



**HUMOUR IN THE HOUSE:
A GLIMPSE INTO THE ENLIVENING
MOODS OF RAJYA SABHA**

HUMOUR IN THE HOUSE

A glimpse into the enlivening moods of Rajya Sabha

Edited by

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Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
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PREFACE

Humour is an enlivening force capable of transforming a tensed and turbulent atmosphere into an amiable one. It brightens life and instills in it the spirit of harmony and goodwill. Mahatma Gandhi had once expressed categorically, 'If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide'. Humour, therefore, is indispensable intangible and forms the texture of our life. Emphasizing its significance, the eminent psychologist and author Edward De Bono has said, 'Humour is by far the most significant behaviour of human mind'.

Humour in Parliament reflects some of the fascinating and captivating moments which help one to understand parliamentary proceedings in a proper perspective. As representatives of the people hailing from various walks of life and professing a wide variety of political persuasions put forth their points of view in Parliament on a number of issues, one witnesses numerous occasions interspersed with witty remarks and scintillating humour, which serve as a potent device to relieve the burgeoning tension and lift up the sagging spirits. Humour revitalizes the debates and helps create an ambience of bonhomie in the House. Good parliamentary humour disarms without hurting anybody's sentiments. Many a time apt use of humour and wit drives home significant points in a very subtle and effective way.

It is said that the most perfect humour and wit are generally quite unconscious. The exchanges in the House are also neither pre-rehearsed nor pre-meditated, making them thoroughly enjoyable and delightful. In fact, they have been the products of lively and vivacious minds reacting instantly and spontaneously to a particular situation.

A publication titled *The House Laughs—An Anthology of Wit and Humour in the Rajya Sabha* was brought out in September 1989. It contained instances of nimble wit and humorous ripostes covering the period from the 1st Session to the 150th Session of the Rajya Sabha, i.e. from 1952 to 1989.

The present publication titled *Humour in the House—A glimpse into the enlivening moods of Rajya Sabha* contains instances of wit and humour in the House upto the Monsoon Session of 2003 (199th Session). An attempt has been made to present the book in a manner that will enable the reader to have a feel of the proceedings in the House and have a sense of involvement in the debates.

(ii)

I must express my deep appreciation for the valuable work done by the Research and Library Section of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in compiling the instances of wit and humour and presenting them in an interesting way. The publication would be a useful addition to the corpus of literature available on Parliament.

I hope, this book will be appealing to the readers and provide them with an interesting insight into the myriad moods of the House.

New Delhi;
December 2003

DR. YOGENDRA NARAIN
Secretary-General

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a

Humour is both tranquilliser and equalizer

— Mahatma Gandhi

1. Abortive attempts

Shri M. A. Baby : We are discussing labour. Maternity benefits should be discussed. Then, you may have to refer to labour pains also. The result will be a baby.

The Deputy Chairman* : Mr. Baby, it is a nice joke about labour, labour pains and a baby being born...It is a serious matter. I am very serious about it. I am not taking it as a joke. All these attempts by any lady member... I underline it...to ameliorate the situation of women are always abortive because you people make it a joke.

2. Accepting the existence of God

When members of Rajya Sabha reassembled on the second day of the new year, an interesting exchange took place as they offered their greetings to the Chairman†.

An hon'ble member : Sir, wish you a Happy New Year.

नववर्ष की शुभकामनाएं। अब चतुरानन जी ने आशीर्वाद दे दिया, तो सब ठीक रहेगा।

(Best wishes for the New Year. Now that Shri Chaturananji has showered his blessings upon us every thing will be right.)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रा : शंकर को कौन आशीर्वाद दे सकता है?

(Shri Chaturanan Mishra : Who can bless Lord Shankar** ?)

श्री सभापति : उनकी तो आंख बंद रहे तो अच्छा रहता है।

(The Chairman : It would be better if his eye remains closed.)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रा : चतुरानन का तो लिमिटेड पावर है। शंकर के सामने तो चतुरानन कुछ भी नहीं।

(Shri Chaturanan Mishra : Chaturanan*** has got limited power. Chaturanan has no power before Shankar.)

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

** Allusion to Lord Shiva

*** Allusion to Lord Brahma, the god of creation. He is also known as Chaturanan, having four heads. Shiva is fabled to have burnt up the universe and all gods including Brahma by a scorching glance from his third eye, which is on his forehead. The opening of his third eye causes, *pralaya*, the deluge.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : ये खुशी की बात है कि साम्यवादी होकर भी भगवान के अस्तित्व को इन्होंने स्वीकार किया है।

(Shri Shankar Dayal Singh : It is gratifying to note that despite being a Communist he* has accepted the existence of God.)

श्री सभापति : अरे भाई, नाम से ही स्वीकार कर लिया इन्होंने।

(The Chairman : Look he has accepted Him by his name itself.)

3. Adopting a champion

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

The Chairman** : Now, we take up the election of the...

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Sir, will you notice that towards the end of the question hour, the booths are being captured under the leadership of the Prime Minister?

The Chairman : You mean the seats have been captured and not the booths.

* * * * *

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

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Now, I allow her to cross the floor.†

* * * * *

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the Prime Minister...

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Sir, for once he is agreeing with the Prime Minister.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Many times in the past we agreed and many times in the future also we will agree when the interest of the nation is at stake.

* * * * *

* Shri Chaturanan Mishra

** Shri R. Venkataraman

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

Shri Aladi Aruna alias V. Arunachalam : Sir, she comes from Madras...sorry, Sir...she comes from Maharashtra... I always think of my state and that is why I said like that.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : He has been adopted by the Congress (I) Party and he is also adopting her!

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

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

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

An hon'ble member : A stepping stone!

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

* * * * *

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : ...I only, Sir, recommend to her that in this House many well-known ladies had held the post of Deputy Chairman, and it was the late Mrs. Violet Alva who discharged her duties as Deputy Chairman in a real impartial manner. She was a terror both to the

Government and to the Opposition. And, Sir, I do recommend to her that such type of attitude is required.

* * * * *

Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil : ...I have sat on both sides of the Chair, on the right and on the left, but I have never sat on the Chair. This time...

Shri K. Mohanan : Now at the centre.

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

4. Advice against interjection

Asking a supplementary on the question pertaining to the scrapping of the Perspective Plan for Women, Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan said :

"I want to know what the stand of the Government is regarding a uniform Civil Code, whether they propose to accept that part of the Perspective Plan or not. Why don't you reply, if you have the guts?"

At this point, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury intervened :

"There is nothing like guts or muscle power..."

What happened thereafter was as follows :

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : Are you answering the question?...

Shri G. Swaminathan : Why is the honourable lady member interrupting the Minister?...

Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan : Is she a Minister? She is replying to the question...

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : We have to undo the damage which was done by the previous Government. It was you who brought the Muslim Women Bill...

Thereupon, the Chairman* commented in a lighter vein :

अब आपको बात समझ में आई होगी कि दो महिलाओं के बीच में कभी नहीं पड़ना चाहिए। मेरा कहना मान लो।

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

(Now, you might have realised that one should never interject between two women. Do accept my advice.)

5. Age does not disable

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1999 had been allotted only an hour for discussions which provoked Shri Gurudas Das Gupta to state that he could not recall a commitment made to that effect in the Business Advisory Committee. The following dialogue between the Deputy Chairman* and Shri Gurudas Das Gupta ensued thereafter :

The Deputy Chairman : We depend not on the members' memory, but we depend on what is printed on the paper. My memory and your memory can be failing because of age. But whatever is printed in the paper is not failing.

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : There can be printing mistakes also.

However, a more chivalrous response came from Shri Nilotpal Basu who commented wittily : "Madam, age cannot be a disabling factor for you."

6. Aids or aid ?

Asking a supplementary on the question regarding enquiry into the death of a diplomat from Zimbabwe due to AIDS, Shri Anand Sharma suggested :

"Sir, the way things are, through you I would like to suggest to the Government that they should have some alert Ministers because AIDS is a very serious disease. It is not possible for him† to deal with it."

Reacting to this Shri Suresh Kalmadi said :

"Sir, they should be allowed official 'runners'. Last week also, when the Tau** came, he also needed a runner. Some junior Ministers must be alert to answer this question."

A witty tenor was provided to the lively debate when Shri P. Shiv Shanker*** applied a homonym in the following manner : "Sir, neighbour should not be allowed to 'aid' him."

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Referring to Shri Nilamani Routray, Minister of Health

** Reference to Shri Devi Lal, the then Deputy Prime Minister

*** Leader of the Opposition

7. 'AIDS' defined

Members were putting supplementaries on a question relating to number of AIDS cases reported in the country. When his turn came, Shri Suresh Kalmadi remarked, "Sir, the AIDS is coming from the USA. The Minister said..."

The Chairman*, thereupon intervened in a lighter vein : "There are two different aids. One is the disease and the other financial aid."

8. Alive and in one piece

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

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

Shri Sat Paul Mittal thereupon added : "And that too alive and in one piece."

9. All about crying

In his speech during the farewell to retiring members, Dr. Raja Ramanna appreciated the fields in which other nominated members excelled and described how he too had learnt all about crying. Here is an excerpt from his speech :

"...Dr. C. Narayana Reddy writes poetry. He writes great things in the journals. And, Shabana acts. Now, I tried to behave like a very young man in the last few weeks and broke my leg, and that too in Bangkok."

An hon'ble member interrupted : "You experimented as a scientist".

Dr. Raja Ramanna replied : "No; I broke my leg. But that is where the crying part came in the sense that I had been forced to see a lot of T.V. films which I never used to see; I am sorry to say it... But now, I am an expert in seeing T.V. films of which I see Kannada films because

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

I understand Kannada. And I see the way they cry from beginning to end. I think I have learnt all about crying. But this time I am crying with happiness."

10. All colours under tricolour

The Prime Minister* was replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament. To an earlier observation of the Prime Minister that 'red (leftists) has become so pale because of the mixing with all other colours', Shri Parvathaneni Upendra made the following rejoinder :

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

Shri J. K. Jain parried : "We don't mix up with all."

The Prime Minister, however, had the last say when he quipped : "But they all come under one tri-colour."

11. All smiles

Shri Arjun Arora : Has the discussion** begun?

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

12. Almost pregnant

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

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

* Shri Rajiv Gandhi

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

13. Altruistic burglar

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari* : ...Somebody mentioned about juggler. Well, I can tell hon'ble members that I am not responsible for calling myself a burglar.

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : I said juggler.

Shri H. P. Saksena : I said it.

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

14. An appeal to speak

During the discussion on Allahabad High Court's judgement on the imposition of President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta was speaking with his face turned towards Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri. It resulted in the following interesting exchange :

श्री विष्णुकान्त शास्त्री : आप मुझे बताइए कि आप स्पष्टीकरण मुझसे पूछ रहे हैं कि उनसे पूछ रहे हैं? किससे पूछ रहे हैं?

(Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri : May I know if you are seeking clarifications from me or them? Whom are you asking?)

उपसभाध्यक्ष : सरकार से पूछ रहे हैं। ... डा. दासगुप्ता, आप अपनी बात बोलिए। शास्त्री की तरफ मत देखिए।

(The Vice-Chairman** : He is asking the Government... Dr. Dasgupta, say what you have to say. Don't look towards Shastri.)

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Madam, I cannot compete with Shastriji.

The Vice-Chairman : I know you both are very good friends.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Madam, though we belong to the same university, he has a much stronger vocal chord than I have. If both of us speak at the same time, then nobody would be able to hear anything. So, my appeal to Shastriji is to allow me to speak and not to take away my freedom of speech.

* Minister of Finance

** Shrimati Kamla Sinha

15. An expert's advice

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

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

16. An hour of power

During a question hour, when a starred question regarding development of "Controlled Shunt Reactor" was being taken up, Shri Suresh Pachouri commented :

महोदय, यह प्रश्नकाल पावर का प्रश्नकाल बन गया है।

(Sir, this question hour has become the hour of power.)

The following exchange took place thereafter :

श्री सभापति : महिलाओं का प्रश्नकाल हो गया है।

(The Chairman* : It has become an hour of women.)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : वे भी पावर हैं।

(Shri Suresh Pachouri : They are also power.)

श्री सभापति : देखिए, नाम लेते ही पावर पैदा हो गई।

(The Chairman : See, just a reference to them has generated power.)

The Minister, however, had the final say, as he observed :

वह भी शक्ति हैं, सर। महिला भी शक्ति है।

("They are also *Shakti* (Power). Women are also power.")

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

17. An inference

While speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik narrated the following incident which had happened in a train :

In the night, when all the people, after taking their meals, were about to sleep, a young man got up and told the co-passengers 'Gentlemen, one train goes from Amritsar to Gurdaspur; the distance is 45 miles and another train goes from Amritsar to Lahore; the distance is 35 miles; would you please tell my age?' He put this question to his fellow-travellers 'would you please tell my age?'. The other passengers began to wonder what the distance covered by the trains has got to do with the age of the questioner. But a young man got up and said, yes, I can very well tell your age. He said, 'Yes, you are 48'. 'Exactly so, but how could you make it out?' The young man said 'There is a friend of mine who is 24 but half mad'.

18. Animal which changes complexion

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

कौन-कौन से जानवर ऐसे हैं जो रंग बदलते हैं।

(Which animals change their complexion?)

And then one student stood up and said : "Masterji, may I tell you?"

उन्होंने कहा: हां बतलाओ। उसने कहा "विधायक"

(He said : "Yes, tell." The student answered : "Legislator".

This was the moral stature to which we had gone down in Haryana.

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

19. Arrangements for pests not for men

When Shri Sharad Yadav* was replying to the question on Food Security Project, Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari interrupted to ask him about what had happened to the 75 lakh tonnes of grain which was stolen from the F.C.I.** godown.

The Chairman*** interposed with his comment :

वह अलग क्वेश्चन है। अभी कीड़े-मकोड़ों के खाने तक का इलाज इन्होंने किया है। चोरी का अलग क्वेश्चन है।

(That is a separate question. He has so far made arrangements against destruction of foodgrains by pests, insects, etc. Stealing (by men) is a separate question.)

20. Astrological view

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I hope I shall never be a Congress Minister; I would rather be dead.

Diwan Chaman Lal : I am not so sure that many people here would not want you to be dead.

Shri Arjun Arora : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta will soon become a Jan Sangh Minister.

The Chairman† : That is astrology, not a parliamentarian's view.

21. Attracting attention in the House and outside

During supplementaries to a question on the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, Shri Piloo Mody addressing the Home Minister said :

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

The Prime Minister†† thereupon said that Shri Mody had no difficulty in attracting attention there or anywhere else.

* Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

** Food Corporation of India

*** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

† Dr. Zakir Husain

†† Shrimati Indira Gandhi

22. Attraction of the Chair

The House reassembled after lunch. The Deputy Chairman* was in the Chair.

Shri Eduardo Faleiro playfully said :

“Madam, I was going outside. When I saw you coming to the House, I came back.”

The Deputy Chairman replied in her characteristic style :

“If that is the attraction, I will keep sitting here tonight and then, we will finish all the business!”

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

b

**A legislature ought to be an exciting place reverberating
with debates and arguments and scintillating
with wit and humour**

— K. R. Narayanan

23. Babies' spirits

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri M.A. Baby was giving a rather long speech when the following interesting exchange took place :

The Deputy Chairman* : Mr. Baby, how long would you like to speak?

Shri M. A. Baby : Madam, my speech would be very short as it always was.

The Deputy Chairman : You have exhausted your time. I hope you don't exhaust the patience of the House.

Shri Md. Salim : Mr. Baby has not exhausted his spirits, Madam.

The Deputy Chairman jovially agreed :

"It is rather true that babies spirits are limitless."

24. Baby of Dr. Ramanna

During the question hour when Dr. Raja Ramanna** rose to support the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Project, Shri Suresh Kalmadi was quick to comment that the LCA Project was the baby of Dr. Ramanna. This remark of Shri Kalmadi led to the following amusing exchange in the House :

Dr. Raja Ramanna : ...I would like to strongly support it in spite of the many comments that hon'ble members were making over many years.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : Sir, it is his baby.

The Chairman*** : No insinuation, please.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : On the floor of the House he said, "It is my baby". I hope there will be a proper birth...

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy : How can there be a baby without birth? The birth has already taken place.

Dr. Raja Ramanna : Sir, it is very important that this project goes through as far as possible because the world situation is changing and

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence

*** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

our defence is very different proposition from what it used to be many years ago... This is only a request to the Prime Minister to hurry up the project.

The Chairman : What is the question? Will you hurry up the project?

Intervening in the discussion, the Prime Minister* remarked in a lighter vein :

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not know that this is the baby of Dr. Raja Ramanna. If it is his baby, I congratulate him that he has produced a good baby."

25. Baby of the House

The suggestion by Shri M.A. Baby to amend Article 77 through the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1992 was well received by other Members of Parliament. It led to some jocular remarks in the House :

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very much obliged for being given this opportunity to support a very important amendment to the Constitution which Mr. Baby has suggested. Mr. Baby is no longer a baby.

Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi : He has brought forward a very mature baby.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Yes. In fact, it is a very very mature Bill. He is not only our baby, he belongs to the whole House.

26. Baby representing all male members

The discussion on increasing the representation of women in Legislatures was going on in the House when the following repartee took place :

Shri Vayalar Ravi : Sir, a wrong impression should not go to the nation that it is only women who are supporting it. We all male members also support it.

The Vice-Chairman** : Definitely. The whole House is supporting it...

Shri M. A. Baby : Sir, I think it would be in the fitness of things, if a baby speaks representing all male members.

