों के लिए एक प्रेरणा का स्रोत है, जो अपने बलबूते पर सिद्धांतों के प्रति अपनी निष्ठा के साथ आगे बढ़ने की सोचते हैं और प्रयास करते हैं क्योंकि कई बार ऐसा होता है और आप जिस राज्य से आ रहे हैं उसमें तो बड़े-बड़े राजा-महाराजाओं वाली बैंक ग्राउंड रही है। जैसा प्रधानमंत्री जी ने कहा, जब जमींदारी उन्मूलन वाला मामला आया और चाहे सती-प्रथा वाला मामला आया, ऐसे में धारा के विपरीत खड़े रहने का जो साहस आपने दिखाया, वह भी लाखों लोगों के लिए एक प्रेरणा की बात है।

श्रीमन्, यह सदन राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है और राज्यों के हितों की बात कहना इस सदन के सदस्यों के लिए आवश्यक भी होता है और उनका कर्तव्य भी होता है। आप जिस राज्य से आते हैं, उस राज्य में पिछले दिनों मुझे कई बार जाने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ। सूखा और अन्य कारणों से जो परिस्थितियां वहां पर हैं, वे इतनी भीषण हैं, मैंने समाचारपत्रों में पढ़ा, आपने उपराष्ट्रपति बनने के बाद भी अधिकारियों को बुलाया और इस संबंध में चर्चा की। इससे भी यह सिद्ध होता है कि एक असली जननेता और मास लीडर के लक्षण यही होते हैं कि जो अपने लोगों के प्रति, अपने राज्य के प्रति, उसके हितों के प्रति सदैव चिंतित रहे। इस सदन में भी ऐसे अवसर आएंगे और आते रहे हैं, जब सदस्यों ने अपने राज्यों के हितों को लेकर मामले उठाए हैं और कई बार चेयर की अनसुनी करके भी मामले उठाए हैं। जब चेयर की अनसुनी करके मामले उठाए जाते हैं तो यह न समझा जाए कि चेयर के प्रति कोई निरादर है। अपार श्रद्धा होते हुए भी कई बार विपक्ष की और सदस्यों की

मजबूरियां होती हैं जो वे मामले उठाते हैं। श्रीमन्, आप कई बार मुख्य मंत्री जरूर रहे लेकिन फिर भी ज्यादातर आपका जीवन विपक्ष में ही बीता है। इसलिए मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि विपक्ष की समस्याओं से और उनकी मजबूरियों से आप पूरी तरह से परिचित हैं। जिस दल से आप संबंधित रहे हैं, अब आप इस पद पर पहुंच गए हैं हम पूरी तरह से यकीन कर सकते हैं कि जब यहां बैठेंगे तो आपके लिए सब एक जैसे होंगे। यह जो तुला है, यह न्याय की तराजू है, जहां पर आप बैठे हुए हैं, इसके ऊपर पीछे बनी हुई है, यह भी इसी तरफ इंगित करती है। मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि आज से दस साल पहले 1992 में पहली बार जब मैं राज्य सभा में आया, डॉ. शंकर दयाल शर्मा उस वक्त हमारी राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन थे, कुछ दिनों बाद वे राष्ट्रपति हो गए। शंकर दयाल शर्मा साहब को हम लोग इसलिए बहुत याद करते हैं कि वे राष्ट्रपति होने के बाद भी रेग्युलरली संसद सदस्यों को अपने यहां नाश्ते पर बुलाते थे। बाद में यह प्रथा कुछ कम हो गई। वह बहुत अच्छी चीज थी, मैं इसलिए नहीं कहता हूं कि राष्ट्रपति जी नाश्ते पर बुला लेते हैं, एक इन्टरैक्शन होता है और आम तौर पर मिलते रहते हैं। मैं यह चाहूंगा और अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वह सिस्टम फिर शुरू हो और ईश्वर करे कि आज आप इस पद पर हैं, इससे भी बड़े पद पर पहुंचें, यही हमारी कामना है।

श्री लालू प्रसाद: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं अपनी पार्टी राष्ट्रीय जनता दल की तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी के सभी सदस्यों की तरफ से आपका इस गौरवशाली पद, भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति और सबसे बड़े हाउस के सभापति के रूप में हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करता हूं, आपको बधाई देता हूं। महोदय, मेरे पूर्व के नेताओं और माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने ठीक ही कहा कि इतने लंबे संघर्ष के बाद आप और प्रधानमंत्री जी, आडवाणी जी, इधर हमारे माननीय कर्ण सिंह जी भी इशारा कर रहे थे कि मैं भी इसमें हूं, यह कितना अच्छा और सुखद अवसर है कि आज हम सब आपको इतने बड़े पद पर देखकर आपका अभिनन्दन कर रहे हैं। महोदय, देश को पता है और आप भी जानते हैं कि जब आप मुख्यमंत्री थे और मैं बिहार का मुख्यमंत्री था, तब हर राज्य के जो वित्तीय पंगु हालात थे, उस संबंध में हर राज्य का मुख्यमंत्री आपके नेतृत्व में, आपको मुख्यमंत्रियों के नेता के रूप में मानकर, हम सभी आपके नेतृत्व में आगे बढ़कर केन्द्र सरकार पर दबाव डालते थे। यह जो फेडरल सिस्टम है, संघीय व्यवस्था है इसमें जब तक राज्यों की वित्तीय स्थिति को सुदृढ़ नहीं किया जाएगा तब तक हमारी यह संघीय व्यवस्था मजबूत नहीं हो पाएगी। यही कारण है कि चाहे जो भी लोग यहां रहते हों पर इस मुल्क में राज्यों के साथ भेदभाव होने की वजह से क्षेत्रीयता बढ़ी है। आप इतने बड़े पद पर आए हैं, आपको सिर्फ आपके दल, जिस दल में आप थे, उस दल से ही नहीं, बल्कि चारों तरफ से आपको वोट मिले हैं। लोगों को परेशानी में देखकर आपका कैम्पेन करने का जो तरीका है, आपकी जो कार्यकुशलता है, वह सबको हैरत में डाल देती है। इतने बड़े पद पर आने के बाद हम यह नहीं मानते कि अब आप जनसंघ, भारतीय जनता पार्टी और आर.एस.एस. के रूप में हैं। इस पद पर आने के बाद अब वह बात आपसे छूट गई है। मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूं कि आप चाहे जिस भी दल में रहे हों आपका निकट का संबंध लोकनायक जयप्रकाश नारायण जी के साथ रहा है। वे हम सब के मुख्य नेता थे। आपने भी उन दिनों काफी सहयोग दिया था जब हम नौजवान लड़ाई में थे, आंदोलन में थे। हमारी अपनी इच्छा होती है, कुछ लोग फॉर्मैलिटी में अभिनन्दन कर देते हैं और यह मान भी लिया जाता है कि इस पद पर जो लोग आते हैं, वे जिस पार्टी से आते हैं, उस पार्टी और सरकार के प्रति वफादार नहीं होते। ठीक है, जो संवैधानिक काम है उसे करना चाहिए। जो चेयर है उसे पार्टी से ऊपर उठकर, संगठन से ऊपर उठकर सबको दिशा-निर्देश देना है। हम लोग

विभिन्न दलों से चुनकर आए हैं। इस देश में विभिन्न समस्याएं हैं लेकिन इस देश में सबसे बड़ा खतरा सांप्रदायिकता का है। तुलसीदास जी ने रामायण में लिखा है कि जहां कुमति है, जहां डिफरेंस ऑफ ओपिनियन है, जहां उपद्रव है, जहां अशांति है वहां नाना प्रकार की बीमारियों और नाना प्रकार की समस्याओं को झेलना पड़ेगा....

जहां एकता है, इन्टेग्रिटी है, वहां समृद्धि है। जहां कुमति है, वहां विपत्ति निदान है और जहां सुमति है वहां सम्पत्ति नाना। महोदय, आपको पूरा सहयोग, हाउस को चलाने में देंगे। असली अग्नि परीक्षा आपकी है। इस अग्नि परीक्षा में आप कैसे खरे उतरते हैं उसमें हम लोग आपको सहयोग करेंगे। पूरा सहयोग देने का हम वादा करते हैं।

इस देश में जो हमारी मूलभूत समस्या है और खास करके साम्प्रदायिकता का जो खतरा बढ़ रहा है, देश टूट के कगार पर खड़ा है तो हम सभी माननीय सदस्य इन सवालों को जरूर उठाएंगे और हम लोग आशा करते हैं कि आपका पर्याप्त समर्थन और समय हम लोगों को मिलेगा ताकि देश की समस्याओं को उठा सकें।

पुनः आपका हम हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करते हैं और शुभकामनाएं देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

Shri J. Chitharanjan: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India as also on behalf of the members belonging to the CPI in this House, I extend to you a hearty welcome as the Chairman of this august House as also the Vice-President of our Republic. You have become the Vice-President of our Republic and the Chairman of this august House at a time when our country is facing very serious problems. On the one side, there are security problems, and on the other, there are serious economic difficulties. The question of unemployment, poverty, etc., have become big problems which we have to face. Apart from that, various sections of the society have got their own grievances. For example, problems of women which have been referred to by the Deputy Chairperson, Shrimati Najma Heptulla. They are being ill-treated. There are problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are not being treated as human beings, who could live with honour and dignity in the society, in several parts of the country. Then, there are problems of agriculturists, agricultural workers and the workforce in the formal and informal sectors. They are the real creators of economic wealth in our country. But, unfortunately, they are not being given a proper treatment. Therefore, they have also got their own grievances. All these problems will come up for discussion in this House, especially, from the Opposition. We have to raise such problems as also other issues which may crop up on various occasions. On such occasions, I hope and believe, you will guide us in a proper way and protect the rights of the Opposition as also the individual members. You are the proper person to do it, because you had a very long experience as a politician and a social worker. You have also got a very long experience in the Legislatures. As a legislator and an administrator, you have got a long experience. You

had been sitting in the Opposition, as well as, in the Treasury Benches. Therefore, you can very well understand what the rights of the Opposition are and how their rights should be protected. I hope, under your guidance, this House will be able to discharge its duties in a proper way and make creative contributions towards finding solutions to the various problems that the country is facing. I, once again, extend to you a hearty welcome. Thank you.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति जी, सचमुच यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि आज मुझे आपका अभिनंदन करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ, क्योंकि आपका जितना बड़ा राजनैतिक कैरियर है उतनी मेरी उम्र भी नहीं है, मैं इस सदन का एक बहुत ही छोटा सा, जूनियर किस्म का सदस्य हूँ, लेकिन ऐसी स्थिति में, जब हमारे नेता श्री सतीश प्रधान जी नहीं हैं, तब मुझे यह जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है और इस जिम्मेदारी का आनंद उठाते हुए मैं आपका, राज्य सभा के सभापति पद पर निर्वाचित होने के लिए, अभिनंदन करता हूँ और इस देश के उप-राष्ट्रपति के पद पर निर्वाचित होने के लिए आपका स्वागत करते हुए, आपका अभिनंदन करते हुए मेरी बिल्कुल ऐसी स्थिति है जैसे सूर्य को दीपक दिखाया जा रहा हो। आप, आपके रूप में इस कुर्सी पर मध्यम वर्ग का एक बड़ा नेता विराजमान है, इस देश के किसानों का एक बड़ा नेता विराजमान है और इस देश का एक जननेता यहां पर उपस्थित हुआ है। सचमुच यह इस सदन के हम सभी सदस्यों के लिए बड़े सौभाग्य की बात है कि इस सदन में हमें आपके सभापतित्व में काम करना है। दस दिन पहले हमारे मुंबई शहर ने आपका भव्य नागरिक अभिनंदन किया। मुझे नहीं याद आ रहा है कि पिछले कई वर्षों में किसी राष्ट्रपति या उप-राष्ट्रपति जी का इस भव्य तरीके से कभी नागरिक अभिनंदन किया गया हो। मुंबई में आप तीन दिन तक थे। एक दिन एक कार्यक्रम में मुझे भी उपस्थित रहने का मौका मिला और यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि आपके ठीक बगल में बैठ करके मुझे भोजन करने का अवसर मिला। सभापति जी की जो महानता है मैं उसके बारे में एक छोटी सी घटना यहां पर सुना रहा हूँ।

मुंबई के एक पांचतारा होटल में लंच पर इन्हें आमंत्रित किया गया था और हमें बताया गया था कि आप उप-राष्ट्रपति जी के साथ लंच करें। सारा कार्यक्रम हुआ। बड़े-बड़े लोग आए थे। बड़े-बड़े संभ्रात वर्ग के लोग, जो कोट और टाई पहन करके आए थे, वहां पर सबने इनका अभिनंदन किया। उसके बाद सभापति जी को यह घोषणा करनी थी कि चलिए अब लंच का समय हो गया, भोजन का समय हो गया। जब सभापति जी ने घोषणा की कि अब भोजन का समय हो गया है तो उस समय उन्होंने सचमुच जनता के एक दर्द की बात भी सुनाई। उन्होंने कहा कि मैं नहीं चाह रहा हूँ कि इस मौके पर मैं कोई गंभीर बात कहूँ, क्योंकि यह भोजन का समय है और आपको भोजन करना है, लेकिन साथ-साथ मैं आपको यह भी याद दिला दूँ कि मेरे प्रदेश राजस्थान में लोग सूखे से मर रहे हैं, अकाल से मर रहे हैं और भूख से मर रहे हैं। इतनी बड़ी चिंता, ऐसे पदों पर पहुंच कर वही लोग कर सकते हैं सचमुच में जिनको जनता की नब्ज की समझ है और जनता के दर्द की समझ है। मुझे बड़ी खुशी होती है, मुंबई के अपने दौरे के दौरान, अपने अभिनंदन कार्यक्रम के दौरान आपने ग्लोबलाइजेशन यानी अर्थव्यवस्था का जो वैश्वीकरण हो रहा है, उससे कैसे कामगारों पर कोई संकट आ सकता है, उस पर भी आपने एक बड़ी बेबाक टिप्पणी की। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि इस सदन में, आपके नेतृत्व में हम बहुत अच्छा काम करेंगे और देश में जो अलग-अलग संकट हैं, कामगारों पर, काश्तकारों पर, उन पर विस्तार से चर्चा करेंगे।

मैं अपने पक्ष की तरफ से, अपनी तरफ से आपका अभिनंदन करता हूँ और विशेष तौर पर मैं आपको यह वचन देता हूँ, यह शब्द देता हूँ कि आपको पूरा सहयोग दूंगा। मेरी आपसे सिर्फ इतनी मांग है कि इस सदन में विषय उठाने के लिए आप हमें अनुमति देते रहें। धन्यवाद।

Shri M.P Abdussamad Samadani: Sir, I am extremely happy to join the other members of this august House in extending a hearty welcome on your elevation as the Vice-President of the country and also as the Chairman of this House—Rajya Sabha. Sir, we are extremely happy in getting you as the Chairman, especially because of your maturity. The great quality that you have displayed in your public life is that maturity and, Sir, we hope that with your maturity, you will be able to guide this august House in attaining great heights of fame, Sir, now there is an urgent need to protect the values and the station of every institution, Today, there is an erosion of values in many of our institutions.