* Shri Chandra Shekhar

** Shri Md. Salim

To this Shri H. Hanumanthappa quipped :

"Babies are always counted with women. Women and child go together."

27. Bachelor also responsible for population increase

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

Shri A. D. Mani : Not in this Parliament.

Shri M. M. Dharia : Some members of Parliament are also responsible for that.

Shri Chitta Basu* : I am not responsible.

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

28. Bachelor father

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : The hon'ble Minister should know the family planning thing a little better. Simply because a person is a bachelor, it does not mean that he is not responsible for babies being produced.

Shri Raj Bahadur** : Sir, I never knew this, we will use this contention against him (Shri Gupta)*** in the election campaign.

29. Bachelor thinking of love letter

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

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

* Shri Chitta Basu was a bachelor.

** Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation

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

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

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

The Deputy Chairman* :** You have no wife.

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

The Deputy Chairman : Still you are thinking of love letter.

30. Bachelor's companion

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

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

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

"Both the hon'ble members can solve each other's problems."

31. Bachelor's knowledge about heart

The House was discussing the Maintenance of Internal Security Bill. Shri Nawal Kishore said that he stood with a heavy heart to support the measure in the interest of the country. Thereupon, Shri Bhupesh Gupta jocularly remarked that he controverted the member's assertion that he was standing with a heavy heart. He proposed that Shri Nawal Kishore may be put to medical examination before he was allowed to continue further.

Shri Nawal Kishore immediately replied :

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

* Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs

** Minister of Home Affairs

*** Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao

32. Bairagi in worldly affairs

During the question hour, when the question on priority to drought affected states under "Hariyali" scheme was taken up, the Chairman* requested the member Shri Balkavi Bairagi, a poet, to say something in verse. It led to a humorous banter enlivening the mood of the House :

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: महोदय, बैरागी साहब तो बैराग लिए हुए हैं, उनको किसलिए दुनियादारी में ला रहे हैं?

(Shri Prem Chand Gupta : Sir, Bairagi** *saheb* has renounced the world, why are you involving him in worldly affairs?)

श्री सभापति: यह आपकी संगत के कारण दुनियादारी में पड़ रहे हैं, वरना नहीं पड़ते।

(The Chairman : It is only because of your company that he is involving himself in worldly affairs, otherwise he would not have been interested in them.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके इस आशीर्वाद का मैं बहुत आभारी हूँ। सचमुच में प्रेम के कारण ही मैं दुनियादारी में पड़ा हुआ हूँ।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am greatly obliged for your kind words. Honestly, it is only because of love that I am caught up in worldly affairs.)

The Chairman had a word of caution:

इस प्रेम के कारण से ही तो आप धोखा खाओगे।

(If it is so because of love, you will be cheated.)

33. Beautiful ladies in control of the House

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

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

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

** *Bairagi* means ascetic

34. Beautiful or dutiful

Shri Buta Singh* : Let me remind the hon'ble lady member** that let us not be... This is the most beautiful lady member.

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : मैं, ब्यूटीफुल हूँ? मैं ब्यूटीफुल नहीं, ड्यूटीफुल हूँ।

(**Shrimati Renuka Chowdhary** : Me, and beautiful? I am dutiful, not beautiful.)

35. Beauty without a parlour

When the House was discussing a resolution regarding constituting a committee to examine the question of direct telecasting the proceedings of Parliament, an interesting exchange took place between Shrimati Margaret Alva and Shri Parvathaneni Upendra :

Shrimati Margaret Alva : Are you aware that in the House of Commons they are having a beauty parlour attached to it?

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra*** : We will have it here for you also. I don't think you need a parlour. You are beautiful even without a parlour.

36. Before or after?

During the course of a discussion, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, while commenting on a feature of the new pension scheme† that the employees having only two children will be entitled to pension, asked :

I come to the point about having two children. When? After the scheme, they should have two children or before the scheme they should have two children?

Replying later, by narrating an interesting story, Shri P.A. Sangma†† said in a lighter vein :

Now, Mishraji's point about two children. He asked whether it is before the scheme or after the scheme. I am reminded of the story of a lady who had put on so much of weight. I read it in some magazine. She was 320 kg. or so. She went to a hospital. The doctor advised her that she should take only one slice of bread. She went home and immediately rang up the doctor. She said : Doctor, I forgot to ask you. Should I take the slice of bread before or after food?

* Minister of Home Affairs

** Referring to Shrimati Renuka Chowdhary

*** Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs

† Pension Scheme for the Employees' Provident Fund Subscribers

†† The Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Labour

37. Belief in rebirth

During supplementaries on a starred question regarding killing of snakes by *Madaris* (roadside showmen), Shri Lalu Prasad made an interesting observation that according to the scriptures, when a human being dies he has to go through a cycle of birth and rebirth consisting of 84 lakh forms of existence and when ultimately he is born as a snake and the snake dies, it is reborn as a human being once again. In this context, the hon'ble member wanted to know what arrangements were contemplated by the Government for the 'rebirth' of snakes which had died in Bihar due to severe cold wave.

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : वे तो अब मनुष्य बन गए हैं।

(**Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi** : They (snakes) have become human beings by now.)

श्री सभापति : साथ में यह भी देख लीजिए कि बिहार में मरे हुए सांपों में से कितने सांप मनुष्य के रूप में परिवर्तित हुए?

(**The Chairman** : At the same time please also find out how many snakes out of those which have died in Bihar, have assumed the form of human beings.)

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : उनमें से कोई सदन में न आ जाए, इतना मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ।

(**Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi** : My only submission to you is that none of them should be allowed to come to this House.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : सभापति महोदय...

(**Shri Balkavi Bairagi** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...)

श्री सभापति : आपकी कविता हम बाद में सुनेंगे।

(**The Chairman** : We will hear your poem later on.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : मैं केवल इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी अध्यक्षता में यह ऐतिहासिक प्रश्न है। लालू का प्रश्न है और बालू का उत्तर है। आज क्या होने वाला है, यह देखने वाली बात है।

(**Shri Balkavi Bairagi** : I just want to say that a historic question has been raised under your chairmanship. It is Lalu's question (which is to be) answered by Baalu. It will be interesting to watch what happens today.)

Shri T. R. Baalu : Sir, I am a rationalist and I don't have any belief in rebirth. But in this birth, my close association with Shri Lalu Yadav will have a history behind it.

38. Belief in the same dream

During a discussion in the House, Shri Ram Jethmalani* could not understand why Shri Gurudas Das Gupta had accused him of 'having fallen'. He wanted to know what was implied by the fall. The latter obliged :

"It is a fall from the legal conviction. Total fall from the legal conviction."

Shri Ram Jethmalani then gave an assurance with an oblique jibe at his colleague's statement :

"Sir, let me put his soul to rest. While I have never believed in communism, but, at least, I have believed in the dream behind communism and a dream for a better world, a dream for a world of equality, a dream where poverty has been abolished."

39. Benefits of smoking

Participating in a debate regarding the celebration of 'No Tobacco Day' by World Health Organisation, Shri Sangh Priya Gautam cautioned the hon'ble members against the use of tobacco because of its harmful effects. Narrating an interesting anecdote in this context, he said :

...एक बीड़ी थी-पंजा छाप। बीड़ी वाला कह रहा था कि मेरी पंजा छाप बीड़ी पीने वाले को तीन बातें नहीं होंगी। नम्बर एक, उसको कुत्ता नहीं काटेगा, नम्बर दो, उस घर में चोर नहीं आएगा और नम्बर तीन, वह कभी बुढ़ा नहीं होगा। तो मुझ जैसा एक आदमी उसके पास पहुँच गया और उसने कहा कि मैं तेरी बीड़ी तब तक नहीं बिकने दूंगा जब तक उन तीनों बातों का अर्थ नहीं बताएगा। उसने कहा कि बीड़ी पीने से फेफड़े खराब हो जाएंगे; टी.बी. हो जाएगी और जब टी.बी. हो जाएगी तो पैरों के बल नहीं चल सकोगे, लाठी लेकर चलोगे और लाठी को देखकर कुत्ता नहीं आएगा। इसलिए कुत्ता नहीं काटेगा। फिर पूछा कि चोर कैसे नहीं आएगा? तो उसने बताया कि जब टी.बी. हो जाएगी तो रात-भर खुल्ल-खुल्ल करेगा तो चोर समझेगा कि यह जगा हुआ है इसलिए चोर नहीं घुसेगा। फिर उसने पूछा कि बुढ़ा कैसे नहीं होगा? तो वह बोला कि जब टी.बी. हो जाएगी तो जवानी में ही मर जाएगा तथा बुढ़ा होने का नम्बर कहाँ आएगा।

(Once a *bidi* vendor in order to promote the sales of the *bidis* of a brand called *Panja* (Hand) was crying hoarse that whoever smoked *bidis* of that particular brand would never be visited

* Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment

upon by three problems, firstly a dog-bite, secondly, a theft in a house and thirdly, the old age. Then a gentleman like me went ahead and told him that until he (the *bidi* vendor) explained those three things he would not let him (the *bidi*-vendor) sell *bidis*. The *bidi*-vendor explained that *bidi* smoking will badly affect a smoker's lungs who would become a T.B. patient. After becoming a T.B. patient, the smoker would not be able to walk and instead would need a stick always while walking. Seeing a stick in his hand, a dog would never venture to come near and bite him. On being asked how a thief would not enter the smoker's house, the *bidi*-vendor replied that as T.B. patient, the poor smoker would be coughing continuously throughout the night and a thief would mistake him for being awake and would not enter his house. Lastly, the gentleman asked the *bidi*-vendor, how the smoker would never grow old. The *bidi*-vendor explained that being a T.B. patient, the smoker would die in his prime age and as such he would never grow old).

40. Better to delay

A comment on the delayed flights and Air accidents -

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : It is better to be delayed than be dead.

41. Between God and man

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

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

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

Shri Sitaram Kesri : Do you want to go to God?

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

42. Between two Mukherjees

After the short duration discussion on the Tenth Five Year Plan adopted by the National Development Council was concluded, the Deputy Chairman* commented :

"I think it is the first time a Mukherjee started the debate and a Mookherjee replied. We are packed between two Mukherjees**."

43. Between pincers

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

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

Reacting promptly Shri Gupta commented :

"Then you are between pincers".

44. Between two swamys

The Chairman† : Mr. Gurupadaswamy

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Sir, Mr. Gopalsamy or Mr. Gurupadaswamy?

The Chairman : Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Sir, I am between two Swamys.

The Chairman : It is not good for you.

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : You# have our blessings.

45. Between two Vajpayees

A question was asked in the House on the enquiry into the working of the Minorities Commission which was being replied to by Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.£ Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee put his supplementary question

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** The debate was started by Shri Pranab Mukherjee and concluded by Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee.

*** Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education

† Shri R. Venkataraman

Referring to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

£ Minister of State in the Ministry of Welfare

to the Minister and this led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

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

(Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai : No, No, hon'ble Chairman, Sir...)

श्री सभापति : दोनों बाजपेयियों में बातचीत होने दो।

(The Chairman* : Let the two Vajpayees talk to each other...)

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

(Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav : It is between the two Vajpayees - there is something at issue between the two Vajpayees.)

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

(The Chairman : How can we come in between the two Vajpayees?)

46. Birthday greetings to Chairman

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

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : Sir, you are 75 today, if I am correct.

Shri Hari Singh Nalwa : He seems to be thirty.

Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy : He is 75, but he looks like 35.

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

The Chairman : You can fairly be my son.

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

* * * * *

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

Shri Sankar Prasad Mitra: May we wish you a long and useful life in the service of the nation.

The Chairman: I hope it is a judgement*.

* * * *

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

Shri M. Kalyanasundaram: Otherwise, nothing will go on record...

The Chairman: Today everything said will go on record...

* * * *

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

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

47. Black beauty

While participating in a short duration discussion on the statement regarding report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on "Aspects of the Black Economy in India", Shri Nirmal Chatterjee remarked:

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

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

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

48. Black faces—natural or made up

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

Shri Kalpnath Rai : White paper is capitalistic.

Shri Chitta Basu : You can have a black paper also.

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

Shrimati Margaret Alva* : We will give you a red paper

Shri Chitta Basu : But you have blackened your face already. There is no doubt that you have blackened your face.

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

(**Shri Kalpnath Rai :** Your faces are already black.)

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

(**Shri Chitta Basu :** Our faces are black, no doubt but they are not black because of black money.)

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

(**Shri Suraj Prasad :** Their faces are natural whereas your faces are made up.)

49. Bold burglar

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta reacted immediately :

"Must be people belonging to your department."

50. Bottomless construction

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

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

The Deputy Chairman† : Why talk of top? We are talking of the bottom...

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

*** Delhi Development Authority

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri K. Mohanan : They are constructing buildings without foundation and so no bottom...

51. Bowled out

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

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : What happened to you?

Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare : I am here.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : What about your cricket?

Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare : Well, my cricket was partly bowled out because of the independence movement and the war days.

52. Bowled out at duck

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

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

Replying in the similar tenor, the Chairman** quipped : "Sometimes they go out for a duck."

53. Brevity's reward

There were only two minutes left for two speakers of the D.M.K. party during the debate on the Companies(Amendment) Bill, 1999. Even the Deputy Chairman*** noted that unrealistic situation. However, Shri V.P. Duraisamy gallantly said that he would get an appreciation from the Deputy Chairman as he would conclude within one minute. Shri Nilotpal Basu happened to observe that Shri Duraisamy was specially dressed up also.

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

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

As if in compensation for the time constraint, the Deputy Chairman obligingly said :

"In that one minute, he will be specially focused. We would see that the camera is focused on his nice suit and the tie while he is speaking."

54. Bringing tact and charm to the Chair

When Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla was elected Deputy Chairman a second time*, she was offered felicitations in the House by leaders of various parties and groups. Some interesting excerpts from the debates are reproduced below :

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : ...With Najma as the Deputy Chairperson I am sure she will be as impartial as fair and she will be as charming as she is beautiful in the Chair...

Shri Aladi Aruna alias V. Arunachalam : You are inviting trouble from the other beauties.

* * * * *

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : ...In addition to the irresistible charm she has, she is very tactful too. ...When some members like me came new to the House, we had the privilege of being guided by her and she knew the art of moulding the ebullient and the irrepressible. And I think I can share the secret also. Whenever she found somebody was going to be troublesome, she used to call him or her for dinner in her house...

Shri Babu Kaldate : That we were not knowing!

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : ...and she used to feed us fully with *biryani* and *firis* and the next day we almost felt sleepy. But we have graduated from that position now and no amount of *biryani* and *firis* would do anything to us and we will not be influenced by that.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी, उस दिन हमने विदाई दी थी आज हम बधाई दे रहे हैं। यह सुखद संयोग है कि विदाई लेने वाली भी महिला थीं और बधाई लेने वाली भी महिला हैं।

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day we gave farewell** and today we are giving congratulations. It is, of course, a happy coincidence that the receiver of the farewell was a lady and the receiver of the congratulations is also a lady.)

* On November 18, 1988

** Reference to the farewell given to Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, former Deputy Chairman.

श्री सभापति: हम आपको भी बधाई देना चाहते हैं।

(The Chairman* : We want to congratulate you too.)

श्री रऊफ वलीउल्लाह: वह दिन कब आयेगा?

(Shri Raoof Valiullah : When will that day come?)

श्री सभापति: वह समझ गये। हम सोचते थे अमेरिका से आयेंगे तो बधाई देंगे।

(The Chairman : He has got it, we were waiting to congratulate him on his return from the U.S.A.)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: महिला का स्थान महिला ने लिया है यह संतोष का विषय हो सकता है मगर बहुत आनन्द का विषय नहीं है आनन्द तो तभी होगा जब कोई महिला पुरुष का स्थान लेगी। नजमा जी की वापसी है। जब वह पहले उपसभापति थीं मैं इस सदन का सदस्य नहीं था लेकिन दूसरे सदन में बैठ कर उनकी तारीफ सुना करता था।...

नजमा जी ऊँचे खानदान से हैं, पुराने खानदान से हैं। खानदान ऊँचा है, मगर परिधान आधुनिक है। ऐसा लगता है कि वे दो युगों का मेल करती हैं। उन्होंने जूलाजी में एम.ए. किया है और कार्डियाथोरेसिक में उन्होंने डाक्टरेट किया है। वे वैज्ञानिक हैं। इतनी विद्या सम्पन्न महिला राजनीति में आ गई, कम आती हैं।

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : A lady has taken over from a lady, this may be a matter of satisfaction but not a matter of great delight. It would be a matter of delight when a woman takes over from a man. Najmaji has come back to occupy her previous office. Earlier when she was the Deputy Chairperson, I was not a member of this House but even then while sitting in the other House I had the opportunity to hear people praise her...

Najmaji hails from a noble family, an old family. Though she comes of a veteran family yet her attire is modern. As if she combines the two different eras. She has done her M.A. in zoology and secured her Doctorate in Cardio-Thoracic. She is a scientist. A learned lady like her rarely joins politics.)

श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी: जैसे सभापति जी हैं।

(Shri L. K. Advani : Like our Sabhapati.)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी भी अपवादों में हैं। लेकिन मुझे इसलिए खुशी है कि वे भोपाल से संबंधित हैं। महाराष्ट्र वाले भले ही उन पर दावा करें, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश वाले उन पर दावा छोड़ने वाले नहीं हैं। भोपाल तालों की नगरी है और बम्बई में सागर है।

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Sabhapati is also an exception. But I am happy that she belongs to Bhopal. Maharashtrians may present their claim on her but the people of Madhya Pradesh are not going to relinquish their claim on her. Bhopal is a city of ponds and there is a sea at Bombay.)