With your maturity, we hope that you will be able to contribute to the protection of the great institutions of the country, especially our institution, Rajya Sabha. Persons are like bubbles. It is the institution that matters, institution is the symbol of human civilization, persons may come and go; parties may come and go, but institutions will remain as the glorious witnesses of the historical process that has always enriched human thirst for progress, Sir, there is an urgent need to commit ourselves, to devote ourselves and all our energies and resources to national unity. Under your leadership, as the Vice-President of the country, we hope that we will be able to make glorious achievements in this field also, You have come from a very humble beginning. The Deputy Chairman has already mentioned about how you are promoting Urdu. In Urdu there is a saying “पाई है कुछ गुलाब, पहाड़ों में परवरिश”। Your case is like that. From that humble beginning you have come to occupy this high office. The hon’ble Prime Minister has mentioned the importance of taking everybody together. प्रधानमंत्री जी सब को साथ ले चलने की अहमियत के बारे में बोल रहे थे....I feel there is an urgent need for that kind of an approach and that kind of inclination in the present set up and present conditions, Especially, as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, we hope that you will be able to take all of us with you. Sir, you are Shekhawat. We will always be there with *shikayats*. We will be coming to you with many complaints. Sir, as you know, in Urdu *Sakhawat* means graciousness. We hope with your *Sakhawat* we will be able to enrich the proceedings of this House.

Sir, I felicitate you and congratulate you on behalf of my party the Indian Union Muslim League. I would like to quote the great Western poet, Walt Witman, who said, “There is a tide in the life of every individual which may lead him to fortune”. We hope that this tide which has come

as a blessing in your life may lead our glorious House and our great nation to great heights. Thank you.

Dr. Raja Ramanna: Sir, I feel honoured that I have been asked to welcome you not only on my own behalf but on behalf of the group of ten members. We are a group of ten people here. We will be often agreeing to disagree. We do not belong to any party. But we play a rather important part in Rajya Sabha. Some of us have been here for a very long time. My term has been a short one of only nine years. But I think that since I am nearly of the same age as the Prime Minister, I can speak with the same authority which he has used while praising you on your assumption of this high office.

I would like to bring to your attention the great respect the rest of the country has for people from Rajasthan. In South India, from where I come, if you say somebody is from Rajasthan, it automatically means he is a man of great heroism and trustworthiness. Also many good things of our history and, architecture are associated with Rajasthan. Here I would like to recall a particular incident. When Rajasthan was being chosen for setting up an atomic power plant, I was with Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, the great scientist. We all went to see the place that had been chosen near the Rajasthan Lake. After having seen that place, we stopped a few miles away to see the Shiva temple which was built 300 years ago. I think it was built in the time of Aurangzeb. And when Homi Bhabha saw it, he said, "Well, I have taken a decision, the temple has to be near the place where the reactor is going to be". Now, I mention this because the atmosphere in Rajasthan was not considered to be very technological or scientific at that time, but since then, it has changed considerably, and some of our reactors have worked well in that area. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Rajasthan for the contributions they have made to the country in a field, not necessarily agricultural and the usual things, but in an area which is very much more complicated and very useful to the country. Sir, I would like to end by saying that your presence as the Chairman, here, in this House, with your experience, with your virtues, which have been already described, will make a difference to this House. Probably, I should not really mention it now, but I cannot help saying that we have not been very cooperative with our late previous Chairman. So, I would say, this is our great chance to rise to the occasion; and it is, therefore, very pleasant to listen to all the leaders here expressing their desire to cooperate with you in the work of this House. I thank you very much, Madam, for this opportunity that has been given to me.

श्री गांधी आज़ाद: महोदय, मैं गर्व का अनुभव कर रहा हूँ कि आज मुझे सभापति जी का अभिनंदन करने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं अपनी ओर से, अपनी बहुजन समाज पार्टी की ओर से आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ और अभिनंदन करता हूँ।

महोदय, आजादी के इतने वर्षों बाद भी आज देश में व्याप्त सामाजिक विषमता के कारण तथा जातिवाद और वर्णवाद के कारण अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति का समुचित विकास नहीं हो पा रहा है। आप सभापति के रूप में इस समस्या के समाधान की ओर ध्यान देते हुए सबको साथ लेकर चलेंगे एवं सब के साथ न्याय करेंगे, इसी आशा और विश्वास के साथ मैं अपनी शुभकामना देते हुए पुनः आपका अभिनंदन करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

Shri R.S. Gavai: Sir, at the outset, I welcome you on my behalf and on behalf of my party. Sir, it is well known that in your long political travel, you held important positions in your life. Here, I recall the saying of one great man, Tolstoy. He said, "how long you travel, is immaterial, but in what direction you travel is important". In spite of the complex political situation in the country, despite various ideologies of political parties—this may vary from party to party—I should mention that your long political travel has been with direction, and not without direction. That is more material, and is in conformity with the saying of Tolstoy. What I do know about you is that while keeping up the good relationship, you believed in dignity of the man or woman and believed in dignity of the weaker sections of the society. I think this is the progress, which we need today. You believed in the agriculture democracy, the village democracy, the rural democracy, and you always stood for agriculture and agriculturists.

Sir, we are very happy that you are the Chairman of this august House which is the highest temple of parliamentary democracy. I do feel that democracy is the medium through which we have to achieve the goal. And I do seek your guidance while conducting the proceedings of this House, in establishing democracy, political, social and economic. Actually, we have achieved political democracy, but we are far away from social and economic democracy. We will not merely have political democracy, but we will have social and economic democracy. So, unless and until, there is economic and social democracy in our nation, there is no meaning for political democracy in the true sense. Sir, I hope and I do aspire that your long travel in political life would be useful to establish the social and economic democracy alongwith political democracy. Once again, I welcome you wholeheartedly and wish you best of luck in your new life.

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं अपने आपको बहुत गौरवान्वित महसूस कर रहा हूँ कि आज इस स्वागत की श्रृंखला में मुझे भी बोलने का अवसर मिल रहा है। मैं अपनी ओर से, अपने दल राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी की ओर से, हमारे दल के नेता श्री शरद पवार की ओर से आपके इस पद पर स्थापित होने पर बहुत-बहुत स्वागत करता हूँ।

महोदय, काफी वर्षों से मुझे स्वयं आपका परिचय है और कई वर्षों से मुझे आपका स्नेह भी प्राप्त हो रहा है, इसलिए आज आपको इस पद पर देखकर मैं दुगुनी खुशी महसूस कर रहा हूँ। वैसे मेरे नेता श्री शरद पवार जी के साथ आपके कोई भी राजनीतिक मतभेद भले ही हों, लेकिन व्यक्तिगत तौर से संबंध बहुत मधुर रहे हैं और उनकी वजह से मुझे भी आपके स्नेह और सौहार्द का लाभ मिला है। आपके इस राजनीतिक जीवन के लम्बे अनुभव का इस सदन को और हम सब लोगों को आगे आने वाले दिनों में लाभ मिले, यही आज के दिन मैं यहां पर ईश्वर से कामना करता हूँ। ज्यादा कुछ न कहते हुए, क्योंकि अनेक वक्ताओं ने आपके स्वभाव, आपके कार्य, आपके अनुभव के बारे में बहुत कुछ प्रशंसा के शब्द कहे हैं, इसलिए उस बारे में ज्यादा कुछ न कहते हुए एक बात जरूर आपसे कहना चाहूंगा, एक भविष्यवाणी के तौर पर कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में, आज तो आपका पहला दिन है, लेकिन आगे आने वाले दिनों में इधर से भी उधर से भी बहुत शोर होने वाला है और हम जो बीच में बैठने वाले सदस्य हैं, शायद हम लोग ही आपके ज्यादा काम आने वाले हैं, जो इधर के उधर के शोर से कम प्रभावित होकर आपके काम में पूरी-पूरी मदद करने वाले साबित होंगे।

मैं पुनः आपको बहुत-बहुत मुबारकबाद देते हुए आपके लम्बे जीवन की कामना करता हूँ, प्रार्थना करता हूँ और आप अपने कार्य में सफल रहें, ऐसी आपको शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

श्री हरेन्द्र सिंह मलिक: आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आज एक किसान के बेटे को भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में और इस सर्वोच्च सदन के सभापति के रूप में पाकर हम किसानों, गांवों और गरीबों से जुड़े हुए लोग अपने आपको गौरवान्वित महसूस कर रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, हम लोगों के जन्म से लंबा आपका राजनीतिक अनुभव हमें इस बात के लिए आश्चर्य करता है कि भीड़भाड़ के आधार पर हल्ला मचाने वालों के बीच आप सदैव गरीबों और किसानों की बातें उठाने वाले लोगों को संरक्षण प्रदान करते रहेंगे। आपका आशीर्वाद और आपका संरक्षण अब केवल राजस्थान के लोगों को नहीं बल्कि राजस्थान के सूखा प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के साथ-साथ उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे गरीब राज्य के गन्ना किसानों को भी मिलेगा। हमें उम्मीद है कि उनकी ज्वलंत समस्याओं को उठाने में आपका आशीर्वाद हमें प्राप्त होता रहेगा।

मान्यवर, हमें पूरा-पूरा विश्वास है कि गांवों और गरीबों की समस्याओं को उठाने में आपका स्नेह हमें सदैव प्राप्त होता रहेगा। मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी इंडियन नेशनल लोकदल की ओर से आपका हार्दिक अभिनंदन करता हूँ और आपको बधाई देता हूँ।

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu: Mr. Chairman, Sir, initially, I was not inclined to speak because our parliamentary party leader, the hon'ble Prime Minister, as also the Leader of the House, have spoken; but I could not resist my temptation because of one particular aspect which is agitating the mind of the entire nation and also myself, as an individual. I will come to that later. First, I would like to compliment and congratulate you. You have the character, the calibre and the capacity. You have the discipline, the dynamism and the dedication in performing this responsibility; I am sure about it Sir, when you started your political carrier, I was just born. So, I am not going

to go into the past and talk of the past. But I remember, while working alongwith you, in the party, you always used to share the concern of others with regard to the plight of the poor people, the rural people, particularly, the farming community. There is a feeling in the rural areas of the country that there is a great urban-rural divide, and this has become very much evident in the light of the fact that even after so many years of independence, the rural people are not getting adequate projection, adequate attention, and focus, with regard to their problems, in the overall business of our legislatures. Political issues, emotional issues, and other things, are getting more importance, and these issues are not getting enough importance. That is the feeling of the people. We, as a mature democracy, should take care of this particular issue and try to address this heart-burning of the people, particularly, of the rural areas.

Secondly, Sir, the most important issue which I want to share with the other members of the House, and on which I also seek your indulgence, is this. I had also an occasion to talk to you personally about this. There is so much concern, and the people are agitated about the decline in the standards of Parliament. This is a very serious question. It is not an issue on which we should blame this side or that side, the ruling party or the opposition parties. All of us should really ponder over this issue and then address this problem very seriously. We are very fortunate that we have very senior people here. We have experienced people on that side as well as on this side. Fortunately, even in the Opposition also, there are people who have been in power earlier, and who have considerable experience. Sir, I am speaking from the bottom of heart. I see Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and other senior members on that side, and I know the way, they have really contributed to the debates of the House and also their stand in regard to the rules. And, that gives me more inspiration. But what I want to impress upon you, Sir, is this. When I first entered this House, I was reading Shri Chakravarti Rajgopalachari's speeches. He had once remarked, "If you are not well on the facts, then go to the well of the House".

Then, subsequently, I also used to read the debates of the Lok Sabha as well as of the Legislative Assemblies, because I wanted to get some experience. What is happening now? One has to seriously think about it. In this House and in the other House, we all have taken a solemn pledge which we have forgotten. In the 50th year of the Indian Republic, we had taken a solemn pledge which we have forgotten. I am not blaming any side here. This is the thing which has been agitating the minds of the people. Many former Speakers, including Late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi as also the former Chairman, late Krishan Kantji, had all taken this issue very seriously. They had umpteen number of meetings, and many decisions were taken.

But, somehow or the other, we have not been able to implement those decisions.

Now, Sir, I have some experience of the State Legislature. I came to Delhi in the hope that things will be more matured here. But now, Sir, I can say frankly that my tenure in the State Legislature of Andhra Pradesh was comparatively better than my experience here. I am saying it with a lot of agony. I am not saying this to cast aspersions on anybody here in this House or the other House.

... What I am saying is this. My experience here is very limited. I would only say that everybody should put forward his point of view effectively, argue effectively, and then leave it to the House, to the Government and so on. But if you go beyond a point, it becomes unmanageable. I do not know what is going to happen. Somebody has already cautioned that it is going to be an *agni pariksha*. I think Lalaji said that there was going to be an *agni pariksha*. Then, our friend, Shri Prafulbhai, also mentioned that these things are going to happen. But then, in Parliament, what is the way out? One should debate, discuss and argue one's case. Either you should discuss and talk it out, or if you don't feel like talking it out, you should walk out. But what is happening is that we have frequent break-outs. This is what is really agitating the minds of the people. I hope you will give a serious thought to it and also hold consultations with all the senior functionaries of Parliament here, particularly, in Rajya Sabha, and see to it that the standards are raised and the traditions that were set by our seniors are maintained. Today, Sir, there are many problems facing the country – the problem of poverty, the problem of unemployment, the problem of rural and urban divide, the problem of communalism and pseudo-secularism – which are agitating the minds of the people. These problems have to be addressed, and adequate attention has to be paid to rural India. This is my wish. I, once again convey my best wishes to you.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिआ: सर, हिन्दू धर्म में ऐसे तीर्थ स्थानों का जिक्र आता है जहां कुछ काले रंग के जानवर स्नान करते थे और हंस बन जाते थे। लेकिन इस हाउस में आते ही हंस हैं। हंस बुद्ध लोग आते हैं। हंस बुद्ध लोगों के इस महा पवित्र हाउस के अध्यक्ष होना महा हंस बुद्ध और महा भाग्यशाली यह आपके हिस्से में आया है। मैं अनुरोध करता हूं कि आने वाले पांच वर्षों में आप इस देश की मान मर्यादा और राजनीतिक वर्गों को जो इज्जत प्रदान होनी चाहिए, जो इज्जत प्राप्त करनी चाहिए उसको आगे बढ़ाने में पथप्रदर्शक बनेंगे। हम कितनी बातें करें, एक साथ चाहें, लेकिन आम जनता में दिन पर दिन सभी राजनीतिक दलों के लोगों के प्रति कंटेम्प्ट बढ़ती जा रही है। उसके इलाज के लिए आपकी योग्य-अगुआई मिलेगी। एक और जो बड़ी बात सामने आई है वह है मूल्यों की राजनीति और नैतिकता, उस पर भी ध्यान दिया जाए। देश में लाचार, सिफारिशहीन, कमजोर जिनके पास राजनीतिक संरक्षण नहीं है उन लोगों की आवाज कहीं कोई सुनाई नहीं देती। ऐसा भी कोई प्रबंध किया जाए सिस्टम में तब्दीली का। मान्यवर, मैंने शुरू में कहा कि यह हंस बुद्ध

व्यक्ति हैं उसको हम बदल सकें। मेरा छोटा-सा अनुभव है कि देश के कुछ वर्ग जो ब्यूरोक्रेसी में हैं या कर्मचारियों में हैं उनमें कुछ वर्ग का कुछ प्रतिशत चाहे थोड़ा हो या अति थोड़ा हो, बहुत कम हो, उनको यह शौक है कि मेंबर आफ पार्लियामेंट को थोड़ा सा अपमानित करना। चाहे कार्यालय में हो, चाहे डिसक्रिशन कम हो या ज्यादा, मैं ऐसा चाहूंगा कि एमपीज की और देश के चुने हुए लोगों की इज्जत पूरी तरह से बहाल हो और उनको पूरी तरह से इज्जत मिले। मैं आपकी बुद्धिमत्ता और आपके ज्ञान और आपकी जो क्षमता है उसको मान्यता देते हुए अर्ज करता हूँ कि आपके मार्गदर्शन में देश और यह संस्थान आगे बढ़ेगा।

Shri Manoj Bhattacharya: Sir, I feel it is a proud privilege for me to be present here and speak, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, to felicitate you, to place on record my congratulations on your being elected as the Vice-President of this great country, and also, I welcome you as the Chairman of this august House, the Council of States, Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I am sure that as a very seasoned campaigner for the common people, you will also agree with me that the success of democracy cannot be simply confined within the four walls of this Parliament House or the State Assemblies, but the success, the real success of democracy lies in our attempt to reach the values of democracy, the fruits of democracy, to the poorest of the poor, whether they live in the rural areas or in the urban areas. Sir, I am sure that the real success of this august House lies, in effect, in its accomplishment in acting as a facilitator to reach the advantages, to reach the fruits of democracy to the poorest of the poor of this country.

Sir, this is not the occasion to raise some political debate or try to bring certain issues, so I shall dissuade myself from doing so, but at the same time, I am sure, Sir, that you will also appreciate that you have assumed this position, a very high position in this country, in this democratic polity, at such a time when the country is being confronted with so many serious issues. Many hon'ble members who spoke before me have pointed out the issue of social imbalance, the serious issue of gender bias, the serious issue of unemployment, the serious issue of social alienation, the serious issue of the working class and the serious issue of the ominous fall-out of the present economic and social policies being hotly pursued by the Government of India. Sir, I am sure that you will kindly take the initiative of guarding this House, in the right earnest, so that the country can bravely confront the very complex situation, the very delicate situation, the internal threats, the roots of those; I am sure, you also will guide us to overcome the situation, in different times.

Sir, I shall not go for a very long speech because it is not the occasion to give a long speech, but I shall certainly expect that you, as the Chairman of this august House, will kindly look at the back benches, which I occupy

or many of us occupy. Sir, I also extend my unstinted support and cooperation to you for conducting the House in the disciplined manner, in the right manner, keeping in mind the cause for which we are here, the cause of serving the common people, the poor people, the majority of people, the marginalised people, the people whose democratic right is only confined to voting, if possible. It is not always possible; it is once in five years or once in four years. Those people are to be empowered; you must act as a facilitator towards that. I am sure, Sir, you will provide opportunities to all of us to work in that direction.

I once again felicitate you. I wish you a very sound and healthy life, both mental and physical. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं सदन के अन्य माननीय सदस्यों की तरह अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। राजनीति में कुछ विरले व्यक्तित्व होते हैं जिनके पीछे पद भागते हैं और मेरी मान्यता है कि आप ऐसे कुछ विरले व्यक्तित्व में से हैं जिनके पीछे अभी तक पद भागता रहा है। महोदय, पद भागने के कुछ अर्थ होते हैं। पद उस व्यक्तित्व के पीछे भागता है जिसके अंदर कई खूबियाँ होती हैं। एक निष्काम कर्म सेवा की भावना जिसके अंदर होती है, उसी व्यक्ति के पीछे पद भागता है। मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि आप एक बहुत बड़े पद को सुशोभित कर रहे हैं। इस सदन में बैठने के पूर्व आपके जो वक्तव्य बाहर आए हैं, उनकी तरफ मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। आपके एक वक्तव्य को मुझको पढ़ने का मौका मिला जिसमें आपने राज्य सभा के बहस के स्तर को और ऊँचा उठाने की बात कही थी। साथ-साथ उस वक्तव्य में यह भी आया था कि “मेरा प्रयास होगा कि राज्य सभा में सार्थक बहस हो।” मैं अपनी बात केवल इसी पर केन्द्रित करना चाहता हूँ। सभापति महोदय, पद पर जब कोई व्यक्ति बैठाता है तो वह पद के दायित्व को संभालता है लेकिन कुछ ऐसे व्यक्ति भी पद पर आते हैं जो अपने कामों से पद की गरिमा को और बढ़ाने का काम करते हैं। मेरी शुभकामना होगी कि आपका यह कार्यकाल आपके द्वारा इस पद की गरिमा को और बढ़ाएगा। इस सदन में कई ऐसे अवसर आएंगे जब आपकी परीक्षा होगी लेकिन मैं आपसे यही आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि जब कोई विकट स्थिति इस सदन में भविष्य में उपस्थित हो तो न आप इधर देखेंगे, न उधर देखेंगे और न बीच में देखेंगे, आप केवल उधर की ओर देखने का काम करेंगे जहाँ से सदन की गरिमा और प्रतिष्ठा और आगे बढ़ जाए। मैं अंत में एक ही शुभकामना देकर अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगा कि जब भी कोई विकट स्थिति आपके सामने आए तो बहस को आप उधर ले जाएं निर्धनता की रेखा के नजदीक रहने वाले लोगों की तस्वीर आपकी आंखों के सामने आ जाए और वहीं बहस का अंत होना चाहिए। मुझे लगता है कि जिस ढंग से देश चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है, निर्धनता की रेखा के अंदर रहने वाले लोगों के लिए यहाँ बहस को प्राथमिकता मिल जाए, यही मैं अपनी तरफ से आपको शुभकामना दे रहा हूँ कि आपके नेतृत्व में बहस उस सीमा के अंदर, उस निर्धनता की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के बीच चली जाए, और अपनी इसी शुभकामना के साथ ही मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

Shri Dinesh Trivedi: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, it gives me great honour, pleasure and joy to welcome you as the hon'ble Chairman of this august House and as the Vice-President of this great democracy. On behalf of the

All India Trinamool Congress, it is this proud privilege which I am exercising. Speakers after speakers, initiated by the hon'ble Prime Minister, mentioned that they did never expect that a day would come when this occasion would be there where they would be welcoming you. They also mentioned about their 50 years plus experience of this great democracy. Sir, this is what is great about this country. This goes to prove that the democracy in India in spite of all hurdles has withstood the test of time and this is where the concept of first amongst the equals comes. We also had the privilege and the honour of welcoming our hon'ble President of this country who also represents the common man today. I realise, Sir, I have just been given two minutes and as always I do not wish to extend the allotted time given to me. I was very happy to note in your various interviews you mentioned that you are in public life to win friends and that exactly what you have done across the party line. During this situation, when the country is going through such a charged environment whether it be caste, creed, colour or poverty, we need people like you, hon'ble Sir, who can give direction to us. I was particularly happy when it was mentioned that you always remember the last man in the queue. We, the backbenchers in this House, represent that segment of the last man in the queue. This is my privilege to be in the second term and I did mention that nothing much has changed here. People in the last bench always suffer what the backward class of this country has been suffering. There are no takers. I see the light of the day in your being the Chairman of this august House and I am sure the backbenchers will get an equal opportunity. Lastly, the tradition of inviting members of this House for an informal chat at your residence, I fully support that. Hon'ble Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma had started this. He took this tradition all the way up to Raisina Hills. I have no doubt one day we will have the privilege of meeting you at Raisina Hills also on tea. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Hon'ble Leader of the House, hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, hon'ble Deputy Chairman, hon'ble Leaders of political parties and the hon'ble members, I am greatly moved by the sentiments that the hon'ble Prime Minister and you have expressed. No response from me can adequately express my gratitude for your generosity.

Your goodwill is my asset; I treasure it. I bow my head in humility to the people of India and to their elected representatives in Parliament for bestowing on me this great honour and electing me to this high office. It is a tribute to our democracy that a poor and an ordinary farmer's son, born and brought up in a village, can rise to the position of the Vice-President of our great country. I have worked, nearly for half-a-century, for the common man, in the public life of Rajasthan. I have very closely observed and intimately felt the poverty and sufferings of our farmers,

weavers, artisans and daily-wage workers. It is while working with them, and for them, that the philosophy of *Antyodaya*, i.e., focus on the poorest of the poor, became my mission as well as my earnest commitment.

I was privileged to be a member of this House during the period 1974-1977 and had a unique opportunity to sit on both the sides of the House. That is additionally why it is a matter of great honour for me once again to get associated with this House. Now I sit in the 'centre'. However, now from the 'centre', I will always look straight; for in the discharge of my duties and there is no bias, no colour, no ideology or no leanings. Before starting this new journey, I pay a tribute to the earlier Chairmen—Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, Shri V.V. Giri, Shri G.S. Pathak, Shri B.D. Jatti, Shri M. Hidaytullah, Shri R. Venkataraman, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Shri K.R. Narayanan and Shri Krishan Kant. The great traditions set up by them will always be an inspiration and a source of guidance to me.

We are proud of our democracy. Outlining the core functioning of democracy, Mahatma Gandhi had said, "True democracy is what promotes welfare of the people". We in this Parliament have been entrusted with the historic responsibility of directing our efforts to solve the problems of the people. The success of democracy is, therefore, to be gauged by the extent of welfare it promotes for the people.

In my view, public perception of the functioning of democracy is not only based on the quality of governance provided by the Executive but also on how far the proceedings in the House are relevant to its welfare. I urge you to do a serious introspection and find out as to what in reality is the prevailing public perception.

Parliamentary institutions are the temples of democracy; they are the moral fulcrum of our country and have to set standards for others to follow. We are watched and observed as role-models by State Legislatures, Zila Parishads and other elected local bodies. We should ask ourselves whether we are setting right standards for them to follow. Are we giving adequate time and attention to issues such as national security, or, issues of poverty, unemployment and population control, or, problems of farmers and the labour, or, issues of planning, development and growth, or, the issue of corruption in public life and other such issues impacting on public governance? Let us consider what corrective measures we need to take on our part. Did we not make several pious and noble resolutions while celebrating the Fifty Years of our Independence and again while celebrating the Fifty Years of our Republic? Have we acted on these resolutions in good faith? What examples are we setting if we ourselves do not honour or follow up on our resolutions?

The citizens of India certainly expect the House of Elders to take a lead in reaffirming the core values of the Republic and set up the highest traditions of parliamentary democracy worth emulation by others. The *Bhagwad Gita* also says, "what the elder person does is followed by others; what he demonstrates by action, that people follow".

I suggest that henceforth we should evaluate, at the end of every session, as to how relevant and effective the proceedings have been from the view-point of their contribution towards improving public governance and public welfare. Then alone, we will be fulfilling our duty to strengthen democracy and improve the welfare of the people we are meant to serve.

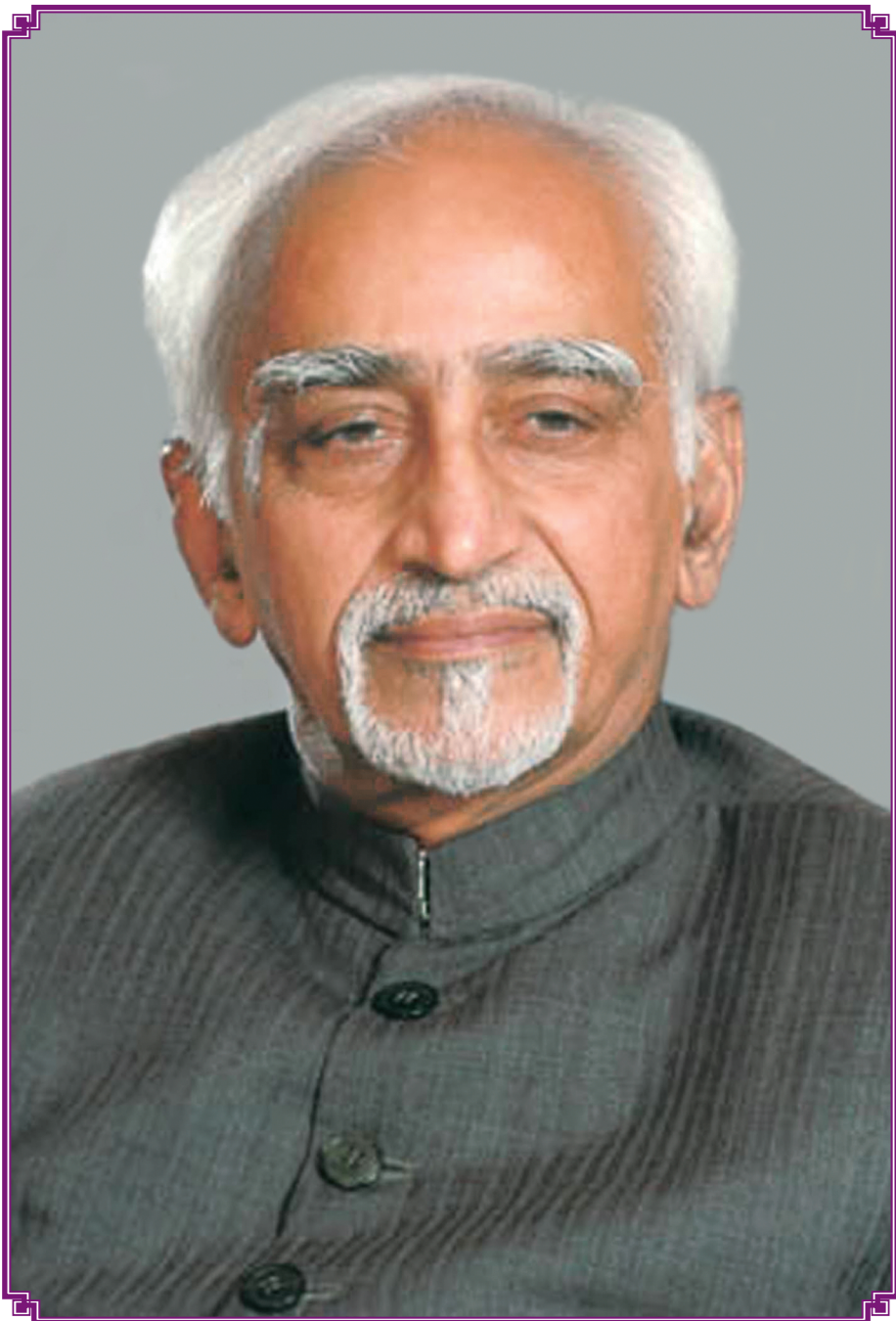
Today, our country is faced with formidable challenges of economic growth and public governance. This House of Elders should be acting as a watchdog on the affairs of the nation and also as a guide to the Union as also the States, making constructive suggestions and recommendations for appropriate legislative and executive actions towards achieving the objective of growth of economy, public governance and public welfare.