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: ये लड़की को छोड़ना नहीं चाहते हैं, बहू हमारी होते हुए भी।

(Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav : They do not want to leave their daughter in spite of her being the daughter-in-law of ours.)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सागर में विस्तार है, मगर सागर में कमल पैदा नहीं होता कमल पैदा करने के लिए तो भोपाल में आना पड़ेगा। मैं नजमा जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। हम लोग उनके साथ पूरा सहयोग करेंगे, यह आश्वासन देना चाहते हैं। अगर हमें पहले पता लग जाता कि नजमा जी सत्ता पक्ष की उम्मीदवार होने वाली हैं तो शायद इस बात की मांग करते हुए भी कि हमसे पूछो, हमारी राय लो, हम मान लेते। लेकिन उन्होंने सलाह भी नहीं दिखाई। जब मैंने अपने मित्रों से पूछा कि हमारी तरफ से किस का नाम था तो नाम था श्री लक्ष्मन्नाजी का। महिलाओं के मामले में लक्ष्मण को लाना ठीक नहीं है। अगर जरूरी ही था तो हम महिषी जी को ला सकते थे, फिर मुकाबला हो जाता लेकिन मुकाबले की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी।

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Sea's expanse may be great. But Lotus does not grow in the sea. One has to come to Bhopal to grow Lotus. I would like to congratulate Najmaji. We would give her full cooperation; this assurance we would like to give her. If we could have known it earlier that Najmaji was going to be a candidate of the ruling party, probably, we would have agreed to her candidature, of course, still demanding that we should be consulted in the matter. But they did not consult us. When I asked my friends about the name from our side I was told the name of Shri Laxmanna, and in case of ladies it was not proper to bring in Lakshman. If it was necessary, we could bring Mahishiji*, then contest could have been there. But the need of contest did not arise.)

* * * * *

Shri Jagesh Desai : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that Najmaji has become the Deputy Chairman of this House. I know her since last twenty-five years.

The Chairman : Fifty-five years?

* Reference to another lady member.

Shri Jagesh Desai : I said that I know her for the last twenty-five years.

The Chairman : I thought you said 'fifty-five'.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Don't increase her age.

Shri Jagesh Desai : Sir, we have worked together in Bombay. I have seen her quality. She has a very intelligent and a very tactful attitude.

The Chairman : Attitude? I thought you said 'husband'.

* * * * *

The Chairman : Since she has been in touch with the methods and moods of this House. I am quite sure that she will be able to soften the ruffled tempers by her tact and charm. I once again congratulate her and wish success in office of Deputy Chairman.

* * * * *

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla : Sir, yesterday Mr. Gurupadaswamy said that I should be on his side. Sir, as a Presiding Officer, I certainly cannot take sides, but I assure him I will be beside him* . Sir, last time the Prime Minister was here when I was elected. He said in his speech that I should spill over the charm that I have to the members with whom you have brought me to sit. It is a long time—almost four years. I do not know how much charm is left in me...

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : Still a lot is there.

55. Budget response

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

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Tastes differ from individual to individual.

The Deputy Chairman :** I thought you were discussing the budget.

* Deputy Chairman when not presiding sits next to the leader of the opposition.

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : He is discussing beautiful ladies and not budget.

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : Beauty should also be taxed.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh* : Who would be the assessor?

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : I will be the assessor.

Shri R. Ramakrishnan : I am happy that the budget has evoked such a hearty response.

56. Bulk of the volume

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

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

Shri Piloo Mody : You know, I have never been frightened by the bul, Sir.

The Chairman : I refer to the bulk of the volume.***

C

Legislative work, no doubt is serious business but sometimes, legislators end up making it a grim business. No doubt, members should avoid flippancy in discourse, but a sense of humour goes a long way in enlivening the proceedings and enhancing the effectiveness of an argument

— Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

57. Calling detention

The proceedings in the House after the Question Hour was interrupted without end by the Members in spite of the Deputy Chairman's* plea to let her finish reading the allotment of time for the Government legislative and other business.

Observing the commotion, Shri Prem Chand Gupta exclaimed :

इससे बड़ा कॉलिंग अटेंशन क्या होगा?

(What more important calling attention can there be?)

Shri Kapil Sibal rejoined : "We are calling for detention, not attention."

58. Candle for light

Since the country's power crisis had taken up a good part of the question hour, it was decided to have a full-fledged discussion on the subject through a short duration discussion or a calling attention. The Deputy Chairman* supported the proposal with a witty remark :

"Whichever way we decide....there should be a full-fledged discussion because living in Delhi if we are thrown into darkness, at least you can throw some light even with a candle."

59. Car vs truck

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

Shri Arif Mohammad Khan*** : I do not know if Mr. Mohanaragam will be personally interested in the Maruti car which is a small car.

The Chairman : No deals can be struck here.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri R. Venkataraman

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

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

The Chairman : Please supply Mr. Mohanarangam with a truck.

60. Catch the eye, not the ears

At the farewell to retiring members, Shri Adhik Shirodkar recalled his first week in the House and said that he had been told to raise his hand and catch the eye of the Vice-Chairman if he wanted to speak. However, the Vice-Chairman did not permit him to speak inspite of looking at his direction several times. He consoled himself that he had five years, eleven months and three weeks to go. Next day when they met in the corridor, the Vice-Chairman asked why he had not shouted.

Shri Shirodkar replied : "I was told to catch your eye and not your ears".

61. Catch the thief

During a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the issue of corruption was also taken up which prompted Shri Joy Nadukkara to comment thus :

...I must also point out that in another state a Minister of the Government itself had said that his Government was a Government of the contractors, by the contractors and for the contractors. Here everybody is trying to fool the other by saying that the other person is corrupt. It is just like a thief running away and saying "catch the thief, catch the thief". This is the dilemma that we are in.

62. Categorical reply

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs*** was replying to a question on inter-state disputes on sharing of river waters. Shri Jaswant Singh wanted to know from the Minister whether any reduction in the share of Rajasthan had been recommended by the

* Shri Mohanarangam was a very hefty member.

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

*** Shri M. M. Jacob

tribunal which allocated 8.60 million acre feet of water to Rajasthan under the Ravi-Beas river water adjustment.

Replying to the supplementary asked by the member, the Minister said :

"Sir, in regard to Rajasthan, the allocation has not been changed by the tribunal. This stands as per the 1981 agreement..."

Shri Jaswant Singh : 1984 agreement.

Shri M. M. Jacob : It is 8.60 MAF. They are not able to utilize it because the Rajasthan Canal is not complete. There is no reduction in the water allocation.

Shri Jaswant Singh : I raised a very substantial point.

At this point the Chairman* intervened to say :

"Jaswant Singh, this is a categorical statement. You should rest assured. If I were from Rajasthan, if I were in your position, I would have been satisfied and would have sat down."

श्री जसवंत सिंह : सभापति जी, आप अगर अपनी ससुराल के प्रति थोड़ा नरम हो जाएं....

(**Shri Jaswant Singh :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you become somewhat soft towards your in-laws...)

श्री सभापति : मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि कैटेगोरिकल रिप्लाय मिल गया।

(**The Chairman :** I am saying so as categorical reply has been given.)

This led Shri Chaturanan Mishra to comment :

ससुराल से हमेशा कैटेगोरिकल रिप्लाय ही मिलता है।

(One always get a categorical reply from one's in-laws.)

63. Caught between the devil and the deep sea

During the course of discussion on nexus between politicians and criminals, in the context of Vohra Committee Report, Shri Nilotpal Basu narrated the following story :

There was a story of a politician who got elected from a constituency. Later on, he earned money. Next time, he wanted

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

to contest the election, he went before the electorate and requested them to vote for him. The electorate was very unhappy. They said, "Why should we vote for you? You have made a lot of money". The politician told the electorate, "That is precisely why you should elect me because when the new man comes in, he would start collecting money. As I have already collected some money, I will do some work. I will take a little money. So, you elect me."

64. Chacha there, not here

During a debate on the constitutionality of the imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh, the following interesting episode took place :

Shri Satish Agarwal : Mr. John, on the night of 16th October, we were in the President's cabin...it is very unfortunate, sir, that on the 17th morning....

Shri John F. Fernandes : We had a cup of coffee and nothing else.

Shri Satish Agarwal : Madam, I am not that irresponsible to quote what transpired in the President's cabin on the night of 16th October. When your plane took off from Venice, Mr. Shinde, Mr. Fernandes, myself, Mr. Venugopalachari, Mr. Alladi Rajkumar were there.

Shri Alladi P. Rajkumar : We had a cup of coffee and nothing else *chacha*.*

Shri Satish Agarwal : But we had one understanding. They used to call me *chacha* there. The understanding was that they will not call me *chacha* in this House.

65. Chair cannot be chivalrous

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

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

Reacting to this the Deputy Chairman promptly said :

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

* Uncle

** Shri Godey Murahari

66. Chair's eye

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy : Madam Deputy Chairman*, I am trying to catch your eye.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : You have caught all our eyes.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy : After you, if the Chair allows me, I want to speak, not with your permission, but with the Chair's permission.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Why are you concerned with a pair of eyes? So many eyes are on you.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy : I am only concerned with the Chair's eyes, not with anybody else's.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I know that you never like my eyes. What can I do to my eyes?

67. Chair's weight is heavier

During a discussion following the ministerial statement regarding crash of helicopter engaged by ONGC in Mumbai High, the Deputy Chairman** reiterated Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi's concern to the Minister saying that no differential treatment should be made in giving *ex-gratia* payment to the families of the contract labourers and the permanent employees who died in the crash. The Minister*** gave his assurance to that and a light hearted exchange followed between the Deputy Chairman and Shri Virumbi.

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi : I thank Mr. Minister for having accepted my proposal.

The Deputy Chairman : You must thank me also because I put my weight to it.

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi : Exactly, Madam, I thank you also.

The Deputy Chairman explained : "The chair's weight is always heavier than the member's. It is true in real terms also."

68. Chairperson or Upa—Sabhapatni

As the House reassembled after lunch, the Deputy Chairman** in the Chair, mulled over the word 'उपसभापति' and said that there should be

* Shrimati Violet Alva

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Shri Ram Naik, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

some change, meaning that she would definitely not like to become the 'Upa-Sabhapatni'. 'Chairman' or 'Chairperson' was alright but in Hindi, 'उपसभापती' sounded very peculiar.

Balkavi Bairagi patiently explained : उपसभापति महोदय, सभा अपने आप में स्त्रीलिंग है, जो भी अध्यक्षता करेगा, उसे पति ही माना जाएगा।

(Madam Deputy Chairman, *Sabha* in itself is feminine gender, whoever will preside over it will be considered its *Pati*.*)

"Male-dominated society!", the Deputy Chairman exclaimed.

69. Charity begins at every home

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta added : "And a little honesty too."

It led to some interesting repartees between the two members :

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

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Then, let charity begin at home.

Shri D. P. Dhar : It has to begin at every home...

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Do not change the old English idiom : 'Charity begins at home', not at 'every' home.

* Husband. Here there is a pun on the word *Pati* which means lord, master, sovereign on one hand and husband on the other. However, *Patni* is feminine counterpart of *Pati* and unlike *Pati* it means wife only.

** Minister of Planning

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

70. Child labour

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

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

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

71. Child Minister

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

Shri Sukomal Sen : Sir, is there any ban that a child below 14 years cannot...

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Can there be a child Minister?

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

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : He is exactly on 14.

72. Churchillian politician

During a discussion†, Shri M.N. Das wished to highlight the big promises made and broken with equanimity by governments and smart politicians who get away with it. He quoted thus to substantiate his point :

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

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Shri P.A. Sangma, the then Minister of State for Labour. He is short in height and looks quite young.

† Motion of Thanks on President's Address

...And with Rs. 2,500 crores annually for road connectivity programme is it possible to connect one lakh villages in seven years time? Now all these programmes remind me of a famous saying of ...Sir Winston Churchill. Once Churchill was asked, 'How do you define a successful politician?' Prompt came the reply from Churchill, "A successful politician is he who can tell you today what he will do for you tomorrow and explain it away the day after tomorrow why he could not do it yesterday." I am sure, in the present Government we have many politicians of the Churchillian definition.

73. Cock and bull government

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

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

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

Shri Godey Murahari : Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee is the cock and Mr. Jyoti Basu is the bull.

The Deputy Chairman* : Mr. Krishan Kant, you ask your question.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Sir, we are all bulls against vested interests and cocks against monopoly.

74. Coconut's dynamic approach

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

* Shri B. D. Khobaragade

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

75. Coloured glasses to Ministers

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

Shri D. P. Karmarkar* : I shall take note of that suggestion.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : May I know whether the Ministers are being supplied with coloured glasses?

76. Comedy of errors

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I have not quoted him. I said Mr. Chinai*** was smiling there.

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I said Mr. Chinai.

Shri B.R. Bhagat : I thought he referred to the economist, Prof. Shenoy.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : No, no. I referred to the capitalist patron of yours, who sits next to you.

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : Comedy of errors.

77. Coming events cast their shadow

Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora : Mr. President, Sir,...

The Chairman† : No, no, it is the Chairman†† here.

* Minister of Commerce

** Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance

*** Another member sitting in the House, Shri Babu Bhai M. Chinai

† Shri R. Venkataraman

†† Under the Constitution, the Vice-President of India is *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Shri Venkataraman was eventually elected as the President of India).

Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may be, the coming events cast their shadows beforehand...

78. Common tea

Asking supplementary on his question on rising price of tea, Shri Indradeep Sinha wanted to know from the Minister* as to what are the common teas. Addressing the Chair he said :

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

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

79. Companions for bachelors

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

Shri J.P. Mathur : What about those who have no spouse?

The Deputy Chairman† : You can have it.

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

80. Comparison

Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar, while making an interesting comparison between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Hugh Dalton, said :

Hugh Dalton was an economist and Dr. Manmohan Singh is an economist. Hugh Dalton was a specialist in public finance and here we have Dr. Manmohan Singh who is a great specialist in public finance. Both Hugh Dalton and Dr. Manmohan Singh enjoyed the confidence of the nation and both had resigned as Finance Ministers. Hugh Dalton resigned as Finance Minister and

* Shri Nihar Ranjan Laskar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Supply

** Shri M. Hidayatullah

*** Minister of Railways

† Shri Shyam Lal Yadav

Dr. Manmohan Singh also resigned as Finance Minister. The difference is only on one account. Why did Hugh Dalton resign? ...In that case the nation was not behind Hugh Dalton, that his resignation should not be accepted. Here the entire nation was behind Dr. Manmohan Singh, that his resignation should not be accepted.

Narrating an interesting incident in this regard, Dr. Jichkar said :

What had happened just on the eve of the presentation of his budget was, Hugh Dalton was so relaxed, like our own Finance Minister, that he went with his friend to a pub. And while leaving the pub, his friend offered a cigarette to Hugh Dalton. While taking the cigarette, Hugh Dalton said, "Let me have the last puff". His friend was a journalist and he flashed in the next day's newspapers that there was going to be an increase in the cost of cigarettes, and Hugh Dalton had to resign.

81. Compliments to retiring members

The Chairman* on behalf of the members and on his own behalf bade farewell to all those members who were to retire in 1986 after completion of their term of membership. The Leader of the House, Leaders of parties/groups and other members associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and offered their compliments to the retiring members, each in his own way. During the course of the proceedings, the House had an exuberant experience when it was treated to a feast of wit and humour, sallies, ripostes and sobriquets. It also had moments of hilarity bubbling out of the all too impressive sense of buoyancy and camaraderie.

The following rhapsody illustrates some such instances that took place during the proceedings of the House while bidding farewell to the retiring members :

Shri Dipen Ghosh : ...We will also be missing what should I say, charming ladies or noisy charming ladies. At least, two of the noisy charming ladies we will be missing. Sir, I offer my good wishes to all the retiring members.

Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi :** ...You should say, very active charming ladies.

* Shri R. Venkataraman

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

* * * *

Shri V. Gopalsamy : ...Sir, how can we forget the sweet voices of Mrs. Najma, Mrs. Margaret Alva?

The Chairman : You are discriminating.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : But you won't be missing some of the beauties here.

Mr. Chairman, sir, Mr. Khushwant Singh, of course, we may miss him in Parliament. But we will not miss his dishes, sweet and sour which every week* he is providing us... Mr. Mohanarangam** of late has been demanding, through you, a direct flight from Madras to Delhi. But I think because of his overweight the flight has to get a stop-over at Hyderabad. Whenever I see him I am really dazzled at how he moves in a lightning speed with his great size. He delivers his speech also at a lightning speed. Whenever I see him I am reminded of the famous film actor, Bud Spencer.

* * * *

Shri N.K.P. Salve : ...Dr. Samuel Johnson is said to have said of the politician that politics is the last resort of the scoundrels.

Shri R. Mohanarangam : No.

Shri N.K.P. Salve : I do not know how much we know of scoundrels, because I thought scoundrel is a scoundrel wherever he is. Sir, you have been with us for quite some time, and if you were to see us here, you may have an opinion about us. But if you see us in the lobbies and the Central Hall devouring Rasogullas, Gulabjamuns, Ballushais, the camaraderie and the fellowship that you had seen there would surely impel you to feel that we are the greatest gentlemen existing on the earth.

* * * *

Shri R. Mohanarangam : ... Our elderly statesman, Mr. Lal Krishna Advani, used to speak in fine English and for the past three or four days, after getting elected as the President of the BJP, he has started speaking in Hindi, of course, very fine Hindi, which I cannot understand, as Mr. Ghosh cannot understand my English. He is a very good speaker and I have read two books written by him two or three years ago. We cannot forget Mr. L.K. Advani.