Let me touch upon one more important issue. Today, there is a serious threat to the bonds of national integration as also the secular fabric of our Republic. The State has to observe *sarva-dharma-sambhav* and be guided by its *raj-dharma*. However, manifestations of social and religious disharmony have sadly been on the increase. We now need a proactive effort towards weaving a stronger secular fabric. Also, it is only in an environment of peace and social harmony that progress is possible. The enemies of our nation are using terrorism as a weapon to stall our development. To fully combat terrorism, we have to remain united and share the vision of resurgent India, strong in its purpose and steadfast in its will to forge ahead.

Problems and challenges before us are many. My intention is only to highlight the need to ponder over them. A sharp focus on these issues is central to the maintenance of democratic ethos and the future of India. Through free and frank but serious discussion and constructive debate, we can evolve a shared approach of action on each of them.

I assure you that on my part it would be my sincere effort to make functioning of this House more efficient, more productive and more effective. Towards this endeavour, I renew my solemn assurance of equal and respectful treatment to all of you.

I extend to you my very warm greetings. I look forward to working with all of you in an environment of understanding, faith and trust.



Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari

(01.04.1937)

Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

(11.08.2007-)

Mohammad Hamid Ansari : A Profile

Ansari, Shri Mohammad Hamid: BA (Hons.); MA; s. of Shri Mohammad Abdul Aziz Ansari and Shrimati Aasiya Begum; b. April 1, 1937; m. Smt. Salma Ansari; 2s and 1 d.; Joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1961; Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia; High Commissioner to Australia; Permanent Representative to the UN, New York; Visiting Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia; Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University; Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation; Member, National Security Advisory Board; Chairman, Working Group on 'Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State', established by the second Round Table Conference of the Prime Minister on Jammu and Kashmir; Chairman, National Commission for Minorities; Author of *Travelling through conflict: Essays on the Politics of West Asia*; Edited, *Iran Today: Twenty Five Years After the Islamic Revolution*; has written several academic papers and articles on West Asian Politics; Awarded, Padma Shri (1984); Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha since 11th August 2007.

Felicitations offered to Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari on 13 August 2007

The Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Dr. Manmohan Singh:
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome you to this august House with a great sense of joy and pride. I have been a Member of this House for over 16 years. So, I say with all sincerity that you come in a long line of distinguished Chairpersons and you come with great distinction. You have had a distinguished service as a diplomat representing our country in important capitals of the world and the United Nations. More recently, you have also served the cause of education as Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and the cause of empowerment of all our minorities as Chairman of the Minorities Commission. Your professional record, your sincere commitment to the ideals and values that define our Republic, your patriotism and your concern for the well-being and welfare of our people have earned you the respect and admiration of our people. Sir, I am sure, all of this will stand you in good stead in the years to come as you discharge your onerous responsibility. Sir, this House has a unique position in our Republic. It is both a House of States and a House of Elders. As a House of States, it offers a unique platform for every region of our country to have its voice heard in the highest Councils of Government. As a House of the Elders, we are called upon to reflect with patience and sobriety on the issues of the day and legislations at hand. I am sure, Sir, with your wide ranging experience, you will provide guidance and balance to the proceedings of this august House. Sir, I have witnessed the proceedings of this House for many years, as its Member for the past 16 years and as an official of the Government of India for almost two decades before that. This House has been witness to some very enriching and enlightening debates. However, in recent years, we have also witnessed with profound concern and sadness repeated disruptions of proceedings and a regrettable unwillingness on occasions to engage in informed dialogue and discussion. I hope, Sir, all of this can be put behind us and we can restore to this House a sense of dignity and decorum that is expected of this august House. Sir, I stand here, to assure you of the sincere cooperation of our Government and all constituents of the United Progressive Alliance. All of us must work together to ensure that this House echoes the heartbeat of the Indian people and lives up to their expectation. Sir, I wish you well and wish you the best in discharging your onerous constitutional responsibilities. I thank you, Sir.

उपसभापति*: काबिल-ए-ऐहताराम जनाब चेयरमैन साहब, हमारे लिए यह खुशी की बात है कि हिन्दुस्तान जैसे अजीम मुल्क के आप नायब सदरे जम्हूरिया और इस ऑगस्ट हाउस के चेयरमैन मुन्तखिब हुए हैं। इस मौके पर मैं अपनी जानिब से और तमाम मुअज्जिस मैम्बरान की तरफ से आपको अपनी नेक ख्वाहिशात पेश करता हूँ। इस अजीम ऐवान में आपका इस्तकबाल करना और मुबारकबाद पेश करना मेरे लिए फख्र की बात है। यह बात मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि मैं एक तवील अरसे से आपकी इल्मी, समाजी और अख्लाकी सलाहयतों से वाकिफ हूँ।

मोहतरम चेयरमैन साहब, राज्य सभा का यह हाऊस, जिसे बुजुर्गों का ऐवान कहा जाता है, इसको यह ऐजाज हासिल रहा है कि डा. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन से लेकर श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत जी तक कई मुम्ताज शख्सियत ने अपनी इल्मी और सियासी सलाहयतों के जरिए इस हाऊस के वकार को बुलंदी पर पहुँचाया। हमारे लिए यह भी फख्र की बात है कि आपकी शख्सियत बेशुमार तजुर्बात की हामिल है। एक diplomat की हैसियत से आपका सिफारतकारी का तजुर्बा बेरून मुमालिक से दोस्ताना रिश्तों में मददगार रहा है। इसके अलावा मुत्तेहदा अरब इमेरात, अफगानिस्तान, ईरान और सऊदी अरब में हिन्दुस्तान के सफीर और आस्ट्रेलिया में हाई कमिशनर की हैसियत से आपने दुनिया को हिन्दुस्तान की खारजा पॉलिसी की नज़ाकतों से जिस तरह रोशनास कराया है, वह बेनुल अक्वामी भाइचारजी के उसूलों पर मबनी है। UNO में हिन्दुस्तान के नुमाइंदे की हैसियत से आपकी कोशिशों से कौन वाकिफ नहीं है। अमूरे खारजा में आपकी गिरां कद्र सिफारती खिदमात को तस्लीम करते हुए 1984 में पद्मश्री के ऐजाज ने आपकी शख्सियत में इज़ाफा किया है। अदीब और शायर की हैसियत से आपके मुख्तलिफ मजामीन और इल्मी तहरीरें कई मोतव्वर-रसाइल, वसायल और अखबारात् में शायी हो चुकी हैं, जो आपके अदबी जोक का इज़हार हैं। तालीमी मैदान में भी आप किसी तआरुफ के मोहताज नहीं हैं।

आपकी इल्मी सलाहयतों की बदौलत ही आपको अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम यूनिवर्सिटी का वाइस चांसलर मुन्तखिब किया गया था, जो आपकी मादरे इल्मी भी रही है। आप जवाहरलाल नेहरू यूनिवर्सिटी के Centre for West Asian and African Studies और जामिया मिलिया की Academy for Third World Studies के Visiting Professor भी रह चुके हैं। मेहनतकश आवाम और समाज के दबे-कुचले तबकों और अकलियतों के तई आपकी दिलचस्पी से भी हम बखूबी वाकिफ हैं। आपके इसी जज्बे की कद्रदानी के तौर पर हुक्मते हिन्द ने आपको National Commission for Minorities का चेयरमैन बनाया, जिसको आपने हुस्न व खूबी के साथ निभाया।

सदरे मोहतरम, डिप्टी चेयरमैन की हैसियत से मैं इस ऐवान के मूड और मिजाज से काफी हद तक वाकफियत रखता हूँ, हालांकि यह बुजुर्गों का ऐवान है, मगर कभी-कभी यहां का मौहाल काफी गरम हो जाता है। यही वह मौका होता है, जब हाऊस के मैम्बरान को आपका जोक-ए-शायरी मुतमइन करने में मददगार होगा और आप हल्के-फुल्के अशार के जरिए फिज़ा को खुशगवार बनाते रहेंगे। मैं यह भी जानता हूँ कि आप अपने वसी तजुर्बे और सलाहयतों की बदौलत मुश्किल हालात में भी दोस्ताना माहौल बनाने में कामयाब साबित होंगे।

*श्री के. रहमान खान

Globalisation के इस दौर में हम अपनी मइशत को आलमी मइशत से हमअहंग करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। ऐसे में मजदूरों, किसानों और समाज के गरीब तबकों को मुश्किलात का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, लेकिन मैं आपको यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस हाऊस के मैम्बरान की सोच अलग-अलग हो सकती है, लेकिन हमारा मकसद एक है और दरअसल यही वह ताकत है, जो इस ऐवान में हम सबको जोड़े रखती है।

सदरे मोहतरम, आप इस ऐवान के मुहाफिज हैं, हम यहां आवाम के नुमाइंदे हैं और आवाम के मसाइल पर गुफ्तगू करना हमारा फर्ज है। यहां हर मैम्बर को अपना ख्याल ज़ाहिर करने का हक है। जरूरी नहीं कि जो बात वह कह रहा है वह किसी को पसंद हो, यहां पर बोलना, इज़हारे ख्याल करना उसका बुनियादी और जम्हूरी हक है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि आपका मुंसिफाना मिजाज़ हरेक मैम्बर के हकूक का मुहाफिज होगा। जहां तक हाऊस के मैम्बरान के तआवुन का सवाल है तो हम आपको यकीन दिलाते हैं कि इस ऐवान को चलाने में, इसकी अज़मत और वकार को बुलंद रखने में आपके साथ हम सबका पूरा तआवुन हासिल रहेगा।

इन्हीं अल्फाज़ के साथ मैं, आपको हिन्दुस्तान के नायबे सदर जम्हूरिया और राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन बनने पर एक बार फिर मुबारकबाद पेश करता हूँ और अपने भरपूर तआवुन का यकीन दिलाते हुए आखिर में इस शेर के साथ अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ:-

तुझे नसीब हो ऐसा उरूज दुनिया में
कि आसमां भी तेरी रिफ्तों पे नाज़ करे।

Leader of the Opposition, Shri Jaswant Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on my personal behalf, on behalf of the party, which I have the honour to represent, and on behalf of the office that I hold, constitutionally, as the Leader of the Opposition, I felicitate you on the assumption of this office. I greet you for becoming a Member of this Assembly. It is a very distinguished club. Very few have the honour of carrying a suffix of just two letters, that is, M.P. These two letters are, I believe, letters of great distinction. Please accept our collective and my personal congratulations on your election, too, as the Vice-President of the country. I have personally advocated that high constitutional offices must remain above contention. They ought to be the result of building of consensus, not the outcome of an election. But that, nevertheless, is now something that we seldom witness because, perhaps, there is a misunderstanding about the true meaning or the import of the word 'consensus'. Consensus is the distillation of consultation. Consensus is not merely our abiding by the wishes of the majority. And, it is one of the tragedies of the present state of our politics that you witness that particular phenomenon more and more on the decline.