* Perhaps reference here is to his weekly column appearing in a daily under the title with Malice towards one and all.

** Shri R. Mohanarangam was among the retiring members.

...I have to mention something about Mr. Gopalsamy, not that he mentioned about me here. I used to cross swords with him. My sword is a fine sword. His sword is also fine but his sword cannot beat my sword. Mr. Jain is here. I am told he is not coming back. How could it be? He is having a double-throat. He is having a mike in his throat. He wants to shout down the opposition parties. By shouting them down he wants to wipe out the opposition parties. He is imagining he can do so. But it is an impossibility. Anyway, I hope he will definitely come back. Now I turn to my guru, Mr. Kalpnath Rai; guru, in the sense he is of my size.*

* * * *

Shri Khushwant Singh : ...Then sitting next to me was the lovely Nargis Dutt, at one time the sweetheart of the country. With her went a lot of irrepressible charm from this House. Sitting on my other side was the poet Bhagwati Charan Varma, a man of great peace. He used to turn up only after the zero hour or the question hour was over and spent the afternoon comfortably sleeping. I mention these names, particularly the last two, because, Mr. Chairman, you might have noticed that one sat on my right side and the other sat on my left. Now, most members are reluctant to sit on either side of me because of what happened** to my predecessors.

...And I think it is only people like you who could keep my friends like Kalmadi and J.K. Jain and Usha Malhotra under control as nobody else could. And I may suggest to the Government that there should be an award called 'Akhil Bhartiya Anti-interruption Visist Seva Medal' which could be given to you. However, I must add one caveat to this, Mr. Chairman, I notice that you are very anxious to ring the bell when it came to another members. But when it came to Jayalalitha, you were always looking somewhere else. At first...

The Chairman : Local patriotism.

Shri Khushwant Singh : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I thought, perhaps, you had a soft spot for people coming from your part of the world. But

* Both Shri Mohanarangam and Shri Rai are known for their corpulency.

** Both of them are deceased.

when I noticed that the same latitude was not extended to my friend Mohanarangam or Gopalsamy, then I felt better because at least there is one enthusiasm...

The Chairman : The Chair should not be exposed. The Chair is above criticism.

Shri Khushwant Singh : There is at least one enthusiasm that you and I share together... And, finally, Sir, just one request because this is my last one to you. When it comes to the time when you have to read my obituary, I hope, you will not keep your eye on the watch and see when the minute is over. I hope that you can reduce it to ten seconds, but do it with a sigh or a tear.

* * * * *

Shrimati Usha Malhotra : Sir, I cannot also forget Bhupeshda. He would always look at me when I interrupted him and the Chair would continuously call out and say: 'Please look at me, and not the lady' and he said 'I cannot resist it'.

* * * * *

Shri Biswa Goswami : ...I do not know what magic you have applied in doing away with the 'zero hour'. I feel that 'zero hour' used to be the most interesting part of the proceedings of the House. Although you said yesterday that you want to be a headmaster, we want you here in this House not as a headmaster but as a Presiding Officer of this House.

The Chairman : A benevolent headmaster.

An hon'ble member : Either head or master, but not both.

Shri Biswa Goswami : I also had the privilege of witnessing very interesting incidents in this House. Particularly, I saw the lady members rising from their seats simultaneously and in a chorus they protested to certain remarks of the opposition members and then the Chairman used to call them the 'women brigade' of the House. Not only were the opposition members afraid but even the Chairman was scared of that 'brigade'.

* * * * *

Dr. Joseph Leon D'Souza :...you have trained me and I used to look at my watch, at the electric clock to see that I did not go beyond

60 seconds. And now at this stage I find it is difficult because I trained myself to 60 seconds, and you are giving me all the time in the world. Yes, this is what the Englishman calls 'comedy of errors'.

82. Concentrating too much on lady member

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

Thereafter, the following pleasantries were exchanged :

Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh : I am referring to the hon'ble lady member. You are trying to compete with the hon'ble lady member.

Dr. Shanti G. Patel : If you want to compete, I will leave the field open for you. You are capable.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia :** You are concentrating too much on the lady member.

83. Concern for property

During the discussion over a calling attention relating to deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, Shri K. C. Pant*** made some remarks in a lighter vein to which Shri Bhupesh Gupta caustically replied :

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

The Deputy Chairman† : You do not have any property.

Shri K.C. Pant : I am very glad that he has concern for property.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Yes, of course, I have. I have a typewriter —the highest property that I have.

* Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh

** Minister of State in the Department of Railways

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

† Shri Godey Murahari

84. Concession

When Shrimati Yashoda Reddy was speaking, she was interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta. The Vice-Chairman* advised Shri Gupta not to interrupt ladies. Sympathising with Shri Gupta**, Shrimati Yashoda Reddy remarked :

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

Reacting to the comment, Shri Bhupesh Gupta said :

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

Clarifying her intent, Shrimati Reddy said :

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

85. Concession to bachelors

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

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

86. Concluding in one sentence

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

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

The Chairman† : One sentence. I will watch.

* Shri D. Thengari

** Shri Gupta was a bachelor

*** Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications

† Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

Shri C.G.K. Reddy : It will have to be a compound, complicated sentence.

The Chairman : Better give it in writing.

87. Confluence

Shri Shatrughan Sinha associating himself with a point raised by Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata regarding funds crunch for Godavari project, led to some lighter moments in the House.

Shri Shatrughan Sinha :This is my first association.

The Deputy Chairman* : I like this across - the - floor association...

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia : Madam, Shatrughanji is from Ganga and she is from Godavari.

गंगा-गोदावरी का मिलन है।

(It is the meeting of Ganga and Godavari.)

Shri Shatrughan Sinha : The Ganga and Godavari rivers have the same problem...This is my first association and where could I get a better person than my partner in the reel life?

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : मैडम, गंगा-यमुना का संगम तो देखा था, गंगा-गोदावरी का संगम कभी नहीं।

(**Shri S. S. Ahluwalia** : Madam, I have seen the confluence of Ganga -Yamuna but never the confluence of Ganga and Godavari.)

Nevertheless, the Deputy Chairman made an apt observation when she said :

"This is a national river grid scheme. At least, we have this grid in our House."

88. Consistency vs. inconsistency

Shri B. K. P. Sinha : Consistency is not the virtue of man.

Shri S. Mahanty : Inconsistency is the prerogative of a harlot.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

89. Constraints of Chairman

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

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

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

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

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

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

90. Contributions of modern science

While speaking on the Appropriation Bill, Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem inadvertently addressed the Chair*** as 'Madam' when the Vice-Chairman, Shri Chimanbhai Mehta was in the Chair. The following exchange came as a sequel to that inadvertence :

An hon'ble member : Not 'Madam', but 'Sir'.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : This is one of the contributions of modern science—the transformation of sex.

91. Conversion of heart

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

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

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture

** Shri R. Venkataraman

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

Dr. K.N. Katju* : I am always with you.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I hope conversion of heart is also taking place.

Dr. K.N. Katju : No, no. I am going away. It is dangerous.

92. Corner for ladies

Shri A. G. Kulkarni was making a special mention regarding the fast undertaken by a sitting judge of the Bombay High Court. Speaking about the degeneration in the value of human life he said :

Although we talk of moral value and all the other values...what we just discussed...the position of the judiciary has come to a stage where a sitting judge of the Bombay High Court has to undertake a fast because a lady advocate was threatening him on telephone as well as by different methods that he should not give judgement in a...

As he used the word 'lady advocate', the following quibbling interjection took place :

Shrimati Margaret Alva : Why do you say 'a lady advocate'?

Shri N. K. P. Salve : 'An advocate' should have been enough.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : It is a lady advocate. What can I do? If ladies are aggressive like Margaret, what can I do?

Shri N. K. P. Salve : You are a match...

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : I am a match for everybody.

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

"Don't object to what Mr. Kulkarni is saying. He has a soft corner for ladies."

93. Cricket — a counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie activity

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

* Minister of Home Affairs and States

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

Chairman* quipped :

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

94. Crocodiles changing colours

Shri A.G. Kulkarni : Politicians have become like crocodiles changing colours...

Shri Chitta Basu : But crocodiles do not change colours.

95. Crown for the wife

There was a brief light-hearted interlude when the Prime Minister** while replying to a debate*** came to the topic of Women's Reservation Bill.

श्री लालू प्रसाद : माननीय प्रधानमंत्री तो महिला विरोधी हैं, आज तक इन्होंने शादी नहीं की है।

(Shri Lalu Prasad : The hon'ble Prime Minister is anti-woman, he has remained unmarried up till now.)

उपसभापति : लालू जी, यह तो मालूम है कि आप महिलाओं के हित में हैं, तभी तो आपने यहां महिला को मुख्यमंत्री बना दिया है।

(The Deputy Chairman† : Laluji, it is known that you are pro-woman, that is why you have installed a woman as the Chief Minister of your State.)

श्री लालू प्रसाद : शाहजहां ने तो बेगम के मरने के बाद ताजमहल बनाया था, हमने अपनी बीवी को जीते जी ताज पहना दिया है।

(Shri Lalu Prasad : Shahjahan had built the Taj Mahal after the death of his Begum (queen) whereas I have placed the Taj (crown) on the head of my living wife.)††

* Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

** Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

*** Motion of Thanks on the President's Address

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

†† There is a pun on the word 'Taj' which means a crown as well as the famous white marble mausoleum Taj Mahal built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan to immortalize his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal—also known as Taj Bibi. Shrimati Rabri Devi became the first woman Chief Minister of Bihar on July 25, 1997, succeeding her husband Shri Lalu Prasad.

96. Crown in an illustrious career

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla was elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in October 1999. For the first time in the annals of IPU, a woman had been elected unanimously as the President. Felicitations poured in the House from leaders of various parties and groups honouring her achievements during her illustrious career. Some interesting excerpts from the House are reproduced below :

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : मैडम, ऐसा लग रहा है—जैसे पिता के घर से बेटी को विदा किया जा रहा है।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Madam, it seems as if a daughter is bid adieu from her parental home.)

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : यह ऐसी बेटी है—जो घर से विदा होने के बाद भी घर में ही रहेगी।

(Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi : This is a daughter who will remain in her parental home even after her marriage.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : मैडम, मैं भी कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। मैडम, ऐसा लग रहा है कि सारे का जो मन है :

लगता है आज फूलों से खुशहाल, मालामाल हर डाली हो गई
लगता है आज फूलों से खुशहाल, मालामाल हर डाली हो गई
आपके कारण हमें गौरव नया मिला
दिवालियों से पहले ही दिवाली हो गई।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Madam, I would also like to say something. It seems that the entire House has a different kind of feeling :

"Today, it seems that each plant
is full of flowers,
we are honoured afresh due to you.
Diwali has come before the actual Diwali.")

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी :

मुक्त करो नारी के मानव
इसे मानवी का गौरव दे
पूर्ण सत्व दो नूतन
उसका मुख जग का प्रकाश हो
उठे अंध अवगुण्डन।

(Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari :

"Emancipate the woman
and give her due respect
Let her enlighten the world
and the darkness will vanish away")

97. Cup of good coffee

When Shri R. Ramakrishnan rose to speak on the Coffee (Amendment) Bill the following witty exchange took place in the House :

Shri R. Ramakrishnan : Madam Deputy Chairman, I am speaking on this Bill for two reasons, firstly, I represent this august House on the Coffee Board.

The Deputy Chairman* : You can brew it very well.

Shri R. Ramakrishnan : Thank you very much, Madam, for the compliment.

Shri Jagesh Desai : You can give us some coffee.

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** A booklet on humour published by the Secretariat.

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Laughter is always shared. None laughs in anticipation,
nor smiles with retrospective effect

— Madhu Dandavate

98. *Dal unadulterated*

During a short duration discussion, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was referring to the inordinate rise in the prices of essential commodities in the country. Giving a picture of the rapidly deteriorating economic situation he said :

मैं बार-बार जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं के मूल्यों का सवाल उठा रहा हूँ—आम आदमी के काम में आने वाली चीजें। मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं, मैं आंकड़े देकर अपने भाषण को भारी नहीं बनाना चाहता। दाल के भाव बढ़े हैं। खाने के तेल के दाम में दस रुपये की वृद्धि हुई है एक छोटे से टिन के ऊपर। सीमेंट के भाव बढ़े हैं। चाय के दाम बढ़े हैं। इन वस्तुओं के मूल्यों की वृद्धि आम आदमी के बजट को बिगाड़ रही है, पारिवारिक जीवन को अस्त-व्यस्त कर रही है, नमक भी महंगा हुआ है। मैं दाल की बात इसलिए कर रहा था कि दाल गरीब का खाना है, उसमें प्रोटीन है और दाल में यह शक्ति है कि अगर बिना बुलाए मेहमान घर में आ जाएं तो जल की मात्रा बढ़ाकर मेहमानों को संतुष्ट किया जा सकता है। यह क्षमता किसी और खाद्य पदार्थ में नहीं है।

(I have been raising repeatedly the question of the steep hike in the prices of commodities, which are of daily use for the common man. I have data in this regard. I do not want to make my speech burdensome by furnishing the data. The price of pulses have increased. The price of edible oil has increased by ten rupees for a small tin. The price of cement has gone up. The price of tea has increased. The rise in the price of these articles has been upsetting common man's budget. It has been creating disorder in the family life of the common man. The price of salt has also increased. I was referring to the hike in the price of pulses or *dal* because pulses are the main food of the poor and these contain protein and if uninvited guests arrive at unexpected hours to one's home, one can increase the quantity of *dal* by adding water to it. This cannot be done with any other food article.)

At this moment the Prime Minister* intervened :

कभी-कभी उसमें काला भी होता है।

(Sometimes there could be something fishy about it.)

* Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

To this, Shri Vajpayee wittily remarked :

दाल में काला होता है, मगर पूरी दाल काली न हो जाए मुझे इसका डर पैदा हो रहा है।

(There may be something fishy about it but the fear is that the whole thing may not turn to be fishy.)

99. Darkness all around

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

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

Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja : You were creating darkness.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I know that you are in the dark. Every time I hear you, I feel that the sun never shines on those Benches. I know it.

Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja : On your Bench.

100. Daughter-in-law vs. Mother-in-law

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

101. Dealing with facts or figures

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

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

* Shri Anand Sharma

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh replied :

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

At this Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury retorted :

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

102. Defeat with grace

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

An hon'ble member : It is in Gwalior**.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : The people of Bihar have perfected themselves in this. Gwalior is no match at all.

The Chairman* :** Shri Vajpayee has accepted the defeat.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : And that also with grace.

103. Definition of Member of Parliament

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

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

"That is the definition of a Member of Parliament", quipped Shri Nirmal Chatterjee.

104. Description of Budget

When Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari was speaking on the Budget, the following amusing interlude took place in the House :

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari† : This Budget has been described by my good friends from the opposition in different types of vocabulary. I think this vocabulary was not used in the past for the past Budgets. I

* Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh is known for his corpulency.

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

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

† Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce

am thankful to them for using this vocabulary which is also rare in the annals of this House...

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : What is that ?

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari : For example, it is said it is an evangelist Budget, it is a bewildering Budget, it is a melancholy Budget, it is a *malkaus* Budget, it is a melancholy and *malkaus* Budget, it is a sugar-coated pill Budget, it is a sugar-coated pill...

Shri Murasoli Maran : They are all compliments to you.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto : A chameleon Budget.

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari : I think these are rare terms used for any Budget. Some said it is a *kajal-sindoor* Budget. In all these, I think, there is a little sense of support hidden somewhere. Take, for example, the *kajal-sindoor* Budget. *Sindoor* is not just a tribute to the womanhood of our country. *Sindoor* is a symbol of longevity of the husbands. Our valiant and devout women do not apply *sindoor* just for fun or make-up. It is for the long life of their husbands...

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : इसका असर वाजपेयीजी पर क्या पड़ेगा?

(**Shri Kalpnath Rai :** What effect would it have on Vajpayeeji?)

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari : Vajpayeeji suggested and he was good enough to support this. I am thankful to him...

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : There is an offer from Vajpayeeji. Please find a bride for him. He told me...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, वह जल्दी मर जाएगी। उसको सिंदूर लगाने का मौका नहीं मिलेगा।

(**Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee :** Hon'ble Chairman, She will die soon. She will not get a chance to apply *sindoor*.)

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : मैं कैसे कहूँ, विनम्रतापूर्वक कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप राजी तो हो जायें। अगर आप राजी हो जायें, तो फिर हम लोग जल्दी ही प्रयास करें।

(**Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari :** How can I say that, I want to say very humbly that you better agree to this. If you agree we may launch our efforts soon.)

उपसभाध्यक्ष : और सिंदूर जितना लम्बा होगा, उतनी उम्र तो बढ़ ही जाएगी।

(**The Vice-Chairman* :** And age will increase in proportion to the length of the *sindoor*-smeared parting.)

* Dr. Bapu Kaldate

105. Devil quoting scriptures

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

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

106. Devil's alternative

The New Industrial Policy was being discussed in the House. Expressing his disapproval on the policy, Shri M.S.Gurupadaswamy said that by enunciating the policy Dr. Manmohan Singh** had destroyed the very paradigm of Indian economic development instead of restoring it. In this context he related the following story :

There was a devil. The devil visited a person and he told the person that unless he does one of three things he will die immediately - either he should kill his servant or beat his wife or, thirdly, he should drink wine.

... The man thought that he should not kill his servant because he is so loyal to him. Then he also thought how he can beat his wife; she is so loving to him. Then he decided to drink the liquor. He drank the liquor. After he became drunk he killed his servant, he beat his wife and he found that he had done the very opposite thing that he wanted to avoid.

107. Difference between the girl of fifteen and sixteen

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

Shri D. P. Karmarkar* :** Really?

Shri S. Mahanty : There is. The hon'ble Minister knows it better.

Shri H. D. Rajah : Within that period one child can come.

* Shri Gurudas Das Gupta was a CPI member.

** Minister of Finance

*** Minister of Commerce

108. Difference in learning

During the question hour, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee put a supplementary to Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy's question on excise duty relief to industries and said : "Sir, I am putting it not in your way but in my own way".

The Chairman* : But your way does not make any sense.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee gave the following witty reply :

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

109. Difference of opinion

Prof. Madhu Dandavate** : Mr. Bhandare, I will come to that. I have listened to each one of you. Please have patience and the accommodation to listen to me.

Shri R. K. Dhawan : You have also been interrupting.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate : No. I have said only humorous things. Mr. Dhawan, you are new to Parliament as far as humorous sallies are concerned.

Shri R. K. Dhawan : I have the distinction of watching the proceedings of Parliament for 25 years.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate : Yes, watching from the ivory tower.

Shri R. K. Dhawan : I have been watching and listening to the proceedings for 25 years.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate : I do not challenge that. But watching the proceedings from ivory tower is one thing and participating in the living and dynamic experiment of democracy is something different.

Shri R. K. Dhawan : Watching is much more educational.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate : Yes, yes. You need education and, therefore, you are getting educated.

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of Finance

110. Different norms for bachelors

When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked a question on the minimum housing norms for urban and rural areas, Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai*, answering supplementaries said :

उपसभापति जी, वैसे वाजपेयी जी को तो मेरे ख्याल में शायद एक ही कमरा पर्याप्त होगा।

(Madam Deputy Chairman, in my view, one room will be enough for Shri Vajpayeeji**.)

Shri A.G. Kulkarni objected to this and said :

"Madam why don't you have different norms for bachelors and married people?"

111. Difficult delivery

In the question hour***, Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar submitted that deaths during child delivery were increasing due to obstructive causes. Contrary to the squatting system, he said women were made to lie in a lying-down position, as taught by the Britishers and asked to give stress against gravity. Some lighter moments followed thereafter :

Shri Satish Agarwal : Are your observations based on your personal experience?

Shri S. S. Ahluwalia : He is a doctor...

Shri Sushil Kumar Sambhajirao Shinde : He has a lot of labour pains...

Shri Md. Salim : You are taking so much labour in putting your question...

Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar : My observations are based on personal experience though not of my own but of my kith and kin...

Shri Som Pal : Can you give us a tally of your experience?

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : All of them are laughing ... They are all born in the same way. This is personal experience because each one of you has been born like this...

* Minister of Urban Development

** Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a bachelor.

*** Starred Questions on Health Management Consortium

The Chairman* wittily remarked :

"This is the first time I heard that British education has reached so far..."

112. Difficult situation

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

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

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : You can also have some firing.

Shri Sitaram Jaipuria : My friend is accustomed to fireworks. I would say that the turn was that of my friend, Mr. Ramamurti, but when I requested him to allow me to speak first, as I will have to go away early, he readily agreed to it. When I told him how he had so readily co-operated, he said : "I want to fire you also." It appears that firing is going to be on this side and on that side also.

The Deputy Chairman :** You have submitted yourself to that.

113. Difficult to control lady members

A special mention was being made in the House on the reported move by the ruling party to encourage defections of MLAs in Maharashtra. Shri Kulkarni wanted to speak but the Chairman had his own problem. He was finding it difficult to control the hon'ble lady members.

The Chairman* :** Mr. Kulkarni, will you give me one minute. I find it even more difficult to control the hon'ble lady members.

Shri Piloo Mody : That is the difficulty with all of us. All of us have experienced that difficulty.

114. Difficult to enter heaven

Shri Debabrata Mookerjee : I will not be instructed by you even if you promise me a place in heaven.

* Shri K.R. Narayanan

** Shrimati Violet Alva

*** Shri M. Hidayatullah

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : You can be sent to heaven, but the gods will refuse you.

115. Disaster development programme

While speaking on a calling attention on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy pointed out a discrepancy in the statement of the Minister of State in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation* in the following words :

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

This led to the following witty exchange :

Shri Yogendra Makwana : It is Drought Prone Area Development Programme.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : Here it is 'Disaster Development Programme'.

Shri Yogendra Makwana : It is a mistake.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : I am glad it is only a mistake.

116. Discriminatory facility

Referring to the facility of travel by first class, which was available to the spouses of the members, Shri M.P. Bhargava described it as discriminatory. He said :

Those members who are not married will not be able to avail of this. A woman member without a husband cannot avail of this facility. Therefore, it is again a facility which is discriminatory and any kind of discrimination is not correct.

This led Dr. Bhai Mahavir to comment :

"Encourage people to marry and adopt family planning."

* Shri Yogendra Makwana

117. Doctor good at diagnosis, bad at prescription

When members were asking supplementaries to a question regarding review of performance of public sector undertakings, Shri Parvathaneni Upendra was trying to hammer home a point that while the Minister of Industry* identified the reasons for the losses incurred by some enterprises, he did not suggest anything to solve them. In this context he characterised the Minister's statement thus :

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

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

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

118. Domestic bliss

Shri Madhavrao Scindia*** : Sir, a number of hon'ble members were very much exercised about the fact that they were unable to be accompanied by their spouses. The Railway Minister, Mr. Bansi Lal, has taken into consideration the view of the Members of Parliament. In consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, he has issued orders today restoring this facility. I hope this will dispel fears in the minds of members about their future domestic bliss.

119. Donkey is secular

During the course of a discussion, Shri O. Rajagopal was citing an instance as to how a wrong notion about secularism led to certain distortions. He said that in the books for teaching alphabets, the picture shown to teach the alphabet "ग" was of Ganapati† . After some people objected to it, the word was replaced by "गधा"# which he described as a sort of perversion. When Shri Vayalar Ravi made an enlightening attempt

* Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

† Lord of wisdom and welfare

Donkey

by saying that "गदा"* was associated with Bhima**, it gave Shri O. Rajagopal a chance to make his point. He said: "That is "गदा" "गधा" is donkey. Donkey is secular and Ganapati is communal".

120. Don't go to Chandigarh

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

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

121. Don't pull the chain

While taking up the motion for consideration of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2002, the Deputy Chairman† in a light vein asked the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar, to start the train.

Shri Nitish Kumar responded with equal felicity :

आपने झंडी दिखा दी तो बस चालू ही होगी।

(As you have already waved the flag, the train will have to start.)

The Deputy Chairman then said :

हाँ, बस चेन मत खींचिएगा आप लोग।

(Yes, but I only request all of you not to pull the chain.)

122. Double standard

When the House was having a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs

* A heavy metal club. Bhima had expertise in using this weapon.

** One of the five brothers who are heroes of the great epic Mahabharat.

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

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla.

in regard to the allegation against the Birla Group of Industries, Shri Krishan Kant narrated this story :

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

“लाल किताब कहती है यू,
तेली बैल पालया क्यू,
खल खा कर क्यों हुआ मस्ताना,
बैल का बैल और 500 रु. जुर्माना।”

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

123. Drought of ideas on the opposition side

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

“What is the Minister speaking on — the drought or the statement?”

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh sarcastically replied :

“Sir, I am speaking on ideas, of which there is drought on that side and flood on this side.”

* Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

** Dr. Bapu Kaldate

124. Drought in the House

The House re-assembled after lunch to discuss the severe drought situation in various parts of the country. Seeing the thin attendance in the House, the Deputy Chairman* made a remark on the drought situation and said :

“Whenever we discuss drought, there is always a drought in the House. It is a tragic situation. I think we should stop discussing drought, only then we might have some rains.”

Shri Ajit Singh**, reassured her by saying :

मैडम, कल से बारिश हो रही है।

(Madam, it has been raining since yesterday).

125. Dry bath

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

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

126. Dub speech in the House

During the discussion on the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1995, the Deputy Chairman*** called out Shri S. S. Chandran from Tamil Nadu to speak and the following light-hearted exchange arose :

The Deputy Chairman : ...You speak such good Hindi, Mr. Chandran.

Shri S. S. Chandran : No, Madam. I am a good actor. I acted in 800 films...

The Deputy Chairman : I know he is a very good actor. Has he acted in 800 Hindi movies?

Shri S. S. Chandran : No...But my Tamil movies were dubbed in Hindi also. I am a very famous actor...also a familiar actor.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** The Minister of Agriculture

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

The Deputy Chairman teased : "I know that. So, now you want your speech to be dubbed in Hindi. Okay".

127. Dunkel's uncle

During a discussion on Anti-Dumping Act Bill, some interesting comments were made in the House.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र :अब आप बताइये कि आलू की भुजिया भी कहते हैं कि कोई भारतीय नहीं बना सकता है, वह अंकल चिप्स बनाएगा। सब कोई अंकल चिप्स के लिए झगड़ा करते हैं। जो बच्चे वगैरह ट्रेन में जाते रहते हैं, हमारे घर में भी हैं, कहते हैं, अंकल चिप्स लेनी है। हम सोचते हैं यह अंकलवा कहां से आ गया?

(**Shri Chaturanan Mishra :** ...Just see, it is being said that no Indian can prepare potato's *bhujia* even, instead it will now be made by Uncle Chipps. All are crazy for Uncle Chipps. All the children, even children at my home, while travelling in trains insist for Uncle Chipps. Sometimes I wonder from where this "Uncle" has come?)

Pat came this reply from Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari :

यह डंकल का साथी है।

(It is the companion of Dunkel.)

128. Dynamics of arguments

During the question hour, when Shri Kalpnath Rai* was replying to a supplementary on a question on the target of power generation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, some bantering followed among the members in this manner :

Shri Kalpnath Rai : The more the power is used, the more the economy is dynamised and the less...

Shri Viren J. Shah : Why has dynamics come in the picture?

Shri P. Shiv Shanker : They are not able to understand dynamics of the argument.

Shri N. K. P. Salve : They don't understand the dynamics....

Shri Mentay Padmanabham : The problem is that they are over dynamised.

The Deputy Chairman :** Is he talking about dynamites?

* Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Power

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Kalpnath Rai : Madam Deputy Chairperson, I said, the more the power is used, the more the economy is dynamised... You know, you people did not use the power in the economy during 1989-90. Therefore, the economy was dynamited.

In order to put an end to this dynamics of arguments, the Deputy Chairman quipped :

"I think that the Minister has used all his dynamites to charge all the batteries of the House."

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As a liberating, exalting and creative force, humour is capable of reducing a strained and turbulent atmosphere to an amiable one. It is in fact the right solvent which quickly dissolves the tension in Parliament and ensures a relaxed mood so essential for fruitful debates

— Shivraj V. Patil

129. Easy way to prosperity

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

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

The Chairman : Have you any regrets now?

Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy : Sir, I and you are ruled out because of age...

130. Effect of proximity

A supplementary on the question regarding the target of power generation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, was being asked by Shri Viren J. Shah. When Shri Kalpnath Rai** rose to reply, the following interesting dialogue took place :

Shri Kalpnath Rai : You know, Mr. Viren Shah, there is global recession and India cannot keep itself isolated...

Shri Viren J. Shah : I think the Minister should not be allowed to sit next to the Finance Minister because he is picking up financial jargon.

131. Effect of time bell

Shri M.P. Kaushik was speaking on the Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill. As his time was finished, time-bell was rung. Shri Kaushik requested for three more minutes, to which the Deputy Chairman assented. The member, however, made his comment :

"This bell gives a complete full stop, not even a semicolon."

The Deputy Chairman*** replied ruefully :

"I wish it has the same effect on everyone. For some people it acts as an incentive."

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of Power

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

132. Egalitarian

A question asked on according status of agriculture to poultry farming led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

श्री शारदा महन्ती: सभापति जी, मिनिस्टर शाकाहारी हैं और सत्संगी हैं, वह अंडे के बारे में कैसे बोलेंगे?

(Shri Sarada Mohanty : Mr. Chairman*, Sir, the Minister** is a vegetarian and lives in the company of pious men. How can he speak authoritatively on egg?)

श्री सभापति: आप तो शाकाहारी नहीं हैं, आपसे मदद ले लेंगे।

(The Chairman : You are not vegetarian. He may take help from you.)

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Egg is a vegetarian item.

श्री सभापति: मिस्टर घोष कह रहे हैं कि अंडा शाकाहारी है।

(The Chairman : Mr. Ghosh says that eggs come under vegetarian category.)

डा. रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: सभापति जी, शारदा महन्ती जी खाना बहुत अच्छा बनाते हैं।

(Dr. Ratnakar Pandey : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Sarada Mohanty prepares very delicious meal.)

श्री सभापति: आप क्या हाउस के लिए उनसे खाना बनवाने वाले हो?

(The Chairman : Do you intend to ask him to prepare a meal for the members of the House?)

Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy : Sir, I hope that the Minister, though a vegetarian, is an 'eggarian'...

"Egalitarian", prompted the Chairman.

133. Elephantine love-making

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

...I cannot help reflecting that whenever I have been a witness to discussions and debates on any foreign policy—and I have had

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

** Shri Kahnu Charan Lenka, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture

occasion to say this earlier—I am reminded of love-making between elephants : it is always conducted at a very high level, it is accompanied by a great deal of noise, and we don't come to know of the results for at least two and a half years.

134. Elevation to the Cabinet

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

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

135. Eloquence or violence

Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I must say at the outset that I am not yet able to recover from the shock of the eloquence.

Shri M. Govinda Reddy : Eloquence or violence?

Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji : ...of my esteemed friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

136. Engaged to fly

During a discussion*, Shri Dipankar Mukherjee wanted to know from Shri Sharad Yadav** whether the flight from Kolkata to Tokyo will start or not. But the Minister was not ready to give an assurance and kept saying that he is engaged in considering the matter. Usage of the word 'engaged' led to this amusing conversation :

श्री शरद यादव : मैंने कहा कि मैं इस पर लगा हूँ।

(Shri Sharad Yadav : I said that I am engaged in it.)

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: "लगा हूँ", इसका क्या मतलब होता है?

(Shri Dipankar Mukherjee : "Engaged" what does it mean?)

* Calling Attention on poor performance and mismanagement of Air-India

** Minister of Civil Aviation

Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari quipped :

आपके लगने से क्या होता है, जहाज लगना चाहिए।

(It does not matter if you are engaged. It is the plane which should be engaged.)

137. Excessive sex and violence

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

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

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

Shri Jaswant Singh : What is 'excessive'? How do you determine it?

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

Shri Jaswant Singh : How do you distinguish between 'normal sex and violence' and 'excessive sex and violence'?

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

Shri Sukomal Sen : He does not know.

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

An hon'ble member : We thought he is more experienced.

The Chairman :** We will refer it to a doctor.

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

Shri Sukomal Sen : What is the definition of 'excessive sex and violence'.

Shri Ajit Kumar Panja : My experience is less than that of the Vice-Chancellor because we all got education from him.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : He was the Vice-Chancellor.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Not the Chancellor part of it.

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

138. Exchange of mutual sorrow

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : A good man in bad company.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : Shri Govindan Nair, of course, talked about the irony of fate that I should come forward with this Bill. I am very sorry for Shri Govindan Nair.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I am sorry for the hon'ble Minister.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : For Shri Bhupesh Gupta also.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Mutual sorrow we are exchanging.

139. Exciting subject

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh** ...I would like to quote this advertisement and just show you what kind of stuff is being advertised. This is a responsible newspaper *The Statesman*. And what does it say? It says :

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

* Minister of Home Affairs

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

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

The Chairman* : Do you come under that? Are you under naughty forty?

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh : I am forty-one, Sir.

The Chairman : You are entering naughty forties!

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : In retrospect!

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

Shri V. Gopalsamy : What is wrong in it?...

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh : I know, my honourable friend would like to see everything, but I would prefer if all this were covered up. This is a very wrong thing. As I said, the first thing is that the Government must have proper guidelines about the import of these films, to see that none of this kind of material comes in.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia : He is only jealous of bachelors!

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh : I am afraid it is a question of nomenclature : I am a *brahmachari***.

140. Exporting agent

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

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

The Chairman† : No, no, he is not an importing agent. He is an exporting agent.

Shri Piloo Mody : I export ideas on a barren market.

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

** A bachelor

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

† Shri M. Hidayatullah

141. Extras in the Cabinet

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

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

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

Thereupon, Shri Bhupesh Gupta retorted :

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

142. Extraordinary appetite

In the midst of discussion on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri Sitaram Kesri* requested the Deputy Chairman** not to adjourn the House for lunch-break and to continue the discussion. This led to the following interesting exchange between the Deputy Chairman and Shri Nirmal Chatterjee :

The Deputy Chairman : So this is agreed. So, Mr. Chatterjee, there are three minutes left out of your time which I give you.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Instead of going for lunch, I consume the lunch hour here.

The Deputy Chairman : I never knew you had such an appetite.

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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**May the sparkle of humour in the House continue to
enliven parliamentary proceedings and bring to hard
and contentious debates, the eternal solvent of wit**

— R. Venkataraman

143. Fabulous salaries

While discussing the Appropriation Bill, 1998, Shri Vayalar Ravi invited the attention of the House to some 'ludicrous' allowances being paid in the country, when he said :

The drivers are being paid driving allowance in Kerala. In the case of Air India pilots, they are paid non-flying allowance. If he sits at home, he is paid Rs.2 lakhs. If they are paid non-flying allowances, why don't Members of Parliament also get...