Sir, I also wish to state, with all humility and regard for the Chair and the office that you occupy, that this Chair is indifferent to political persuasion once the election is over; it is indifferent to caste, communities, sects. Here, of course, we don't see that. But in the other House we do see a

balance, a scale in which the two pans are evenly balanced. There is a meaning in that. We just recently heard the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Deputy Chairman. The Prime Minister also informed us of the number of years that he has served in this Assembly. Yes, Sir, there are others, too, who have served. I have had the benefit of serving for seven terms in Parliament now, in both Houses of Parliament – three in that and now in this. I wish to share with you just two or three things. One is that in the State of our Republic this House, this particular House, is the Council of States, the Rajya Sabha. As originally intended the Council of States looked after the interests of the States. Over the years, a tendency and an unstated convention has evolved/developed that we will not be discussing matters, in this assembly, relating to States. I think, somewhere there we have, perhaps, lost the direction and the purpose originally intended about the Council of States, the Rajya Sabha. This assembly does not expire. This assembly is a continuous body. It continuously and perpetually renews itself every two years. It is a mistake to consider it equivalent of either the US Senate or the British House of Lords. It is the Indian Council of States. यह भारत की राज्य सभा है, यह अपनी ही एक पहचान रखने का आग्रह लेकर आई है।

Sir, this, too, I want to share. It is not an apocryphal story; it is a true account. Mr. Mavalankar was a very distinguished Speaker of the Lok Sabha. And, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a very eminent Indian and a very great Prime Minister, even though I might have differences of opinion with what he did in his premiership. On one of the afternoons in Parliament, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, sought urgently to consult the Speaker on certain issues as the Prime Minister, would often need to. He sent word, “मावलंकर जी, ज़रा आप तशरीफ़ ला सकते हैं मेरे दफ़्तर में?” To which, Mr. Mavalankar had sent word back with a short note to say, “The Speaker does not visit the Prime Minister's Office. The Prime Minister can visit the Speaker.” I cite this, Sir, as the distillate of the essence of the functioning of the Chair. दोनों साहेबान ने खुद इस बात का जिक्र किया, सदर साहब, हमारे वज़ीरे आजम साहब ने और डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने, कि आजकल सदन में हल्ला बहुत होता है। यह विचारने की बात है। But I leave a thought again, here, Sir, both for the hon'ble Prime Minister, with his long and distinguished career in the Civil Service, as also of his experience as a Parliamentarian. Sir, that in a House, in an assembly of this nature; whether the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha or the State Assemblies, it is not a truism, it is axiomatic that the ‘Government must have its way’; sessions of Parliament or Assembly are essentially for conducting the Legislative Business. We, perhaps, did not understand this as clearly or as appropriately when we had the honour of holding office for some six years. The Government must have its way. But, the ‘Government can only have its way, if the Opposition has its say’. If the Opposition is prevented from having its say,

there is no way that the Government will have its way. It is a vehicle, Sir, that moves on two wheels. And, if the hon'ble Prime Minister has, therefore, in felicitating you, found fit to find fault with the noise level of the Assembly, then, I think, it is a matter for the Treasury Benches too to reflect upon, very deeply how much noise they made when they sat where we are sitting, how much noise is contributed. It is a fact. I wish to, particularly, point this out because when the hon'ble Prime Minister found fit to lecture us on this subject, there was no dissenting voice from here. I am aware of this, otherwise, I would be in their assembly. This present noise and interruption is also a measure of the tolerance that the Treasury Benches have. I am simply expressing a view, you have a dissenting view. Your Prime Minister has said it. Please, when an opportunity arises, do express that dissenting note. But it demonstrates what I said, Sir, that for the 'Government to have its way, the Opposition must have its say'. If you do not permit the Opposition its say, then, you will witness what we have witnessed just now. I won't go on, Sir, in this manner.

Mr. Chairman, personally, on behalf of my party, and on behalf of the Opposition I welcome you. I wish you well in your tenure. Of course, we will cooperate; that goes without saying. But I wish you a term that is fruitful, beneficial for India, for this House, and for the state of the Republic. Thank you.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, आज मैं थोड़ी देर के लिए आपके सम्मान में खड़ा रहूंगा। महोदय, आप बहुत विद्वान और समझदार हैं। आप आज यहां आए हैं, उसके लिए आपको मुबारकबाद तो मैं दे ही रहा हूं, लेकिन कभी-कभी लगता है कि आपके जैसा विद्वान और समझदार आदमी एक बवाल की जगह पर आकर फंस गया है। कल के बाद आपको बहुत तकलीफ होगी। मुझे आपसे हमदर्दी है कि उस तकलीफ को आप झेल जाएं और एक सलाह भी है हम लोग कितना भी हल्ला करें, आप अपने चेहरे पर गुस्सा मत दिखाइएगा, हमेशा हंसते रहिएगा। आपकी विद्वत्ता, आपकी काबलियत आपकी मुस्कान में आ जानी चाहिए। हम सब के सब लोग देश के दुश्मन नहीं हैं, लेकिन हम सब एक मुस्कान पर फिदा हो जाते हैं और चुपचाप बैठ जाते हैं। कभी-कभी इस चेयर से जब सख्ती से कोई डांटता है तो हम लोगों को भी तकलीफ होती है। हम अपने लिए तो लड़ते नहीं हैं, हम देश के लिए लड़ते हैं। सत्तारूढ़ पक्ष से मैं कहूंगा कि यह किसी कचहरी में हम लोग बहस नहीं करते हैं, पंचायत में बहस करते हैं और पंचायत की यह खूबी होती है कि हम जितना जानते हों, अपनी ताकत भर आपको समझाएं और आप जितना जानते हों, अपनी ताकत भर हमें समझाएं। अगर आपकी बात हमें अच्छी लग जाए तो हम मान लें और अगर हमारी बात आपको अच्छी लग जाए तो आप मान लें—पंचायत का यह चरित्र होता है। कचहरी का वकील अपनी-अपनी तरफ से खड़ा होता है, अपने मुवक्किल की तरफ से बहस करता है।

चेयरमैन साहब, आपके मार्फत मैं अपने वामपंथी मित्रों को भी मुबारकबाद देना चाहता हूं। प्रधानमंत्री जी ने माइनोंरिटी शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया। इत्तेफाक से सबसे पहले अमर सिंह जी और मुलायम सिंह जी ने एक माइनोंरिटी के आदमी का नाम इस पद के लिए रखा था। सत्ता पक्ष की

तरफ से उनके मित्रों ने भी आपका नाम रख दिया और मुझे संतोष मिला कि भाजपा के मित्रों ने, हमारे नेता जसवंत सिंह जी ने भी एक अल्पसंख्यक का नाम रख दिया। बड़ा अच्छा लगा। लगता था कि हम लोगों ने कोई पहल की है और वह पहल दूसरों के घर में जाकर सुधार का काम कर रही है—बहुत अच्छा लगा। अगर ये लोग सुधर जाएं तो मुझे खुशी होगी। लेकिन क्रेडिट वामपंथी मित्रों को, कामरेड सीताराम येचुरी को जाएगा। कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोगों ने चाहे जिस किसी वजह से यह निर्णय किया हो। मैं समझता हूँ कि जो अमेरिकी ट्रीटी हुई है, उसके सौदे पर आपको यहां नहीं बैठाया गया है। वामपंथी उस पर अढ़ेंगे ही, ऐसा मेरा ख्याल है। अगर नहीं अढ़ेंगे तो मुझे इन सबसे तकलीफ होगी। लेकिन तब भी येचुरी साहब से आज की बात से मुझे डर लगेगा। हैं तो वे उम्र में मुझसे छोटे, लेकिन मैं उनसे डरूंगा क्योंकि “सइया भए कोतवाल” तो कभी-कभी ये हम लोगों को धमका भी सकते हैं इसलिए इनसे मैं डरूंगा। आपको मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि हम लोग—श्री पुरुषोत्तम दास टंडन उत्तर प्रदेश के स्पीकर थे और उन्होंने पहला वाक्य यही कहा था कि एक भी मँबर हमारी व्यवस्था के खिलाफ अगर खड़ा हो गया तो मैं इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। सभापति महोदय, लोकतंत्र के वे मूल्य तो मर चुके हैं, लेकिन जहां से हम आते हैं, कभी-कभी उसकी ध्वनि सुनने को मिलती है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आप उतनी ही सख्ती से काम करेंगे क्योंकि हम लोग कभी-कभी आपसे जाकर मिल लेते हैं। चैम्बर में यह भी सुलह हो जाती है कि आज सदन की कार्यवाही बंद रहेगी। हम लोग काम रोकेंगे और आप सदन स्थगित करके चले जाइएगा और दोनों पक्ष मान लेते हैं। यह सौदेबाजी यहां न हुआ करे। अगर वाकई कोई गंभीर बात आ गई है तो दोनों पक्षों को समझाना चाहिए कि इसका रास्ता क्या निकले। वैसे तो मुझ में सलाह देने की हैसियत और हिम्मत नहीं है कि मैं आपको सलाह दूं, लेकिन इतना यकीन दिलाऊंगा कि जब कभी भी सदन की कार्यवाही में कोई बड़ी रुकावट दिखाई पड़ेगी तो हमारी पार्टी के लोग देश के हित में आपके साथ रहेंगे। मुझे अच्छा लगा कि एक अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय का आदमी इस आसन पर बैठा है। देश के अकलियत के जो लोग हैं, उनके दिल में यह तसल्ली जानी चाहिए कि सदन और सबसे बड़ा सदन उसकी सदारत करने वाला आपका ही आदमी है और आज के बाद से तुम लोगों पर कभी जुल्म नहीं होगा। हम फिर यकीन दिलाते हैं कि हम आपके साथ हैं और आपको एक बार फिर मुबारकबाद देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

Shri Sitaram Yechury: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here today to extend our heartiest congratulations and felicitations on your election to the high office of Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

We have heard, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and an impeccable welcome that the Deputy Chairman had given you in chaste Urdu. It is a rare occasion to hear such good Urdu in the House which I hope will be continued in the days to come. But, Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and, personally, on my behalf, while we offer you all cooperation for running the House, we also would like to articulate our expectations that voices of dissent in this House are never to be subdued or suppressed. It is correct, as the Leader of the Opposition had said, that if the Government wants to have its way, the Opposition will have to have its say. But there are also people like us

here who are supporting the Government as well as articulating their points of view, who traditionally will not fall in your slot of the Opposition and traditionally will not fall in that slot of the Treasury Benches but have a distinct point of view, which we think in the interest of the country we would like to articulate. And, in saying so, Sir, often much of the acrimony, sometimes, in this House also begins with the presumption that if we take a contesting point of view, we are challenging the integrity of that particular hon'ble Member or of that party. I wish to dispassionately convey in this House, Sir, and, I think, that is a tradition we expect you to maintain—that dissent, opposition and contrary points of view are not a charge or questioning the integrity of anybody but are definitely questioning the infallibility of every individual, and, infallibility is a common virtue or a vice with human race as long as we exist. So, contesting infallibility should not be construed as contesting the integrity and you, Sir, bring with you a vast experience to this Chair, and the experience is not merely diplomatic or administrative but also an intellectual experience that you bring to this Chair. Sir, as has been pointed out, the distinguished Members who have honoured this Chair and who the Chair had the honour to have them sit here, that legacy, Sir, you inherit, and, I expect, in the five years to come, that these standards and benchmarks would be only elevated to higher levels.

I would only like to assure you, Sir, once again and the House, since Janeshwar ji was very eloquent in commenting on us — he has been a very senior leader — since my student days, we used to hear the shouts of *Janeshwar Mishra Zindabad* in that entire movement — that, as he said correctly, यही बात तो हम भी उम्मीद कर रहे हैं कि चुनाव तो हो गया, कंटेस्ट जो होना था वह हो गया, अब इस कुर्सी पर जब हमिद अंसारी साहब आए हैं तो वे निष्पक्ष तरीके से इस सदन को चलाएंगे। सर, इसी उम्मीद के साथ हम आपको बधाई देते हैं। आपको पूरे कोआपरेशन का आश्वासन देते हुए फिर से हमारी पार्टी की तरफ से, वामपंथियों की तरफ से हम आपको हार्दिक बधाई देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

Dr. V. Maitreya: Mr. Chairman Sir, I, on behalf of the AIADMK, extend very warm and hearty felicitations to you on your assuming this august office. I am hopeful that with your past track record as a successful career diplomat, you would be able to guide this House as well as, and, perhaps, better than your illustrious predecessors.

Sir, as I look at you, on my left are the Treasury Benches and on my right are the principal Opposition. And between the two major giants we, the regional parties from the various corners of the country, find ourselves squeezed at the centre. But you would definitely agree that we, representing

the various States, have come to occupy the centre stage, not only inside the House, but also outside in the country. On behalf of all of us we assure you our full and maximum cooperation in the smooth conduct of this House.

Sir, I would also like to bring to your kind notice that more often, we, the Members of Parliament, and in particular, people belonging to the Opposition, are viewed as though we are disruptive elements. We are sermonised that this is a debating forum. No doubt, this is a debating forum but it has also to be a deciding forum. It should take a decision and when it takes a decision, its decision alone should be ultimate. When that is denied, disruptions are inevitable.

I am sure that as the guardian and protector of this House, you will be able to guide us and protect us, enabling us to perform our duties also. मैं ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि आपका कार्यकाल सफल रहे और आप हमारा मार्गदर्शन करें। धन्यवाद।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: माननीय सभापति जी, महामहिम उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में निर्वाचित होने के उपरांत पहली बार आपके पाक कदम सदन में पड़े हैं। इस समय आप सभापति जी की सम्मानित कुर्सी पर विराजमान हैं। मुझे अपनी पार्टी राष्ट्रीय जनता दल की ओर से, और अपनी ओर से, आपका उपराष्ट्रपति के पद पर निर्वाचन होने तथा चेयरमैन की कुर्सी पर विराजमान होने के लिए, स्वागत और अभिनंदन करते हुए, अपार हर्ष हो रहा है, हार्दिक प्रसन्नता हो रही है। मैं पुनः अपने दल की ओर से आपको मुबारकबाद देता हूँ।

महोदय, मैंने समाचार-पत्रों में पढ़ा है कि आपने निर्वाचित होने के पश्चात् कहा था कि आपको अपने ऊपर आने वाली जिम्मेदारी का एहसास है और अपनी क्षमता के अनुसार इसको पूरा करने का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रयास करेंगे। हम सभी को आपके द्वारा व्यक्त की गयी इस उक्ति पर पूरा विश्वास है। आप निश्चित रूप से अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन सफलतापूर्वक करेंगे। आपने अब तक अपनी सभी जिम्मेदारियों को, जो आपको दी गयी हैं, उनका सफलतापूर्वक निर्वहन किया है। हम सभी देश के लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और धर्मनिरपेक्ष चरित्र को मजबूत बनाने में आपके साथ हैं। आप देश की साझा संस्कृति के नुमाइंदे हैं।

महोदय, आपने विभिन्न पदों पर रहकर देश की सेवा करने का बेहतरीन रिकार्ड बनाया है। आपकी पहचान देश के जाने-माने शिक्षाविद्, अनुभवी राजनयिक और प्रखर लेखक के रूप में रही है। आप अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विषयों के लेखन में जानी पहचानी शख्सियत हैं। आपने अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम यूनिवर्सिटी के छात्रावास से कुलपति आवास तक का लम्बा सफर सफलतापूर्वक तय किया है। आपने पहले छात्र, फिर लेक्चरर और फिर कुलपति के पद को सुशोभित किया है। यह किसी भी शिक्षाविद् के लिए एक गौरव की बात है, बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

महोदय, आपने बेहतर रैंकिंग के साथ आई.एफ.एस. की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की। आपने दुनिया के कई देशों में भारत के राजदूत के रूप में सफलतापूर्वक अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन किया। आपने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि के रूप में अपनी अमिट छाप छोड़ी है। देश की अमूल्य सेवा के लिए भारत सरकार ने आपको “पद्म श्री” से सम्मानित किया है। आपकी छवि धर्मनिरपेक्ष और

उदारवादी रही है। आप मृदुभाषी, विनम्र स्वभाव के, संवेदनशील, व्यवहारकुशल, सूझबूझ वाले व्यक्तित्व के साथ बहुआयामी प्रतिभा के धनी रहे हैं। आप उपराष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार होने से पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग के अध्यक्ष थे।

महोदय, हमारे दल का पूरा विश्वास है कि सम्मानित उपराष्ट्रपति तथा राज्य सभा के चेयरमैन के रूप में आप श्रेष्ठ संसदीय परम्परा, सर्वोत्तम लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों की स्थापना करेंगे।

महोदय, मेरा मानना है कि माननीय सभापति जी के रूप में एक बड़ा सम्मान यह भी होगा कि हम देश की जनता की गाढ़ी, खून-पसीने की कमाई से चल रहे इस सदन का एक-एक सेकंड राष्ट्रीय हित में उपयोग करें और शालीनतापूर्वक सदन की कार्यवाही चलाने में सभापति जी को सहयोग करें।

महोदय, सभी दलों के माननीय सांसदों ने आपकी शिक्षा के बारे में, आपकी योग्यता और क्षमता के बारे में प्रशंसा की है, हमारा भी आपमें पूरा विश्वास और आस्था है। महोदय, हमारा यह विश्वास है कि आने वाले पांच वर्षों में आप सदन का पूरा विश्वास प्राप्त करते रहेंगे और सदन आपको पूरी तरह से सहयोग करेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं पुनः आपका अभिनन्दन करते हुए, अपने दल की ओर से हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy: I, on behalf of my TDP Party and United National Progressive Alliance, congratulate you on getting the Chairmanship of Rajya Sabha. Sir, my colleague was referring to regional parties. It is true that we represent regional parties but with national outlook. When you look to your right side you find the ruling front and on your left side the opposition front. But if you look straight, as people's front we sit here — UNPA and Left Front. Today we are less in number. People say that it is a Third Front. In coming days, we are going to be in the forefront. I request you to give reasonable opportunities to the regional parties. We represent the views of various regions. With these words, I assure you our fullest cooperation on behalf of my party and UNPA. Thank you.