"Non-functioning allowance", the Deputy Chairman* quipped in readily.

144. Face unpleasant

During a discussion**, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu mentioned about a certain judgement by the Allahabad High Court and subsequently by the Supreme Court. He felt Shri Kapil Sibal's eyes on him and said that Shri Kapil Sibal was looking at him as he knew more about judgements. Shri Sibal replied in a lighter vein that he was going on looking at him only because he had a very pleasant face.

An unconvinced Shri Venkaiah Naidu promptly replied : "Nobody tells me that I have a pleasant face; not even my wife."

145. Family planning in real sense

While intervening in the debate on the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Prime Minister*** humorously remarked :

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

Shri Sat Paul Mittal thereupon quipped :

"They are implementing one programme at least."

* Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Short Duration Discussion on role of Governors in discharging their constitutional responsibilities in the formation of Governments in the States in light of recent events in Bihar.

*** Shri Rajiv Gandhi

Shri Rajiv Gandhi added :

"At least in the two Houses."

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

"Today's results* indicate otherwise."

146. Farewell sentiments

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

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

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

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

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

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

147. Fast unto death

Shri B. R. Ambedkar : I know that women members are very helpful. I must say that last time when I was on tenterhooks, I called

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

some of the ladies - I mean, the more bulky ones - and I suggested to them that if anyone of them went on threatening a fast unto death, probably we might get the Hindu Code through.

148. Fear complex

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan* : ...I might inform the honourable House that we are carrying out an experiment of having a two-tier third class sleeping compartment in which the lower berth will be used for sitting and the upper berth can be utilized for sleeping at night.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Make them a little broader than what they are.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I will make them to my size.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Standard size.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I really cannot understand why my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, sees dangers and pitfalls where none exists.

Shri P.D. Himatsingka : He always sees that.

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : Fear complex.

149. Feeling insecure

During a special mention on the 'Arrest of a Woman Under TADA in Andhra Pradesh', Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, expressing her apprehension, said :

"I feel personally insecure as a member of this House".

An interesting exchange ensued thereafter :

The Deputy Chairman** : If somebody feels insecure, let him feel insecure.

Kumari Saroj Khaparde : Renukaji is a very bold lady. I am feeling sorry if Renuka Chowdhury...

The Deputy Chairman : If you and Saroj Khaparde are insecure in the country, then what is left for other women? You should not...

Kumari Saroj Khaparde : I am insecure because Renuka Chowdhury is not looking after others.

* Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri M. A. Baby : You are casting aspersions on others. Others are also bold.

Kumari Saroj Khaparde : I am talking of Renukaji and myself.

The Deputy Chairman : Please, I have to call Mathur *Saheb*.

Shri M. A. Baby : Narayanasamy is not bold.

The Deputy Chairman retorted : "He is not a woman".

150. Feeling of guilt

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

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

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

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

The Prime Minister clarified :

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

151. Felicitations to hon'ble Chairman on the occasion of his birthday

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

The Chairman* :** I wish every day was a birthday.

* * * * *

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

* Shri Rajiv Gandhi

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

Shri Jagesh Desai : Or 67 years?

The Chairman : Appearances are deceptive.

* * * * *

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla : Sir, today, on the occasion of your birthday, while I wish you many happy returns of the day, I remember a few lines which I had read some time ago :

Age is a quality of mind.
If you have left all your dreams behind,
If hope is cold,
If you are looking longer ahead,
Then you are old.
If in life you keep zest,
And if from life you take the best,
If love you hold,
No matter how the days go by,
No matter how many birthdays fly,
You are not old.

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

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

152. Feudal God

While participating in a debate on a calling attention on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country, Shri R. Mohanarangam who was trying to bring home the point that it was not possible for the Government of Tamil Nadu to stop the devastating rains and cyclonic storms and warn all the people living near the numerous lakes to vacate the areas, remarked that even lord Varuna—the rain-god did not forewarn them in their dreams. This led to the following exchange :

Shri K. Mohanan : God is cruel.

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

The Deputy Chairman* : He had influence there also?

Shri K. Mohanan : That is a feudal God.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

153. Fielding team depending on opposition

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

The Chairman** thereupon remarked :

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

The Prime Minister*** immediately quipped :

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

154. Fifteen thousand tonnes and Piloo Mody

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

Rao Birendra Singh : The quantity of 15,000 tonnes, Mr. Mody, compared to your size is very small.

Shri Piloo Mody : Several things compared to my size are very small, including you.

155. Files accumulate and men delay

Speaking on the Administrative Tribunals Bill, Shri R. Ramakrishnan observed as follows :

Madam, in this connection, I would like you to be reminded of a famous quotation of a poet which says :

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

* Shri Khurshid Alam Khan

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Shri Rajiv Gandhi

† Rao Birendra Singh

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

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

156. Finally final

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

Shri N. K. P. Salve : His every "Final" is "Semi-final".

The Vice-Chairman* : Not even Quarter-final.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : It is "League system".

Prof. C. Lakshmanan : We will go to the final and win the trophy.

157. First among failed

During the course of a discussion on motion for consideration of Appropriation Bill, Shri Madhu Dandavate** hitting at the habit of complacency, said :

We try to find out how many countries are below our mark and get satisfied that we are quite all right. Sometimes I feel like giving an analogy. It is like the election results. Right from 1952 onwards, because of the peculiar election system and the type of voting, we find that there is a disparity between votes and the seats won. Right from 1952 onwards, those who come to power got near about 40 to 45 per cent votes and those who actually remained in opposition got 55 to 60 per cent votes. Nobody gets more than 50 per cent votes. Even those who get 40 to 50 per cent votes rule. Why does it happen?

To explain this, he narrated the following anecdote :

I myself went to an educational institution. I was asked to give a gold medal to a girl. I gave the gold medal. I asked that lady student :

Did you pass in first class? She said : "No". "Did you pass in second class"? "No". "Did you pass in pass class"? She said :

* Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

** Minister of Finance

"No". She said that she had failed. Then why this gold medal? She said : "The entire class failed but I am first among those who failed and, therefore, I am happy about it".

158. Fit for dancing institution

The House was discussing the matter regarding the allegations made against Shri Kanti Bhai Desai, son of Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister. Shri Manubhai Patel who raised a point of order spoke very feelingly in favour of Shri Desai with a lot of movement of his limbs. Shri Bhupesh Gupta who was watching him closely observed :

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

159. Fitting compliments to Minister

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : I am not going to ask any question. But I would only like to compliment him* for the enormous pains he had taken—pains not only in knowing but also understanding at least half the queries we raised. The other half he could get away with, with his charming smile.

160. Flexible denture

The House was discussing the Constitution (Sixty-Eighth Amendment) Bill. While moving his amendments, Shri H. Hanumanthappa said:

"So I have moved two amendments to give some teeth to the amendment of this Act..."

It led to the following light-hearted exchange :

The Vice-Chairman** : Sharp teeth or just teeth?

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : Once provided, the teeth can become both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

An hon'ble member : It can be a denture.

The Vice-Chairman then wittily remarked :

"Denture means flexible. You can take it off".

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

** Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur

161. Fooling people

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

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

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra interrupted to say : "As you are doing now"!

Shri Scindia, however, continued with his remark :

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

162. Fools indulge in their own paradise

Shri Sheel Bhadra Yajee : You are living in a fool's paradise.

Shri Lokanath Mishra : Fools are those who have indulged in their own paradise all these twenty one years.

163. Fools seldom differ

Speaking on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj** made appreciative remarks about Shri Subramanian Swamy and said :

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

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

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

However, differing with all of them, Shri Subramanian Swamy said : "Fools seldom differ".

164. For safety's sake

At the farewell to retiring members in the House, Shrimati Margaret Alva shared one of her many interesting experiences in the House. She narrated an occasion when the former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi,

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

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

had been asked why she was bringing young women in such large numbers to the Upper House. She had laughed and said :

"I am sending young men to the Lower House and bringing young women to the Upper House to keep both of them safe."

165. For the sake of mortals !

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri K.R. Malkani got sidetracked from his speech by interruptions from the House. It led to this brief altercation :

Shri K. R. Malkani : I hope many of you, friends, have read Chitra Subramaniam's book, *India For Sale...* Will you please keep quite for God's sake?

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu : They do not believe in God.

Shri K.R. Malkani was aggravated when he replied : "All right. For Karl Marx sake, for Stalin's sake, for Lenin's sake"!

166. Formidable combination

While trying to cajole the members to lower the din in the House*, the Chairman** told an agitated Jibon Roy, a C.P.I. member who was ignoring his directions :

बैठिए। आप जरा मुझे भी देख लिया करो, मैं इतना बदसूरत तो नहीं हूँ। आप नीलोत्पल को ही देखते रहते हैं। हम भी इंसान हैं। इनके जितना खूबसूरत तो नहीं हूँ लेकिन देख तो लिया करो कभी-कभी।

(Please sit down. Sometimes you can look at me, my face is not all that ugly. You only continue to look at Nilotpal.*** I am also a human being. I am not as handsome as he is but please, look at me sometimes.)

Shri Amar Singh added :

सर, सदन में इनको क्या देखना।

(Sir, what is the need to look at him in the House?)

The Chairman countered :

आपको जलन हो गई क्या खूबसूरती की?

(Are you envious of his handsomeness?)

* Interruptions over Ayodhya issue before the Question Hour

** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

*** It also means blue lotus

Shri Balkavi Bairagi quickly coined a one-liner in reply :

आपको इसलिए इतनी देर तक लगातार नहीं देख सकते कि आप "भैरों" भी हैं और "सिंह" भी हैं।

(How can one continue to look at you for a long time because you are *Bhairon** and *Singh*** at the same time.)

167. Four-legged mice or two-legged mice

During the discussion on the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia spoke about the bungling when foodgrains are procured. Expanding on the point he said :

अनाज में जितना मॉयस्वर काटेंट होना चाहिए, उसके लिए जो नियंत्रक रखे जाते हैं। वहां भी भारी मात्रा में गड़बड़ी होती है। अगर अनाज में मॉयस्वर काटेंट ज्यादा हो तो अनाज का भार ज्यादा बढ़ जाता है और सरकार को खरीदने के लिए ज्यादा पैसे का भुगतान करना पड़ता है। अन्ततः जब ड्राइंग प्रोसेस के थू देखा जाता है और जब अनाज ड्राई किया जाता है तो उसकी क्वांटिटी कम हो जाती है परन्तु उसको छुपाने के लिए आज तक ऐसा ही होता रहा। कहीं तो लोग यह कहते रहे कि जो यह कई हजार टन का लॉस है, वह हैंडलिंग लॉस है। यानी एक जगह से दूसरी जगह ट्रक पर या रेलगाड़ी पर ले जाते वक्त बोरो में से अनाज चू गया और उसको हैंडलिंग लॉस में दिखाया गया। इसके साथ-साथ आपको आश्चर्य होगा कि कई रिपोर्ट्स में ऐसा भी लिखा जाता था कि अनाज चूहों ने खा लिया और उन चूहों को मारने के लिए खाद्य निगम जो कॉन्ट्रैक्ट देता है, उसमें जितना पैसा खर्च होता है, अगर उसको आप देखें तो आपको पता चलेगा कि ऐसी धांधली खाद्य निगम में होती रही है।

(If there is more moisture content in the foodgrains, the weight increases and the Government has to pay more for procurement. Ultimately, when the foodgrain passes through the drying process, and foodgrain is dried, the quantity goes down. ...But to hide this loss of tonnes of foodgrains it was put as handling loss. That is, foodgrains lost from the sacks while carrying it from one place to the other on trucks and trains. You will be surprised to know that there were reports mentioning that the foodgrains have been eaten up by the mice and if one observes that the contracts which are awarded by the Food Corporation and the money which is spent to kill mice, one would come to know about the bungs in Food Corporation...)

* A form of Lord Shiva, *Bhairon* literally means 'terrible'.

** It refers to a lion.

The Deputy Chairman* enquired :

दो पांव वाले चूहे या चार पांव वाले चूहे थे।

(Mice having two legs or four legs?)

Shri S. S. Ahluwalia replied slyly : महोदया, वही पकड़ना मुश्किल हो गया है कि दो पांव वाले चूहे हैं, छोटे हैं, काले हैं, गोरे हैं, बोलने वाले हैं या नहीं बोलने वाले हैं। कौन से चूहे हैं?

(Madam, it is difficult to detect whether these mice are having two legs, or they are small, black or white, whether they speak or not? Which are these mice?...)

168. From Jodhpur to Madras

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

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

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Madras?

Shri Jaswant Singh : Because the hon'ble Minister of State comes from there.

Shri K. Mohanan : Madras also is a secure place.

Shri Jaswant Singh : ...decide this case early and let Jodhpur remain civilised.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : We are eager to receive them but not as prisoners.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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The most perfect humour and irony
is generally quite unconscious

— Samuel Butler

169. Ganesha's mouse

Shri Pramod Mahajan* while replying to the discussion on the Information Technology Bill 2000 admitted that he hardly had any knowledge about computers when he became the IT Minister but tried to grasp the intricacies. But what intrigued him was the 'mouse' and as to why it was called a 'mouse'. His learned opinion now as an experienced IT Minister was expressed thus :

...when I became the IT Minister, I tried to see the computer, open it and understand what is hardware, what is software, ...While I was trying all these things, I was told, "this is a mouse". I said, "why is it called a mouse?" We saw all sites on internet to find an answer why it is called a mouse. Nobody knew the answer. Somebody said, "Pramodji, it looks like a mouse and when you press it, it jumps like a mouse. That is why it is called a mouse". Today, I think whoever has named it as mouse has not done it by accident. Now, the mouse is the vehicle of the deity of knowledge, Ganesh, of this country. Today, I think with the clicks on the mouse the Indians are likely to rule the world, as far as the IT sector is concerned.

170. Gender bias

During the discussion on the Government's move to invite private (Indian and foreign) firms into Insurance Sector, Shri K. R. Malkani was surprised to note that the Left also was expressing its verbal dissent even though it was party to the Common Minimum Programme. This led to some lively banter :

Shri K. R. Malkani : It is just like a man marrying a woman in haste and repenting at leisure. This is what I think of my Left friends also...

Shri P. Chidambaram** delivered a rebuttal, thus :

"Why is this gender bias? Why not a woman marrying a man in haste and then repenting at leisure..."

* Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Technology

** The Minister of Finance

171. Gender neutral

During the discussion on the international situation arising out of terrorists' attack on the World Trade Centre in USA, Shri Nilotpal Basu critically assessed India's foreign policy *vis-a-vis* the USA and summed up that we had been really acting like a bunch of naive schoolgirls.

The Deputy Chairman* was quick to ask : "Why girls, why not boys?"

Shri Nilotpal Basu : Also boys, Madam; if that addresses your gender concern...

The Deputy Chairman : It does.

Shri Nilotpal Basu : But whether it is a boy or a girl, it remains a naive creature.

The Deputy Chairman chided : "Mr. Nilotpal Basu, I object to all those abuses which are gender-biased."

A flustered Shri Nilotpal Basu protested : "No...No, Madam, I am not saying that. What I am saying is that I am a person who is totally gender-neutral in my thinking...in terms of my formulations."

The Deputy Chairman wittily exclaimed : "I thought only the Chair is gender-neutral!"

172. General invective

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

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

173. Get some cats!

During the discussion on the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999, Shri N.K.P. Salve's speech was interrupted by some problem in the microphone. This led to a tongue-in-cheek exchange between the member and the Deputy Chairman :

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of Home Affairs and States

The Deputy Chairman* : I enquired as to what happened to the mike system. I have been told that there are too many rats in the Rajya Sabha which are eating the wires and causing this problem.

Shri N. K. P. Salve : I hope they are not working on party lines.

The Deputy Chairman : But the rats are busy during the day. It is a fact. These rats are eating the wires. So, the disturbance is because of that. We have to get some cats.

174. Giving crackers

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

The Vice-Chairman*** : The hon'ble member has taken about 30 minutes. There are other members to speak.

Shri L. K. Jha : I am winding up.

The Vice-Chairman : He has so much to say. I think, he can privately convey the whole thing to the hon'ble Minister.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Sir, he is making a very good speech.

Shri L. K. Jha : I have nothing more to add.

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

Shri L. K. Jha : You are all generous to me and I am thankful to you. Mr. Chatterjee probably wants more ammunition from me. I will give him the crackers.

175. Glasses for the blind

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

Shri A. C. Guha† : Provided the other side has got the eye to catch the light. Light cannot go to the blind.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

*** Shri G. Swaminathan

† Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure

Shri B. C. Ghose : Glasses may be provided also.

Shri A. C. Guha : No, not for the blind.

176. Goat or a tiger?

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

Raising his objection, the Prime Minister said : "Sir, I object to my colleague being referred to as a 'goat'."

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

Shri Rajiv Gandhi : My objection was to my colleague being referred to as a "goat" by the hon'ble member.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : I said sacrificial goat.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Shall we call him a tiger?

177. God or departmental store

During a discussion, Shri B.P. Singhal made a caustic comment on human nature. He felt that the unending yearnings of man in this life makes him treat God too as merely a means to an end and everything in life a deal to be negotiated. He made this interesting observation on human fickleness thus :

क्या चाहते हो भाई। बस और क्या चाहिये, जिन्दगी चैन से बीत जाए, बच्चे सुखी रहें और आराम से दिन बीत जाएं, हंसते खेलते जाएं और क्या चाहिए।

(What do you want brother? Life should pass peacefully, children should be happy and the days should pass peacefully in laughter and joy, what else!)

The means have become an end. And the end, the supreme being, he has become the means.

हे भगवान, इलेक्शन जितवा दो 1001 का प्रसाद चढ़ाऊंगा। अब एक पोता दे दो, 501 का प्रसाद चढ़ाऊंगा। मेरे बच्चे को आई.ए.एस. करा दो 101 का प्रसाद

* Shri Rajiv Gandhi

चढ़ाऊंगा। भगवान न हो गया, डिपार्टमेंटल स्टोर का मालिक हो गया। वहां से किसी को पार्लियामेंट की सीट सप्लाई कर दे और किसी को पोता सप्लाई कर दे।

(O God! Let me win an election and I will make an offering of 1001. Let me have a grandson, I will make an offering of 501. Let my children become I.A.S., I will make an offering of 101. It appears as if it is not God but the owner of a departmental store a place from where parliamentary seats are supplied or grandsons are supplied.)

178. Going back to Adam and Eve

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

179. Going to swarg free

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor : ...Formerly it was considered necessary to obtain a sort of passport to attain *swarg** by passing property on to others for charitable purposes. I hope and trust, I am almost sure, that every dying person now will feel obliged to the hon'ble Finance Minister for imposing upon him by legislation** a sacred piece of piety and *dharma****.

Shri M. Govinda Reddy : He would like to go to *swarg* free instead of buying a ticket.

180. Going to the orbit

During supplementaries to a question regarding congestion in the geostationary orbit in space, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla wanted to know from the Minister what the Government of India was doing to prevent foreign probing satellites which were being put in the geostationary orbit. Shri Piloo Mody said that they were going to put Usha† into orbit.

Shrimati Usha Malhotra immediately retorted :

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

* Paradise

** The House was discussing Estate Duty Bill.

*** Religion

† Shrimati Usha Malhotra, a lady member of the House.

181. Going vertically and returning horizontally

While asking supplementaries on a question regarding degeneration of AIIMS*, Shri Jaswant Singh remarked sarcastically :

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

The Chairman** thereupon, cryptically remarked : "I suppose 'alive'."

182. Gold and women

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

Shri M. Govinda Reddy : Especially to women.

183. Gold for Minister, lemon for P.A.

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

Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav : Our people are going mad after this Bhagwan Rajneesh and Satya Sai Baba. These people are having crores of rupees. I do not know where Satya Sai Baba has gone. I will give you an example of Satya Sai Baba. Two Ministers and one P.A. went to him.

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

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

* All India Institute of Medical Sciences

** Shri R. Venkataraman

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

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

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

184. Good bakery

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : You have started a very good bakery, I must say.

185. Good cook

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

186. Good meal and a good sleep

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : It is accompanied by a good meal and a good sleep after that.

187. Good place to take refuge

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

...Suppose my hon'ble friend, Shri Gupta fearing that he would be arrested and punished under the Criminal Law (Amendment)

* Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

** Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport

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

Act passed by Parliament recently, slips out of the country and takes refuge, say, in Pakistan or in South Africa...

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I would rather try Dr. Kunzru's house, but not there.

188. Grateful to God

When Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel was speaking, he was interrupted by Shri Arjun Arora who furnished him with some information which he thought, perhaps, would be of some use to Shri Patel in advancing his argument. Since the information furnished by Shri Arora was so trivial, Shri Patel quipped : "Thank you, I know that. Even a child knows that."

This led to the following amusing exchange in the House :

Shri Arjun Arora : I do not consider the hon'ble member to be a child, much less my child.

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

189. Great man in opposition

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

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

It led to the following light-hearted banter in the House :

An hon'ble member : What a nice company!

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I would like to be in that company, but in the opposition.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel** : Does this show the shape of things hereafter?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Not at all, there is no change. That I can assure the Swatantra Party.

* Shrimati Indira Gandhi

** Shri Patel belonged to the Swatantra Party.

190. Groomed here, migrated there

On being selected as the Best Parliamentarian for the Year 1997, Shri Pranab Mukherjee was heaped with felicitations in the House. It was a moment of pride as the members responded in the following manner :

Shrimati Kamla Sinha : Madam, a person who has been selected as Best Parliamentarian for the Year 1998, Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy, was also in the Rajya Sabha.

The Deputy Chairman* : Yes, Mr. Jaipal Reddy was also in the Rajya Sabha. Actually, all of them who got the Awards till now, whether it is Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee or Mr. Chandra Shekhar, they were all groomed in the Rajya Sabha.

Shri Md. Salim : They were normally members of this House and they migrated to that House.

Fearing a similar move by Shri Pranab Mukherjee in future, the Deputy Chairman conveyed :

"We do not want Mr. Pranab Mukherjee to go to that House...We do not want him to cross the floor of the Central Hall and go under anti-defection."

191. Ground for divorce

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : ...As far as the speech of Mr. Mukherjee is concerned it is quite amusing...

Shri B. K. Mukherjee : We are always amusing.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : ...and he has been able to make speech, married as he is, with the clear assurance that making such speeches constitutes no grounds for divorce**. I wish him luck.

192. Guillotine with a smile

During the course of a calling attention on the delay in assenting to Bills passed by State Legislatures and reserved by Governors for the consideration of the President, some members suggested a time-limit to be prescribed in the Constitution within which the President should give his assent. When Shri V. Gopalsamy was about to start seeking

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

clarifications on the Minister's statement, the Deputy Chairman* took a cue from the suggestion given by members and commented in a lighter vein :

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

Piqued by it, Shri Gopalsamy said :

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

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

"I guillotine him with a smile."

193. Guilty person makes much noise

During the debate on the role of C.B.I. in Babri Masjid demolition case, Shri Sanjay Nirupam tried to convey his point with a proverb from Bihar which led to a light banter with Shri Lalu Prasad :

श्री संजय निरुपम : लालू जी को समझ में आ जाएगा, बिहार में एक कहावत में कहते हैं कि चोर की दाढ़ी में तिनका। यानी आपने जो अपराध किया है....

(Shri Sanjay Nirupam : *Lalu ji* would understand this. In Bihar there is a proverb that a guilty conscience cannot shed off its alarmed stance. It means the offence you have committed...)

श्री लालू प्रसाद यादव: नहीं, चोर मचाए शोर।

(Shri Lalu Prasad : No the guilty person makes much noise.)

Shri Sanjay Nirupam retorted :

आपका भाषण इतनी देर से मैं सुन रहा था, उसका अर्थ मैं समझ गया।

(I have understood the meaning of your speech because I have been listening to it for a long time.)

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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Those who jest with good taste are called witty

— Aristotle

194. Hair-splitting experience

A discussion was going on in the House on the hike in security-deposit for L.P.G. cylinders when Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur mentioned about how people who have to marry their daughters were approaching him for gas connections because that had become a part of the dowry. An interesting exchange followed thereafter :

श्री त्रिलोकीनाथ चतुर्वेदी : बैचलर को तो इससे बहुत ही परेशानी है।

(**Shri Trilokinath Chaturvedi :** It is causing extreme trouble to a bachelor.)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : बात सच कह रहे हैं। इससे दो परेशानियाँ हैं। एक परेशानी यह है कि मुझे किसी की शादी नहीं करनी है। लेकिन अगर मेरी शादी की इच्छा हो जाए तो मुझे दहेज में कौन देगा।

(**Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur :** He is speaking the truth. It is causing troubles. One of my troubles is that I have not to get anyone married. But if, at any time, I am inclined to marry who would give it to me in dowry.)

श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज : आपको दहेज में हम दे देंगे।

(**Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj :** We shall provide it to you in dowry.)

Commenting on this in a lighter vein, Shri Mathur replied :

यह मजाक की बात नहीं है। इन्होंने मजाक किया है तो मैं इनके मजाक का जवाब दे दूँ। एक सज्जन बूढ़े थे। उन्होंने शादी कर ली। लोगों ने उनसे पूछा कि—आप गंजे क्यों हो रहे हो? उन्होंने कहा कि जो नई बीबी है वह मेरे सफेद बाल उखाड़ देती है और जो पुरानी बीबी है वह काले बाल उखाड़ देती है। इसलिए गंजा हो रहा हूँ। तो लिहाजा शादी का इस उम्र में कोई तकाजा नहीं है।

(It is not a joke. If he has cut a joke, I must respond to it. There was an old man. He married again. People asked him why he was becoming bald. The old man replied that his new wife was plucking all his white hair whereas his former wife was plucking all his black hair and that was the reason for his baldness. So a marriage is not necessary in this age.)

195. Handsome Minister

During a Question Hour the atmosphere got charged over the issue of Government guidelines on academic collaboration and exchange programme. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy intervened to put his supplementary when the Chairman* called the next speaker. Some light hearted moments followed thereafter :

श्री सभापति : आपके सवाल पूछने पर सबको आपत्ति हो रही है।

(**The Chairman :** Everyone is raising objection to your raising a question).

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy : I have a news-item which carries a beautiful picture of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi** ... It has a very beautiful photograph of my friend Dr. Joshi...

श्री सभापति : क्या आप यह मानते हैं कि ये हैंडसम नहीं हैं?

(**The Chairman :** Don't you think that he is handsome?)

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy : This picture is like a picture of a film star...It is a very handsome picture...

श्री सभापति: यह आदत है इनकी कि ये सब लोगों की फोटो इकट्ठा करते रहते हैं।

(**The Chairman :** It is his habit to collect everybody's photograph.)

Shri Prem Chand Gupta : Dr. Subbarami Reddy has said that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is very handsome...Can you confirm that he would take him as a hero in his next film?...

196. Harassment by lady members

When Shri H. Hanumanthappa sought clarifications on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Department of Railways*** regarding setting up of Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala (Punjab), some lady members gathered together behind the Minister's seat. They talked among themselves which distracted the Minister's attention. The following repartee took place thereafter :

Shri Madhavrao Scindia : Madam, I seek your protection. These five hon'ble lady members are harassing me.

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

** Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Ocean Development

*** Shri Madhavrao Scindia

The Deputy Chairman* : I would request the hon'ble lady members to go to their seats.

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : Fortunately, a lady member is in the Chair.

The Deputy Chairman : I think because of the lady members the Minister wants to run his train faster.

197. Hat trick

Felicitations were offered to Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, by leaders of various parties and groups in the House on the occasion of her election as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the third time. Dr. Heptulla, herself made some interesting observations while giving thanks to the members. Some excerpts from the debates are reproduced below :

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : सदर साहब, मुझे एक बड़ी शिकायत है कि जब यशवन्त सिन्हा साहब बोल रहे थे तो इनकी मुस्कराहट की किस्म बिल्कुल दूसरी थी और जब मैं बोल रहा था तो वह बिल्कुल ही दूसरी थी।

(**Shri Sikander Bakht :** Mr. Chairman** Sir, I have a serious complaint that the way she*** was smiling when Shri Yashwant Sinha Saheb was speaking was totally different from the way she smiled when I was speaking.)

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा : आप बोल रहे थे या उनको देख रहे थे।

(**Shri Yashwant Sinha :** Were you speaking or looking at her at that time.)

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: देख रहा था। तुम मुखातिब भी हो, करीब भी हो, तुमको देखूं कि तुम से बात करूं?

(**Shri Sikander Bakht :** I was just looking at her. You are addressing us and also sitting near us, I am in a fix whether I should look at you or talk to you).

सदर साहब, एक शिकायत और है। मैं डर गया जब चव्हाण साहब ने कहा कि यह हैट ट्रिक हो चुका है। बात यह है कि शबाब जब टिक जाता है तो मोनोटोनी हो जाती है। हम तो ये दुआयें मांग रहे हैं कि आगे अल्लाह करे, जोरो शबाब और ज्यादा।

(Mr. Chairman Sir, I have one more complaint. I was afraid when Mr. Chavan said that a hat trick† has been performed. The point is that

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

*** Referring to Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla has been elected for the third time.

when youthfulness (*Shabaab*) becomes everlasting then it leads to monotony. We are praying to God to bestow more and more youthfulness upon you.)

श्री एन.के.पी. साल्वे : सभापति जी, सिकन्दर साहब बहुत बड़ी गलती कर रहे हैं। यह नज़र का सवाल नहीं है, नीयत का सवाल है।

(**Shri N.K.P. Salve :** Mr. Chairman Sir, Mr. Sikander Bakht is greatly mistaken. It is not a question of the manner in which one looks at somebody but also that of the intention behind it.)

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : मेरी नज़र तो बिल्कुल अच्छी है।

(**Shri Sikander Bakht :** My vision is quite clear.)

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : इस पर एक पार्लियामेन्टरी कमेटी बैठ जानी चाहिए।

(**Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi :** Let a parliamentary committee examine the matter.)

Shri Murasoli Maran : It is true we often raise our decibel level and test the eardrum of the Deputy Chairman and the Chairman, but Madam Deputy Chairman is accustomed to that. I wonder, whether she has not lost her hearing power. In fact, without sound the Deputy Chairman may become soundless and sleepy and that is why sound is often necessary to keep her vigilant.

Referring to the contest for the post of Deputy Chairman between Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and herself, Dr. Najma Heptulla said : "It is not for the first time that Renuka Chowdhury and I have crossed swords with each other. But that has always been the case when I am in the Chair and she is in her bench. She has been fighting for a cause which she thought was right and I have been fighting for a cause which I thought was right to keep the decorum of the House according to the rules. But this was for the first time that she and I were crossing swords with each other for the Chair. The unfortunate part in this is that the majority of male members in the House have tried to put up two women to contest. I would have been very happy to fight against a gentleman, not against a gentle lady..."

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla : Once in the House there was a moment when some unparliamentary word was used. Somebody had said that some member imitated like an animal. I said, "you cannot use it". Even as a Deputy Chairman-elect, I was in the difficult situation. I had to

wriggle out of the situation by saying that I have done my Ph.D. in Zoology and I have all my sympathies for all the animals also.

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla : I remember in 1980 or 1981 when I came over here, a member of Parliament in the lobby asked me, "You have done your Ph.D. in Zoology, you are a zoologist?" I said, "yes". He asked me, "what are you doing over here"? I looked him up and down and said, "what do people do after qualifying as zoologists? Where do they go?"

198. Head runs faster than legs

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari* : Unfortunately my friend** runs off. I do not have the power in my legs to run with him. They do not really respond. I am old and I cannot walk along with him.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Your head runs faster.

Shri T.T. Krishnamachari : It might. I hope when the noose is put round my head, it would probably be free first.

199. Healthy trend

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

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

The Deputy Chairman* :** Thank you very much for the compliments... I am very happy to note that not only the lady members but the gents also are bothered about the representation of ladies. It is a very healthy trend.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Lip sympathy.

* Minister of Finance

** Reference to Shri Bhupesh Gupta

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

200. Heart catching

Bidding farewell to the retiring members of the Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Chairman* expressed her sentiments thus :

I will be sad because I will miss the faces of some of the members and will definitely miss the voices of some of the members because some of them used to catch my eye and some of them used to catch my ear... Sitting in their seats, they have some kind of a mechanism to catch my ears because now even if I am sleeping and I hear some voice, I can identify who is speaking. I do not have to ask anybody, I am so used to it now.

This nostalgic note was, however, enlivened to some extent when Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil** commented :

"I want to say that I neither caught your eye, nor your ear; I caught your heart."

201. Heart of hearts

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

Shri B. C. Ghose : If he has any!

202. Heart beat

During a discussion on the Railway Budget for the year 1995-96, the following humorous exchange of words took place in the House :

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : पानी राजस्थान में ही नहीं, हमारे यहां भी नहीं मिलता है।

(**Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu :** Not only in Rajasthan but in our region also water is hardly available.)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : हां, मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ। मैं आपकी बात कर रहा हूँ। मैं धड़कन सुन रहा हूँ आपकी।

(**Shri Md. Salim :** Yes, that's why I am saying it. I am talking of you. I am listening to the sound of your heart beat.)

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** A former Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

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

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : हमें कितनी देर तक सुनाएंगे। घंटी बज रही है।

(**Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu :** How long we will be made to listen to it? The bell is ringing.)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : धड़कन जितनी देर तक चलती रहे आपकी उतना ही अच्छा है। जितनी जल्दी खत्म होगी वह बुरा ही होगा आपके लिए भी। ...मैं आपकी नहीं सरकार की बात कर रहा हूँ।

(**Shri Md. Salim :** The longer your heart keeps beating, it is better. The earlier it stops, the worse would befall on you too... I am not talking of you, but about the Government.)

203. Heavy weight rats

During the oral answer to the question regarding loss of wheat and rice in the godowns of Food Corporation of India due to rats and dampness, this interesting exchange took place :

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मैं कह रहा था कि कुछ ऐसे अजनबी किस्म के चूहे हैं जिनके चलते स्टोरेज लॉस हो रहा है।

(**Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav* :** I was saying that there are some strange type of rats which are causing storage loss...)

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : जो ऐसे चूहे हैं उनके द्वारा कितना नुकसान हो रहा है?

(**Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi :** How much damage is being caused by such type of rats?)

The Chairman :** Please do not interrupt him. Let him answer.

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia : Sir, he should clarify what type of rats he is talking about.

The Chairman : Give him a chance to clarify.