श्री गांधी आजाद: सभापति महोदय, मैं आज अपनी तथा अपनी बहुजन समाज पार्टी की तरफ से आपका हृदय से स्वागत और अभिनन्दन करता हूँ। महोदय, मैं आशा ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरा भरोसा भी करता हूँ कि आप पीठासीन अधिकारी के रूप में दलगत भावनाओं से ऊपर उठकर, छोटी-बड़ी सभी पार्टियों में सामंजस्य स्थापित करने के कार्य में, अपनी कार्य-शैली को आगे बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे तथा नए-पुराने सदस्यों के लिए समय आबंटन का भी ध्यान रखेंगे। आप पीठासीन अधिकारी के रूप में देश हित को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देने के साथ-साथ, भारतीय संविधान की गरिमा को बनाए रखने का काम करेंगे। इसके लिए हम अपनी तथा अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से हर प्रकार का सहयोग देने का काम करेंगे। इसी आशा और प्रति-आशा में, मैं पुनः आपका हृदय से स्वागत और अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं अपने दल की तरफ से आज आपका अभिनन्दन करता हूँ। मैं अभिनन्दन इसलिए करता हूँ कि आप भारतीय लोकतंत्र के सबसे बड़े सदन के सभापति के रूप में बैठे हैं। यह सदन भारत के सौ करोड़ लोगों की आकांक्षाओं के प्रतीक का सदन है और

आप इसके सभापति हैं। यह देश का सौभाग्य है और हम सब लोगों का सौभाग्य है कि आपके जैसे व्यक्तित्व का आदमी इस पद की गरिमा को और आगे बढ़ाएगा। हमारा और आपका संबंध लम्बे समय से रहा है। इसीलिए मैं आपकी तारीफ में एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि आज से 17 साल पहले देश के एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल के नेता की हैसियत से मैं तेहरान गया था। उसी समय इस देश के पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री का एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल भी तेहरान पहुंचा था। आप उस समय वहां भारत के राजदूत थे। आपने जिस बखूबी से देश की इज्जत और गरिमा को बचाया और जिस तरीके से आपने हम सब लोगों को उस मुल्क के अंदर एक मुल्क के नुमाइंदे के रूप में दिखाया था, वह काबिले तारीफ है। मुझे लगता है कि आपके जैसे व्यक्तित्व का आदमी, जिस दल ने भी आपको बनाया हो, आज आप इस देश के उपराष्ट्रपति हैं और उस हैसियत से आप इस सदन के अध्यक्ष हैं, हमारी तथा हमारे दल की तरफ से, आपको पूरी शुभकामनाएं हैं तथा यह विश्वास है कि हम आपके हर फैसले में आपके साथ हों, इसी आशा और विश्वास के साथ आपको बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री अली अनवर: सभापति जी, मैं अपनी और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से आपको दिली मुबारकबाद देता हूं। सभापति जी, लोग कहते हैं कि नाम में क्या रखा है। मैं कहता हूं कि नाम में भी बहुत कुछ रखा है। सर, आप हामिद अंसारी हैं। हामिद हम्द से बना है। हम्द का मतलब है जिसकी तारीफ की जाए, काबिले तारीफ़। हुजूर आप काबिले तारीफ़ हैं। आप हैं हामिद अंसारी। अंसारी अंसार से बना है। अंसार का मतलब होता है मदद करने वाला। दूसरे की मदद करने वाला। आप काबिले तारीफ़ इसलिए हैं क्योंकि आप दूसरे की मदद करते हैं। सर, जब से आपका नामिनेशन हुआ है और आप इस ओहदे के लिए चुने गए हैं, मुल्क के मुख्तलिफ़ हिस्सों से हमारे पास सैकड़ों फोन आए हैं। कल मैं बनारस में था। बनारस में लोगों ने उम्मीद लगा रखी है कि आपके उपराष्ट्रपति बनने से लोगों को मदद मिलेगी। लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं, वे आपकी तरफ आशा भरी नजरों से देख रहे हैं। आप उनकी आशाओं की भरपाई करेंगे, ऐसा हमारा भरोसा है। हमें याद है कि आपसे पहली मुलाकात माइनॉरिटी कमीशन की बैठक में हुई थी। माइनॉरिटी कमीशन की बैठक में हमने दलित मुसलमानों का सवाल उठाया था। हमारे ही कुछ भाइयों को यह बात बुरी लग रही थी, लेकिन आपने कहा कि हां, मुसलमानों के अंदर दलित होते हैं। वे दलित मुसलमान, वे बुनकर जो भूखे मर रहे हैं, आपकी तरफ उम्मीद की नज़र से देख रहे हैं। हमारी ऐसी इच्छा है, देश के लोग चाहते हैं कि आप उनकी उम्मीद पर खरा उतरेंगे। मैं एक बार फिर से दिल की बेइंतिहा गहराइयों के साथ आपको मुबारकबाद देता हूं और आपको हर तरह से सहयोग का भरोसा दिलाता हूं।

श्री तारिक अनवर: सभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतांत्रिक राष्ट्र के उपराष्ट्रपति और राज्य सभा के सभापति के रूप में अपनी राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी की ओर से आपका अभिनन्दन, स्वागत और इस्तक्रबाल करता हूं। सभापति महोदय, जैसाकि सभी लोगों ने आपकी तारीफ़ में कहा है और यह सच्चाई भी है कि आपका जो करियर रहा है, आपका जो अतीत रहा है, उसे देखते हुए इस सदन के सभी लोगों को इस बात का विश्वास है कि सदन की जो परंपरा रही है, उस परंपरा को बनाए रखते हुए आप उसकी गरिमा को और बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे। आप उसकी इज्जत को और बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे। सभापति जी, यह बात सही है कि यह सदन इस देश के सौ करोड़ लोगों की आकांक्षाओं, उनकी उम्मीद और उनकी आशाओं का एक प्रतीक है। यकीनन हम सब लोग, जो यहां बैठे हैं, वे देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। हमारी यह कोशिश होती है कि

देश की जो भी समस्या है, उसका मिल-जुलकर समाधान हो। इसमें सभापति का जो रोल होता है, जो भूमिका होती है, वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण होती है। हमें विश्वास है कि जहां एक तरफ सत्ता पक्ष, विपक्ष और जो यहां तमाम बहुत सारे दल हैं, यही इस राज्य सभा या हमारे सदन की खूबसूरती है। हर तरह के लोग यहां मौजूद हैं। हर दल, हर विचारधारा के लोग यहां मौजूद हैं। इसके बावजूद भी हमारी जो कोशिश होती है, जो प्रयास होता है, वह यही होता है कि हम कैसे देश की समस्या के समाधान के लिए कार्य करेंगे।

मुझे उम्मीद है कि आपका जो एक लम्बा अनुभव है, चाहे वह डिप्लोमेट होने की हैसियत से या वाइस चांसलर होने की हैसियत से या माइनॉरिटी कमीशन के अध्यक्ष के रूप में आपने जो कार्य किया है, आपकी जो कार्यशैली रही है, उसका लाभ इस सदन को मिलेगा और यह सदन आपके मार्गदर्शन में ठीक ढंग से कार्य करेगा। मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, एक बार फिर आपका स्वागत करता हूँ, अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

Shri D. Raja: Respected Chairman, Sir, my party, the Communist Party of India, and, I join all the hon'ble Members of this august House to congratulate you, and to assure you the fullest cooperation in running this House. Sir, I am new to this Parliament, new to this Rajya Sabha as you are. But, we know you are a great academician, a great intellectual, you served as one of the outstanding diplomats, and, you have rich experience. Sir, this august House has a glorious tradition and eminent persons like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Mr. K. R. Narayanan and others who served this House as Chairmen and served the country as Vice-Presidents, and, now you are the Chairman, you are the Vice-President of one of the largest democracies in the world, and, we are quite sure that these traditions will be upheld. I must recall the immense contribution made by outstanding communist leader like Shri Bhupesh Gupta who served, in this House, for more than a quarter of century in strengthening the parliamentary democracy in our country. I think, today, we are at crossroads, and, we need to strengthen the parliamentary democracy that we have acquired and we will have to strengthen the republican Constitution and the very republic of India.

Sir, everybody says that Rajya Sabha is the House of Elders but, now, I find that there are quite a good number of young people also sitting in this House. Rajya Sabha is also considered to be the House of States and here comes the question of defending the federal polity of our nation, the composite culture of our nation. There can be convergence of interest; there can be conflict of interest. Finally, when we arrive at solutions, we should see that the interest of the nation is protected and upheld. That is my concern and that should be our approach.

Sir, this august House should reflect the voice of the weaker sections, the voice of the marginalized sections and exploited sections. There are references to the ongoing process of liberalisation in the world, the globalisation in the world, but in this process, the most politically

marginalized, economically exploited, socially oppressed people should not be neglected and their voice must be heard. I hope, this House will provide them an opportunity to be heard, and, listen to their voice and address their concerns.

Sir, having said this, I must say that our country is a country which has tremendous diversities. In fact, this great nation progresses through these diversities and this country remains united through these diversities. And, here there is a need to uphold the secular democracy, the values of secular democracy, and, there should not be any room for intolerance, whether it is Treasury Benches, Opposition or the middle path, I do not mind, but the country's interest must be protected and upheld. Nobody should challenge the secular democratic fabric of our society and the secular democratic character of our Constitution, otherwise, the country will not be safe. So, Sir, on your assumption as Chairman of this august House and Vice-President of our great nation, we congratulate you wholeheartedly. We assure you, having assumed the offices of Chairman, and the Vice-President, we look at you as a great Indian, as a great patriot and as a person committed to the country's interest. I wish you all success in your work. And, on behalf of my party, I must make it very clear that you can expect fullest cooperation from my party, the Communist Party of India. I wish you all success. Thank you.

Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla: Sir, starting from the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Chairman and other leaders of the House who spoke and who will be speaking, whatever they have said about you, I fully endorse it. As you will know, the time is a constraint in this House. You will learn it in a few days. So, I would like to confine myself to the fact that after filing my nomination, when a journalist asked me how I was going to fight the election while the numbers were not in my favour, I corrected him and said, "It is not a fight; it is a contest". And, with the true democratic spirit, I contested the election, knowing that very well and also knowing very well the responsibility of Opposition in a democracy which is as important. Sir, I am a Zoologist and you know that human heart is on the left side. And, I hope, in a democracy also, left is the heart of the democracy. So, you would look at the left.

Unfortunately, the Left are on the right or in the middle and we are on the real left. So, I hope that you would look at the left more than you would look at the right. I have heard a lot, but whatever experience I have in this House, Mr. Chairman, as I told you, when I rang you up after filing my nomination paper, before and after your election, whatever cooperation you need from me, from my experience, it will always be available to you. I will only say one thing, यहां पर सबने आपकी बड़ी तारीफ की, वे सब तो ऐंडोर्स कर

रहे हैं। सबने आपसे बड़े-बड़े वादे किए, डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने आपकी शायरी का जिक्र किया, मैं सिर्फ एक ही शेर पढ़ूंगी, जो शायद उन सभी बातों का जवाब होगा—

तेरे वादे पर जिये हम तो ये जान झूठ जाना
के खुशी से मर न जाते अगर ऐतबार होता।

मिश्रा जी ने अभी जैसा कहा कि आज का दिन अच्छा निकल जाए लेकिन कल क्या होगा, हाऊस में क्या होगा, जो वादे किए हैं, वे वादे वफ़ा होंगे या नहीं होंगे, यह तो आपको ही देखना पड़ेगा। बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा: सभापति महोदय, आपके उपराष्ट्रपति पद के लिए चुने जाने पर मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी, शिरोमणि अकाली दल, साथ ही सरदार बादल सिंह जी की तरफ से आपको बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूँ।

सही मायनों में अगर देखा जाए तो जो खुशी आज पंजाबियों और सिक्खों को हो रही है, मैं नहीं समझता कि इतनी खुशी किसी और को हुई होगी क्योंकि शिरोमणि अकाली दल एक माइनॉरिटी कौम का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है और आप भी माइनॉरिटी से ही चुने गए हैं, इससे ज्यादा खुशी की बात और क्या हो सकती है। आपने अपनी जिन्दगी के सफर में जिन-जिन भी बड़े ओहदों पर काम किया, वहां-वहां अपने नाम की छाप छोड़ी। चाहे आप ambassador रहे, चाहे आप अलीगढ़ यूनिवर्सिटी के वाइस चांसलर रहे। माइनॉरिटी कमीशन के चेयरमैन होने के नाते आपसे एक-दो बार मीटिंग में मैं मिला हूँ। आपकी personality ने मुझ पर जो छाप छोड़ी, उसको मैं बातों में बयान नहीं कर सकता।

मैं आखिर में फिर से आपको अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी शिरोमणि अकाली दल (सरदार बादल) की तरफ से बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूँ तथा आपको यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि हाऊस को चलाने के लिए आप हमसे जो भी कोऑपरेशन चाहेंगे, वह हम देंगे। जय हिन्द।

Dr. K. Malaisamy: Sir, it is my proud privilege and profound pleasure to join my colleagues in congratulating you and in felicitating you. In the process of felicitation, I am standing on a different footing. As a former bureaucrat, I appreciate you, the most eminent and enlightened bureaucrat. Sir, I have listened to what my colleagues have said. In fact, they are not exaggerating. On the other hand, they are illustrating what you are. They have seen your background and your experience as a former IFS officer in various capacities as Ambassador, as High Commissioner, as permanent representative in the U.N., as an academician, as a visiting professor, as a Vice Chancellor, and, above all, as a champion of the cause of the depressed, oppressed, and suppressed. This is the way I also look at it.

After seeing your background, I really admire and adore you that this kind of person has come to occupy a coveted position like the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Sir, with your background, with your experience, and with your personality, it may not be very difficult for you. Many friends have

quoted various couplets. After seeing your personality in totality, I am reminded of two famous lines of William Shakespeare when he was picturing the most beautiful woman, Cleopatra, on earth. He said, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." Sir, I would put it in the masculine gender. Age cannot wither you, nor custom stale your infinite variety. You are a person of infinite variety.

Sir, with this background, I want to speak more and more. But paucity of time and other constraints warrant me that I should be brief. I shall try to be as brief as possible and as quick as possible.

Before I conclude, I have a word of caution for you. As rightly stated by many of our colleagues, this is the House of Elders, elders with unique personality, with varied and versatile capacity. Everyone is unique in his or her own way. Is it easy to handle these people? It is very difficult. This is the way I would like to caution you.

Secondly, Sir, your predecessor, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, was very popular and very dynamic. He got absolute understanding with Members in the House. Sir, you are succeeding a very popular predecessor. That again, will be a little bit difficult for you to equate and excel him. This is my second point.

My third observation is this. You have to see the Opposition; you have to see the right side; and you have to see all the Members. You have to satisfy the entire House. While doing so, how you can manage the Treasury Benches, the Opposition Benches and the UNPA, are the things you have to consider. As far as I am concerned, what I could suggest to you is that when you allocate time, when you give chances, you have to be extra considerate with the Opposition, more and more considerate with the UNPA and more and more considerate with AIADMK, which is led by a famous leader, a marvellous leader and a mass leader, Madam Jayalalitha. Thank you, Sir.

Dr. Karan Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha, has already conveyed on behalf of all of us, our very warm support to you and our pledge that we will cooperate with you in every way. Sir, as the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and as the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, there is one point I would like to add. The Ethics Committee, which I have had the honour to chair for the last few years, has drawn up a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament. This Code of Conduct has been accepted by both Houses and by all parties and has been reiterated time and again. My submission to you is that as you manage the proceedings of the House, you could keep before you that Code of Conduct and urge the Members that they should keep their debate within those parameters. A lot of problems that arise, a mention has been made of the disruption of the

House and so on, would disappear if all the Members voluntarily accept that universally accepted Code of Conduct. Sir, as everybody ended up with a verse, I will also end up with a verse of Allama Iqbal, which defines leadership in the most exquisite manner:

निगाह बुलंद, सुखन दिलनवाज, जां पुरसोज,
यही है रफ्त-ए-सफ़र, मीर-ए-कारवां के लिए।

Dr. P.C. Alexander: Sir, you have been listening to warm felicitations by leaders of political parties represented here. I stand before you and the House as an independent to extend warm felicitations to you for your well deserved election as the Vice-President of the country, in which capacity you are also the Chairman of this House. You must have heard a good deal about the Rajya Sabha being an unruly House. You must have read in the Press that very little business is being transacted within the House and the House spends time more on demonstrations than on debates. But, Sir, I wish to inform you that I have been watching the proceedings of this House from my days as a junior officer from the Officer's Gallery and now, I have the privilege of sitting inside here. I should say, looking around the House, in my long experience of witnessing as an outsider, I have never seen such an eminent collection of talents in various fields of service to the nation as I see in the present Rajya Sabha. I should say this not merely about the Members of the political parties, but also for the independent members, particularly the nominated Members. Looking at the independent group and the nominated Members, you will see that some of the best brains of the country are present in this House. So, this is a House of extraordinary abilities, talents and capacities. The only trouble is that the rules of the House do not allow the independents or the nominated Members adequate opportunities to speak in this House and when they get the opportunities, the rules do not allow them to speak for more than five or six minutes at a time. I am not blaming the rules but, I hope, even with rules staying as they are, you as the Chairman should exercise your discretion, look at the person who is standing up, think of the contribution he is capable of making on a particular subject and then, you have enough power to relax the rule of four or five minutes that weighs us down in this House. I have known you for over a quarter of century and I have interacted with you on various occasions and I know the depth of your knowledge and the greatness of your experience.

One last thing I wish to say here. Many people in this House or outside the House may see you or speak of you or write of you as a Muslim Vice-President. This is unfortunately a wrong tendency in our country. We have elected a President of the country, and still, people refer to her as *Mahila*

President. She may be a *Mahila*, but she is the President of the country. You are a very good Muslim in your individual life. I know that. But, you are the Vice-President of the country, and we don't see you as a Muslim, not as a minority, but as a great citizen of this country, elevated to the second highest position. I congratulate you. I can't speak on behalf of a party. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on your elevation to this high office. Thank you.

श्री तरलोचन सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, मैं भी आपको मुबारकबाद देने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मुझे इस बात की बाकी मैम्बरान साहब से ज्यादा खुशी है कि आप इससे पहले जिस पोस्ट पर थे, यानी चेयरमैन, माइनॉरिटी कमीशन, जहां से आपको देश ने इलेक्ट किया है, उस पोस्ट पर आपसे पहले मैं बैठा था। कई लोगों ने मुझसे कहा कि आपके वक्त चेयरमैन, माइनॉरिटी कमीशन रहते यह पद क्यों नहीं आया? मैंने कहा कि यह जो आम था, पक रहा था और हमारे दोस्त लकी हैं कि जब आम पकने लगा, तब यह उस सीट पर थे।

सर, आप पर खुदा की मेहर है कि आप जिस पोस्ट पर रहे, आपने देश का नाम ऊंचा किया। अभी हाऊस के सारे मैम्बरान ने आपकी तारीफ में बहुत कुछ कहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस देश में तीन बहुत बड़े वाक्या हुए, जब दुनिया भर के हैड्स ऑफ स्टेट इंडिया में आए, एक बार नॉन-एलाइन कांफ्रेंस में, दूसरी बार कॉमनवेल्थ प्राइम-मिनिस्टर्स कांफ्रेंस में और तीसरी बार बदकिस्मती से जब इंदिरा जी की डेथ हुई, तब यहां आए थे। उन तीनों वक्त में आप देश के चीफ ऑफ प्रोटोकॉल थे और तीनों वक्त आपने उस काम को बखूबी निभाया। उस वक्त यह सब से मुश्किल काम था कि इतने हैड्स ऑफ स्टेट की प्रायरिटी देखना, वह सारा काम आपके जिम्मे था, मुझे याद है। आपने इस तरह जो काम किया, उसी का सिला है कि देश ने आज आपका ऑनर किया है।

दूसरी बात, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपके कैरियर में आज तक गैप नहीं आया है। जब आपकी कोई एक पोस्ट जाती है, तो दूसरी पोस्ट आपके लिए खड़ी होती है। खुदा करे, यही बात आगे चलती रहे। मैं आपको मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री मनोहर जोशी: सभापति महोदय, शिव सेना की तरफ से मैं इस सदन में आपका स्वागत करता हूँ, अभिनंदन करता हूँ कि आप इस देश के उपराष्ट्रपति बने और इस सदन के सभापति भी बने हैं। मुझे इस बात की बहुत खुशी है कि आप विद्वान हैं, अनेक जगहों पर आपने काम किया है, आप राजदूत रहे हैं, अल्पसंख्यक आयोग के अध्यक्ष रहे हैं, अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम यूनिवर्सिटी के वाइस चांसलर रहे हैं। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि यह सब काम करना शायद आसान होगा, लेकिन यहां काम करना उससे कठिन होगा, ऐसा मैं सोचता हूँ। मैं अपनी शुभकामना आपको जरूर देता हूँ। आप जिस कुर्सी पर बैठ रहे हैं, इस कुर्सी से देश का बड़ा काम हो सकता है, इस पर मेरा पूरा विश्वास है और मेरा यह विश्वास इसी कारण है कि अनेक क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले लोग इस सदन में हैं, बहुत मशहूर लोग हैं, जिनका नाम पूरे देश में जाना जाता है, ऐसे अनेक मेरे मित्र यहां बैठे हैं।

सर, यह सौभाग्य की बात है कि ऐसे बहुत अच्छे सदन में आप सभापति के नाते बैठ रहे हैं। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि यह काम करना कभी-कभी कई लोगों के लिए बहुत कठिन होता है। मैं लोक सभा का अध्यक्ष था और इसीलिए मुझे यह मालूम है कि जितना काम सदन में महत्वपूर्ण होता है,

उतना ही महत्व का काम आपके चैम्बर में होता है। और यदि आप राज्य सभा के सफल अध्यक्ष बनना चाहते हैं तो उसके लिए मेरी दृष्टि से मित्रता और सद्भाव की आवश्यकता सबसे ज्यादा है। जितनी मित्रता आप सदस्यों से करेंगे, उनके नेताओं से करेंगे, जितना सद्भाव आप निर्माण कर सकेंगे, हर सदस्य के मन में उतनी ही आपकी सफलता और बढ़ सकती है और इसीलिए यहां जितना काम होगा, उससे भी ज्यादा काम आपके चैम्बर में आप कर सकते हैं, सदस्यों से मित्रता करके। मुझे लोक सभा के अध्यक्ष के नाते काम करने में कभी कोई कठिन बात नहीं लगी और मैंने जब आपके बारे में सुना तब मुझे विश्वास हुआ कि आपको भी राज्य सभा का अध्यक्ष बनना और यहां काम करना कोई कठिन नहीं लगेगा, यही मेरा भरोसा है।

मैं जानता हूं कि अध्यक्ष के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात निष्पक्ष रहने की होती है और निष्पक्ष रहना जीवन में कोई आसान काम नहीं होता है, इसके अनेक कारण हो सकते हैं, लेकिन आप निष्पक्षता से काम करेंगे तो भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति श्री अब्दुल कलाम जी का सपना पूरा करने में मदद हो सकती है। भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति श्री अब्दुल कलाम जी हर बार कहते थे कि 2020 तक हमारा देश प्रगति राष्ट्र होना चाहिए। *India should be a developed country by 2020.* और यह सपना साकार करने के लिए सभी की सहायता आवश्यक है, सभी को इस सपने को समझने की आवश्यकता है और इसे साकार करने के लिए आपकी बहुत मदद देश को मिल सकती है, यही मेरा भरोसा है।

आप अल्पसंख्यक आयोग के अध्यक्ष थे और आप जानते हैं कि मेरी पार्टी शिवसेना इस सदन में अल्पसंख्यक है, क्योंकि हमारी संख्या कम है। तो वहां आपने अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए काम किया, यहां भी अल्पसंख्यक सदस्यों के लिए काम करेंगे, ऐसा भरोसा मैं यहां व्यक्त करता हूं और आपकी प्रगति की, तरक्की की कामना करते हुए इतना ही कहूंगा कि:-

खुदी को कर बुलंद इतना कि हर तकदीर से पहले
खुदा बन्दे से खुद पूछे, बता तेरी रजा क्या है?

Dr. Bimal Jalan: Sir, I too would like to add my voice to felicitate you in this Chamber. To welcome you, a lot has been said by more distinguished Members about the achievements, the distinction and the contribution that you have made to our society. Sir, this House has had some extremely distinguished leaders of our society in your position, and I am sure that we are very fortunate in having you too in the same position.

Sir, I do not want to say much because all your qualifications, everything that you bring to this House is well-known. But with your permission, I would just like to add a word on one of the issues that has been discussed, which is the role of Rajya Sabha, and this I do from a perspective somewhat different from the one that we have heard from some of the distinguished speakers before me. I am a non-party person; I am a non-elected Member, a nominated Member. It also distinguishes us from the independent elected Members, that we are non-elected, non-partisan Members. Now, the Constitution did provide this. We are here because the Constitution provides that the ordinary citizen of India should be represented in some way, in his

own capacity, as it were, non-elected, *i.e.* non-political and non-leader. I mean we may have some achievements to our credit in some different spheres of our life, but the whole point is that we are here. I am here for a very short term unlike all of the distinguished Members that you heard, who have been here for 15 years, 20 years, 30 years, for seven terms, eight terms. I am here for one term. Therefore, I should say one or two words about the role of Rajya Sabha from the perspective of an average citizen, who is here for a short time. I share the view of Dr. Alexander that this House has a very distinguished body of persons from all walks of life, on all sides of the House, irrespective of party affiliations. So, it is not a point about the individuals or about the quality of the talents that we have in this House, but what we have done to the House. That is what I want to tell you.

This House has two or three different characteristics than the Lok Sabha. First, it does not dissolve itself. It is supposed to be the House of States, the Council of States. It is supposed to represent the States rather than the parties. It is also supposed to have indirect elections. The whole point is that the legislators of the State Assemblies would elect the representatives who can represent that State. Now, what have we done over a period of time? It has nothing to do with the individuals; it has nothing to do with the parties, but it has something to do with the way in which you handle this House of Elders. You have the anti-defection law. You have the Whip. The parties decide who will be here. The State legislators nominally vote. But they have no choice. It is open voting. You can't defect. There is the Whip. So, depending on your party's strength, depending on your bargaining power, you can elect anyone.

This House is also dominated by parties, which was not the original policy. It was supposed to be dominated by the representatives of the States, which were elected indirectly. It is not happening. I am mentioning this not as a complaint because we are very privileged to be here. We don't have the electoral backing for us. All of you are leaders, we are individuals. But if you are worried about the separate role of Rajya Sabha, then you have to give some thought to the kind of rules that we have framed, over a period of time, through legislation. It is that which is giving a kind of undissolving role to this House, which was not envisaged in our Constitution. Maybe, it is not necessary. Then, let us say it is not necessary. It is a duplicate of the Lok Sabha dominated by parties and that is it. There is no harm in it. You can go through the same legislative agenda on which you have neither the "yes" nor the "no" power. You can always pass whatever legislation you want, once it has been passed by the Lok Sabha. You can do whatever you want. The executive is supreme. You can dissolve the

House and reconvene after a week. That doesn't matter. But what I am saying is that let us accept that it is the same thing as the other House. The only advantage is that we don't have to dissolve ourselves. The only advantage is that we can nominate and elect the Members as we wish, and some of us have the great privilege of being here and also have the advantage of being here without elections. So, the House has its advantages. But it is not a different role. Thank you very much.

Shri Tiruchi Siva: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, DMK, I extend profusely our heartiest congratulations to you on having been elected as Vice-President of this vast nation and the Chairman of this august House. Having served the nation in various capacities, you have made your mark on all the tracks that you have come along all these days. Alongwith the Members of this House, the people of this nation repose their confidence in you, and you will certainly uphold the dignity and tradition of this august House and safeguard the principles of democracy. We, trained like soldiers by our esteemed leader, Dr. Kalaignar, assure you the fullest cooperation in maintaining the decorum of this House; and I am of the strong opinion that your tenure as Chairman of this House will, of course, have a place in history. Thank you.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah: Mr. Chairman, I represent the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir. I congratulate you on becoming the Chairman of this House and the Vice-President of this great nation. I am very grateful to those friends who wanted to nominate me, and I am glad that you are the one who has been elected. Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla would say that there are many more friends on whom you can rely, and I am sure that you will be successful one day. To the Treasury Benches, I would like to say that I have been the Chief Minister of a very difficult State. How did I win the opposition? I did it by trying to accommodate them as best as I could. Even in zero hour, Mr. Prime Minister, when the Minister is not supposed to reply to some of the important points that are raised, if the Government had a report, I would rise up and try and speak so that the Opposition could get the benefit of the knowledge that the Government had. Sir, as I have said and I am sure all of you must know it, this House is a very difficult House. Dr. Alexander did say that there are wise men here. But, unfortunately, the wise man's voice never gets up. There are people who shout and shout so severely that nothing is heard. I pity those children who look at those television programmes and see us fighting as if we are in a fish market. One of the things which I would like to tell the hon'ble Members is that we are unable to accommodate each other. The Communist Party of India threatens the Government on the nuclear issue. I wonder whether they will stand by that when it comes to it. We are trying to really score points for elections. Are we really building a strong India? Do we really think of the poor who

are suffering today, who are in the middle of floods, whether in Bihar or in Bengal or in other parts of the nation? I wonder whether we really do think of that. If we vow to think of that, then I don't think the disruptions in the House should be so severe that we collect our Rs. 1000 and walk out without being bothered about what is happening to the nation. Dr. Karan Singh did bring the rules before you. How many of us have really read those rules or will ever obey those rules? This is a difficult House. You are sitting on a Chair which is full of thorns. May God give you courage to run it. The only way you run it is, Sir, I will tell you frankly, if you will be just, not because of the party that has elected you, but trust in the Almighty that He alone is the one who is the giver and He alone does take. If you are just to all sides, whether this side or that side or the middle, there will be no trouble in this House. You will hear us. I hope they will patiently hear you. If they speak, we should hear them patiently. We should not feel that we are going to score points because it is finally the people of India who will elect whichever Government has to come in two years. They are not the people that were there in 1952 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stood for elections. They have changed. They are educated. They know what is right and what is wrong. I congratulate you on behalf of my party and on behalf of my people who suffer everyday irrespective of their religion. I agree with Dr. Alexander that you are a born Muslim. But above all when you are sitting on the Chair, you are an Indian and you are a just Indian and we expect justice from you as Indian. May God give you that courage. May God give courage to all of us who sit on this side or that side or in the middle that we will defend India's integrity and Indian's honour at all times to come, irrespective of anything. Thank you.

Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, everybody from all parties has congratulated you on your accomplishments and on your election to this high post of the Republic and of this House. I, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Swatantra Bharat Paksh, the only liberal party in this country, join all in congratulating you.

I am only one but you are all coming to my point of view. Sir, I feel that this is more than an occasion for self-congratulations that this House has found wisdom to elect a person of your accomplishments, qualities of intellect and heart. There have been references to the rowdy behaviour in this House. As a first-time Member and as a long-time farm leader, I would like to state that the reason is that the present rules do not bring to light the interventions of the people who make a significant contribution. Even an Edmond Burke or a Mark Anthony would go unlistened to while those boisterous elements, who shout, get reported because unfortunately the Presiding Authority often yields to them and adjourn the House. One request I would like to make to you is, as a Member who has never been to the Well

and as a Member who had never shouted, please do not succumb to the pressures of adjourning the House; let the House continue as it is, and ensure that even those who represent only small groups get an occasion to speak and put forward their points of view. Thank you very much.

Shri Dinesh Trivedi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very pleasant occasion of welcoming you to this high Chair of the temple of democracy. On behalf of Trinamool Congress, I welcome you, Sir. I have seen that there are three occasions in this House when there is pin-drop silence. One is, when we welcome; the other is, when we bid farewell, and the third is the sad occasion of obituary.

I will try and stick to the occasion for which we have assembled here today. We are very proud and privileged to be a Member of this temple of democracy, and you are doubly privileged to be on this high Chair of democracy. Sir, there will be many occasions which, I am sure, will come when we can discuss the pros and cons of running this House. I have a lot to say, but today, I will not use the occasion for that purpose. I would plead only one thing before you. We have talked about protection of minorities, which is very essential. Today I seek your protection, because you are the protector: to protect the rights of the majority, and the majority, I am talking about is we the backbenchers. I am sure you will be very kind to us. Thank you very much, Sir. I once again welcome you.

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह: सभापति महोदय, सभी सम्मानित सदस्यों की तरह ही मैं आपकी सफलता की कामना करने के लिए और इस पद पर आसन ग्रहण करने के लिए अपनी भावना व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, अभी तक आपने जीवन की एक शानदार पारी खेली है और उस शानदार पारी को खेलने के बाद आप दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण पारी खेलने के लिए इस सदन में मौजूद हैं। महोदय, इस सदन में अनेक पार्टियों के लोग हैं, लेकिन जब यह रेखांकित किया जाए तो यहां दो ही पक्ष महत्वपूर्ण हैं—एक सत्ता पक्ष दूसरा प्रतिपक्ष। सत्ता पक्ष सवालियों के घेरे में बराबर खड़ा हुआ करता है क्योंकि जवाबदेही वही संभालता है। ऐसे भी अवसर आते हैं जब सत्ता पक्ष सवालियों के घेरे में मजबूती से कसा हुआ दिखाई पड़ता है, उस समय कभी-कभी उसी पक्ष से उत्तेजना दिखाई पड़ती है, और हमको लगता है ऐसे अवसर पर आपके संयम और आपके कठोर निर्णय की महत्ता है। आपने अपनी एक शानदार सफलता एकेडमिक फील्ड में हासिल की है। कभी-कभी सदन में जो आपके वक्तव्य होंगे वह राज्य सभा की प्रोसिडिंग्स का इतिहास बनेंगे। हम लोगों को विश्वास है कि जिस ढंग की आपकी पारी रही है, इस सदन में जो आप रूलिंग देंगे वैसा ही इतिहास बनेगा। सभापति महोदय, भारतीय संसद में यहां कई ऐसी परम्पराएं रही हैं जो अनोखी और अद्वितीय हैं। कुछ ही वर्षों पहले इस देश ने क्या खोया क्या पाया, इसके ऊपर जोरदार बहस हुई थी और उस प्रोसिडिंग के माध्यम से देश के सारे सांसदों ने देश की ज्वलंत समस्याओं पर विचार करने का काम किया था। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि अपने इस कार्यकाल में वैसे इश्यू भी आप लाएंगे तथा सदन की कार्यवाही में शामिल कराएंगे जो भविष्य में देश के खतरे को टालने में मददगार हो सकें। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि सदस्यों के साथ आपके आदर के भाव, आपके सम्मान की भावना, आपका संयम कायम रहेगा और खास

कर सत्ता में शामिल लोगों का कभी-कभी जोर ज्यादा दिखाई पड़ता है इससे बाधा पहुंचती है। असहमति रखने वाले लोगों के ऊपर आपका हाथ ज्यादा उदारता का होगा, ज्यादा न्याय का होगा। इतना ही कह करके मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

Dr. Barun Mukherjee: Sir, I rise on behalf of my party, the All India Forward Bloc, to congratulate you heartily on your assuming the high office of the Chairman of this august House and the Vice-President of this great democratic country of ours. We are happy and proud to receive a great personality like you in whom various glorious streams of knowledge and experience have merged together. We hope the House will be greatly benefited by your wisdom and guidance. As you would appreciate, there may be conflicting ideas and divergent views amongst many of us, and these are very often expressed through occasional fiery speeches by many of the hon'ble Members in the House. But on one point we are all together and, that is, the interests of the country. I hope that you would always guide the House towards this common point of view of all the hon'ble Members.

Before I conclude, I have one humble submission, Sir. Please, do allot some time not only to Members of big parties but also to Members of those parties which are bracketed here as 'other parties'. Let all of us contribute collectively to the proceedings of this august democratic House. Thank you.

Shri K. Natwar Singh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not hold any position in the Government or in my party. I am speaking to you as someone who has known you for over 45 years, and known you extremely intimately. I just want to reiterate what Shri Tarlochan Singh said, that when the Non-Aligned Summit took place in March 1983, you were Chief of Protocol and I was Secretary-General of the Summit, under Shrimati Indira Gandhi. At the Commonwealth Conference in the same year, in November, you were the Chief of Protocol and I was the Chief Coordinator. And when Indiraji passed away, you, Tarlochan Singhji and I worked hard, because our hearts were broken, our lives were cut into two, to see that nothing went wrong for her funeral. I just want to say two things. Your refinement of character reminds one of Dr. Zakir Husain. Having known you so long, all I can say is that we are singularly fortunate that an Indian of your eminence, of your distinction, of your temperament and your sensitivity presides over this House. We wish you good luck; we wish you success. You will need both, Mr. Chairman. Till ten days ago, I addressed you by your first name; now I shall address you as "Sir". All the best to you in the years to come.

Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is providential that I should follow Shri Natwar Singh because as he has said, some of us have known you for four decades and more. I was hesitant to speak here because

articulation in words is not necessary to speak about either your accomplishments or the hopes for the future or for that matter stand here to give you advice. But, Sir, as I look at that Chair and you in that Chair, as an old woman, I remember, as Dr. P.C. Alexander remembers, sitting there or elsewhere, the great people, who have occupied that Chair and the legacy that that Chair brings with it, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, not to mention the entire galaxy of other giants. Equally important has been the legacy that has adorned this bench, the nominated Members, the Rashtra Kavi Maithilisharan Gupta who aroused this nation, Dinkar and many, many others, Rukmanidevi, Prithviraj Kapoor, who in each of their fields were responsible for changing the destinies of this country at very vital and fundamental levels. And, finally, I rise because I wish to endorse very strongly and quite explicitly the points that have been made by respected Dr. P.C. Alexander and Dr. Bimal Jalan in respect of both timings as also the rules and the nature of Rajya Sabha, if it is to be Rajya Sabha, a Sabha of wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Hon'ble Leader of the House, hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, hon'ble Members of Rajya Sabha, the Indian Parliament. An individual in a multitude of a billion becomes a celebrity when summoned by your sovereign decision to become the thirteenth incumbent of this august office of the Republic. The virtue of the democratic process is obvious. Equally evident is the burden of the twin responsibilities entrusted. The enormity of the task induces humility. I am overwhelmed by the warmth of your welcome and the confidence you reposed in my stewardship of this office. I can hardly find words to express my gratitude. I do pledge my utmost effort to discharge my duties with fairness and impartiality and to make every effort to protect and defend the rights and privileges of this Council.

Ours is a parliamentary democracy whose form and objectives are inscribed in the Constitution. Its institutions have stood the test of time. We, nevertheless, need to reiterate and reinvigorate our commitment to them and to their operational modalities. In such a system, the majority to my right and the minority to my left, both play an equal part. Here, I can do no better than to recall the words in this House of the first Vice-President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, of revered memory, and I quote: "A democracy is distinguished by the protection it gives to minorities. A democracy is likely to degenerate into tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticise fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the Government. But, at the same time, minorities also have their responsibilities. Well, they have every right to criticise, their right to criticise should not degenerate into wilful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament. All groups, therefore, have their right and have their responsibilities."

Over the years, this House has developed rules of procedure and conventions for the conduct of business. These have been amplified by the rulings of the Chair. They constitute an invaluable compendium. The assigned duty of the Chair is to ensure that all play by these rules. The referee in a game of hockey or football does carry coloured cards in his shirt pocket. A good game, however, is one in which the need to use these cards does not arise. It is my fervent hope that with your cooperation, the latter mode would characterise our common endeavour.

Hon'ble Members, even though I am a new comer to this august body, as a citizen I am not unaware of its deliberations. Much has been done, continues to be done and would be done here to promote the national agenda. In an era of rising expectations, however, our work has to respond to changing perceptions and requirements of the people and particularly of the weaker sections of our society. They, after all, constitute the overwhelming majority of our population.

The challenge lies in the need to ensure equitable distribution of the fruits of development. The challenge also is to seek justice through substantive equity and meaningful fraternity. The will to do so is one aspect of it. Institutional efficacy and a delivery mechanism is another. Both are integral to the process of change. Delays aggravate matters. We need to recall Macaulay's caution: "Excesses of people are directed against those whom they suspect of interfering with the public good." Each of these imposes an additional responsibility on the representatives of the people. A few days back, my very distinguished predecessor rightly observed, "The quality of governance in a democracy will critically hinge on the quality of business transacted in the Parliament."

I make bold to suggest that an awareness of this would be a first step in meeting public expectations.

I conclude with an Urdu couplet that has often been a fair guide to me personally:

जुस्तजू है जिंदगी, जौक-ए तलब है जिंदगी,
जिंदगी का राज लेकिन दूरी-ए-मंजिल में है।

I thank you once again for the welcome extended to me.