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : इन्होंने दूसरे किस्म के मोटे चूहों का जिक्र किया है। तो दोनों तरह के चूहों से कितना नुकसान हो रहा है, यह बता दीजिए।

(**Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi :** He has referred to other type of heavy weight rats. So, please tell us about the damage caused by both types of rats separately.)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : ...चूहे तो बहुत किस्मों के हैं - हाउस रैट हैं, हाउस माउस हैं, नॉर्वे रैट्स हैं, कितनी तरह के चूहों का वर्गीकरण बताऊँ मैं आपको। इन चूहों से बहुत नुकसान होता है....

* Minister of Food, Supplies, Consumer Goods and Public Distribution

** Shri K.R. Narayanan

(**Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav** : ...there are so many types of rats... house rats, house mouse and Norway rats. How many types of classifications of rats should I tell you? These rats cause huge loss...)

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : किस तरह की बिल्लियां आप वहां मंगवा रहे हैं?

(**Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi** : What type of cats are you bringing in there?)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मैं आपको बता रहा हूं कि ऐसे चूहों की खोजबीन सरकार ने बड़ी तत्परता से शुरू कर दी है और माननीय सदस्य ने इस ओर जो सदन का ध्यान दिलाया है, उन्हें मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे चूहों के लिए विशेष प्रकार के पिंजरों का निर्माण हमने शुरू कर दिया है। अगले 3 महीनों में कुछ चूहे आपको उन पिंजरों में नजर आएंगे।

(**Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav** : Government has started searching for such rats and I wish to tell the hon'ble member, who has drawn the attention of the House to this point, that we have started manufacturing special type of traps for such rats. And during the next three months you will find some of the rats entrapped in these traps...)

Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi made a witty rejoinder :

उनको राजनीतिक संरक्षण प्राप्त है क्या?

(Do they enjoy political protection?)

204. Henpecked husbands' clubs

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

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand : I hope the hon'ble member now speaking will be the Chairman of that future club.

205. Hero from Orissa, heroine from West Bengal

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Orissa has produced a hero*.

Shri Lokanath Mishra : We have produced a hero who has not got entry into the films yet.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : But you have not produced a heroine.

Shri Lokanath Mishra : I think West Bengal will probably supply us with that.

206. Hero there and here

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : We would like to know whether he was a better hero there or here.

An hon'ble member : In both places.

207. Higher regard for Mr. Bhupesh Gupta

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Members like me, you see.

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

208. Holding the baby

During the question hour, Shri Om Mehta** was answering a question on the facilities for drinking water in the villages. When the Minister informed the House that the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

* Referring to Shri Lokanath Mishra

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

was in the State sector, the following interesting exchange took place between him and Shri A.G. Kulkarni :

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : You are only holding the baby.

Shri Om Mehta : That is right, somebody has to hold the baby.

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

209. House is not school

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

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

The Deputy Chairman retorted : "This is not a school."

210. Humbugappa

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

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

Shri Abid Ali replying to Shri Gupta said :

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

211. Hundred chillies or hundred onions

Shri Cho S. Ramaswamy during a discussion wanted to convey that there is dissidence in the ruling alliance even on the process of liberalisation, which the country was undergoing, and how harmful it can be for the future of the country. He likened the disagreement within the ruling alliance and its possible outcome very nicely to a popular short story thus :

We tried socialism. We abandoned it in the middle. Now, we are trying market economy. But because of protests, because of voices

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

** Shrimati Violet Alva

of dissent, I do not know what is going to happen to it. I am reminded of a popular story. A man was given a punishment by a local panchayat. He was given three options—take 100 chillies or take 100 onions or surrender all his money, all his savings, and go back as a pauper. This man agreed to take 100 chillies, and he started taking them. But, by about 80 chillies, he found it very difficult; his stomach started burning; his eyes started watering. So, he said, "No, I will not take this chilli treatment, but I will take the onion treatment". Then, he started with the onions. But, half way through, he found it difficult; his stomach started crying for help. So, he said, "I don't want this onion treatment either. I will surrender all my money and go back as a pauper". Likewise, we took the chilli treatment first—socialism. We found it hard. We found it impossible. So, we abandoned it in the middle. Then, we started taking the onion treatment, that is, market economy. Let us continue with it.

212. Husband must be presentable

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

I think this was a serious discrimination from which we all the more suffered. If I become Ambassador, my wife will go with me. But if my wife becomes one, then I would not be able to go with her.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : But the husbands must be presentable.

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

213. Hyde both sides

Shri N. K. P. Salve : ...I am on the substantive question of appointment of private investigative American agency of the nature of Fairfax with Mr. Hershman as its Chairman.

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Kalpnath Rai : Hershman or Harrish.

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

214. Hydrogen bomb

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

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

The Deputy Chairman all-knowingly replied :

"We will all sail together."

* Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao

But why do you want to stop the spread of humour?

— Abu Abraham

215. I am not an MLA

Shri Krishan Kant* : ...as you all know Bhiwani is on the border of Rajasthan. It is all desert area and camels are used by the villagers to transport firewood. One evening a shopkeeper there wanted to buy firewood brought by a man on camel and he said, "I will give you Rs. 5 for this much of firewood". The man agreed and the shopkeeper told him, "I will take the firewood in the morning. I hope in the morning if somebody comes and offers you Rs. 25, you will not give it to him". The villager replied, "No, certainly not. I am not an MLA."

216. If wishes were horses

The Prime Minister** was speaking on the debate on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan. The members of the treasury benches cheered the Prime Minister's reply by repeated thumping of desks. A member from opposition, Shri Parvathaneni Upendra, interrupted the Prime Minister by saying : "When you are here, they get all the vigour."

This led to the following witty exchange :

Shri Sat Paul Mittal : You get confused because of our thumping?

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : I wish it were a little more.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi : Well, if wishes were horses, I do not know what you will be.

217. Ignorance of the subject

Shri Raj Bahadur*** : I do not think that anybody else can produce anybody else's children.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : You have shown your ignorance of the subject.

218. Illegal gratification

When the House was discussing the Prevention of Corruption (Second Amendment) Bill, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor wanted to know from the Law

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

** Shri Rajiv Gandhi

*** Minister of Communications

Minister* whether the offer of a bottle of whisky would constitute as illegal gratification within the meaning of the amending Bill.

Answering him, Shri C. C. Biswas said :

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

219. Illegitimate orphan

During the course of a discussion, Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji was commenting on the reluctance of certain State Government in implementing the Central Government's scheme of loan waivers for agricultural community. Countering his argument, Shri H. Hanumanthappa paved the way for the following interesting interlude :

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : Madam, Dr. Sivaji started saying that the State Governments have not made up their minds to toe the line of the Central Government. Whose baby is it? It is the baby of the Central Government. Why should we take care of that? It is the baby of the Central Government. Along with your baby, you should send us money also.

The Deputy Chairman :** Thank God. Mr. Baby*** is not here now in the House.

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : You have distributed. You have made divisions among the farmers.

The Deputy Chairman : Mr. Hanumanthappa, in the morning the Finance Minister wanted to throw the baby along with the dirty... And just now you are talking about another baby.

An hon'ble member : At no time did they get a direct reply from the hon'ble Minister of Finance regarding the waiver of loans to handloom weavers.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate† : At least accept that the baby is not illegitimate. That's all.

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : Legitimate or illegitimate. When the parents themselves do not own it...

An hon'ble member : It has become an orphan.

* Shri C.C. Biswas

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Referring to Shri M.A. Baby

† Minister of Finance

Shri H. Hanumanthappa : When the parents have thrown out the baby, you can imagine whether it is legitimate or illegitimate. It has become an orphan.

220. Immediate consultation

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

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

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

Shri Ram Jethmalani : I assure you, Madam, that I consulted her before I started my speech. And why do you think I have been sitting with her so long?

221. Impossible in fact but possible in law

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : That is also possible in law.

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : If the British Parliament says, it will be so in law.

222. In due course

The Defence Minister*** was replying to a question on the setting up of an electronic unit by the Bharat Electronics Ltd. He said that it had been decided to set up new units but the locations thereof would be decided in due course. The Chairman† observed that the term 'in due

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

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

† Shri M. Hidayatullah

course' was a very elastic term. Thereupon, Dr. Bhai Mahavir observed :

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

223. In God's care

During a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri I.K.Gujral, commenting on the para relating to the country's security contained in the President's Address said :

President's Address wants us to sleep over it. It says, everything is fine; go home and rest; nature would take care of us; after all, we are Godfearing people and, therefore, God would take care of us.

224. Indulgent to babies

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

The Deputy Chairman* : Thank you.

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

The Deputy Chairman : Specially to babies.

225. Influence of narcotics

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

The Deputy Chairman* : Well, is this a walk-out on the Narcotics Bill or what?

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Under the influence of narcotics.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Janardhana Poojary

226. Influence of Neighbour

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

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

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

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : The Prime Minister does not like these big ministries. If I remember aright, that is what he said.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Yes, that is exactly what I also say, only I said it before he said it. That is my fault.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Great minds think alike.

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

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : How do you speak of love?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Because you have been excellent lovers and I am in close proximity to you.

227. Instant Dosas

During the discussion on the Designs Bill, 1999* Shri Vayalar Ravi recalled an old comment of a former Minister of Kerala and ex-member of Lok Sabha, late C.S. Mohammed Koya, criticising the then Government of Kerala :

"This Government is passing legislations like making *dosas*, very fast".

* The Bill was in connection with the WTO related Intellectual Property Rights.

To clarify his point, the Member said :

For the last one week, I feel, a lot of *dosas* has been made in this House. Bills are passed so fast. Mr. Rajagopalan is here and he has a good taste for *dosas*. He is very fond of *dosas* in Kerala.

228. Insuring fashionable products

The discussion on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 took a lighter turn when Shri Nilotpal Basu pointed out instances of "new fashionable products" being insured. It went like this :

Shri Nilotpal Basu : ...I remember a very interesting anecdote. In the 30s, Madam, you must have heard of Marilyn Dietrich...

The Deputy Chairman* : In the 30s, I was not born.

Shri Nilotpal Basu tried again :

In the 40s, if I remember right, Marilyn Dietrich was a very famous Hollywood actress. The whole world went *ga-ga* when the great Llyods Insurance Company of England insured one of her legs...Now, Mr. Shirodkar is indicating 'two legs'. Maybe; I do not know. I was not born at that point of time.... The wrist of Sachin Tendulkar- it is a very interesting product-the hands of Yehudi Menuhin, who plays violin, or some such products; these are very important ones. But in a country...where the official figure of poverty level is 40 per cent...

The Deputy Chairman was nevertheless inspired to quip :

I wish somebody could insure my throat and my finger, which presses this button, because these are the two most important things in the functioning of the House.

229. Interested in chicken

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

The Chairman :** People will be interested in chicken.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri R. Venkataraman

Shri Khurshid Alam Khan* : Sir, I really do not know whether the hon'ble member is a vegetarian or a non-vegetarian.

230. Intruders in the House

During the course of a discussion, when a point of order was being raised by a member, the following amusing interjection took place :

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा) : जगन्नाथ जी, एक मिनट। इनका एक प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है।

(Shrimati Kamla Sinha :** Jagannathji, just a minute, please. He has a point of order.)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यहां पर बगैर बुलाए कुछ प्राणी हैं-मक्खी है, शहद की मक्खी है, घूम रहे हैं, किसने उसको मैम्बर बनाया है, कैसे आ गयी हैं, अन्दर? मक्खी भी है और शहद की मक्खी भी है। यह बड़ा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है कि जिसको अथारिटी नहीं है, अन्दर आने की, मक्खी और शहद की मक्खी अन्दर कैसे आ गयी?

(Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur : Some uninvited creatures are here. Flies and bees are meandering. Who made them members? How did they come inside? Besides home flies, bees are also here. It is a big point of order as to how flies and bees have come inside without having any authority to come in.)

उपसभाध्यक्ष : अब इसके ऊपर क्या जांच समिति बैठानी पड़ेगी?

(The Vice-Chairman : Well, does this matter necessitate the appointment of an enquiry committee into it?)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं आपकी रूलिंग चाहता हूँ? या फिर इनको कहिए, जो आपके अधिकारी हैं कि इनको बाहर निकालें।

(Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur : I beg to seek your ruling. Alternatively, you may kindly ask your officers to remove these creatures from here.)

श्री जगेश देसाई : मगर ताली मारकर इनको हटाना नहीं है, ताली नहीं मारनी है।

(Shri Jagesh Desai : But, not by clapping. You are not to clap.)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : नहीं जो मार्शल है, उनको कहो कि बाहर निकालें।

(Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur : No, the Marshall may be summoned to remove the creatures from here.)

* Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

** The Vice-Chairman

231. Inverse geometric progression

The House was having a debate on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill. While allowing Shri Paryathaneni Upendra to speak on the Bill, the Chairman* also requested him to be very brief. Shri Upendra, thereupon, assured : "I will take half the time my predecessor has taken."

The Chairman then commented : "And the next member will take half the time of yours."

Shri Dipen Ghosh came out with his quick calculations : "That way, Mr. Asoke Sen** will get zero."

232. Invitation to interrupt

When Shri Jaswant Singh was speaking in the House, he was interrupted by Shrimati Amarjit Kaur. "You are making a speech," she accused.

Shri Jaswant Singh wittily replied :

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

233. It is better to ask

During the course of a discussion*** Shri Mohinder Singh Lather was fulminating against the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) Government for the plight of Assam. In his opinion, such a situation arose because the AGP did not pay heed to the sinister happenings that were simmering in the State. He said :

It is only the AGP Government which is to be blamed, not anybody else. You should blame the AGP Government for that. The writing was there on the wall itself, and the writing was very clear. If the AGP people did not know it, did not want to know what was going to be done by the Central Government, they should have consulted Mr. Goswami, they should have consulted Gurupadaswamyji, they should have inquired from others if they never wanted to face the truth.

* Shri R. Venkataraman

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

*** Motion recommending revocation of the President's Proclamation under Article 356 in relation to Assam.

In this context he related the following adage of Punjab, providing a witty tenor to his argument :

वाइस चेयरमैन, साहब, हमारे पंजाब के अन्दर एक कहावत है। एक बुजुर्ग घोड़ी पर बैठ कर जा रहा था और उसका लड़का घोड़ी की लगाम पकड़ कर आगे-आगे चल रहा था, बुजुर्ग कहने लगा, "पुत्र घोड़ी कित्थे है।" वह लड़का हैरान हुआ और उसने कहा, "बापूजी, तुम्हीं घोड़ी उल्टे बैठे हो ते घोड़ी तुआड़े थल्ले है।" बुजुर्ग ने कहा, "पुत्र जी, पता तां मैंनू वी सी पर पुच्छ लैणा चंगा हुंदा है।

(Mr. Vice Chairman*, Sir, there is a Punjabi adage. An old man was riding on a mare and his son was walking ahead leading the mare by holding its reins in his hand. The old man asked his son, "Dear Son, where is the mare"? The son was astonished to hear this question and he said, "Dear Father, you are seated on the mare and the mare is under you". The old man said, "Dear son, I know this thing but it is always better to ask.")

* Shri Bhaskar Annaji Masodkar

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What is wit? Reason expressed artfully

— M.J. De Chenier

234. Jugad

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik took a respite from serious debate to share this humorous anecdote :

श्रीमान् हमारे यहां मुरादाबाद, मेरठ और गाजियाबाद जिले में एक वाहन चलता है जिसे जुगाड़ कहते हैं। यह मैं एक जोक की बात कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि यहां कोई हंसी की बात नहीं होती है और सभी लोग एक गंभीर माहौल बनाए रखते हैं। तो एक विदेशी हमारे यहां पर्यटन के लिए आया और उसने उस वाहन को देखा। लोगों ने उसे बताया कि यह वाहन जुगाड़ से बना है। उसने कहा कि बहुत बढ़िया चीज है यह जोकि जुगाड़ से बन गयी। अब न उसमें मोटर जैसे पहिए थे और न मोटर-कार या जीप जैसा इंजन था। खाली जो हमारा पंप सेट था, उस का इंजन उस में लगा हुआ था। जब वह इंजन घूमने लगा और घूमता रहा तो उस की घड़ी खराब हो गयी और उसने हमारे यहां घड़ीसाज को उसे दिखाया। घड़ीसाज ने कहा कि साहब, यह तो इतनी बढ़िया और बाहर की घड़ी है, इसका पुर्जा तो यहां नहीं मिलेगा, मैं इसे जुगाड़ से ठीक कर देता हूँ। उसने घड़ी ठीक कर दी और घड़ी चल निकली। आगे गया तो उसकी कार में खराबी आ गई तो कार के मामले में भी यही बात हुई कि साहब, इसके स्पेयर पार्ट तो यहां मिलते नहीं, जुगाड़ से इसे ठीक कर देते हैं और कार ठीक हो गई। जब वह अपने देश में पहुंचा तो उसने अपने राष्ट्रपति से कहा कि हिन्दुस्तान के पास एक ऐसी बढ़िया चीज है कि जुगाड़ से हर चीज चल जाती है, उस चीज के बारे में बात की जाए। तो उन्होंने हमारे यहां के प्रधानमंत्री जी को फोन किया कि भाई, यह जुगाड़ क्या चीज है, वह हमें भी तो दो। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि मैं भी तो जुगाड़ से प्रधान मंत्री हूँ और यह जुगाड़ आपको दे दूंगा, तो यहां क्या होगा?

Sir, a vehicle is plied in Muradabad, Meerut and Ghaziabad districts which is called *jugad**. I am cracking a joke because no humorous talks are held here and everyone maintains a serious environment. A foreign tourist came and saw a vehicle. People told him that it was made of *jugad*. He said it was a very good thing that it was made of *jugad*. There were neither tyres nor engine like a motor-car or jeep. The engine of a pumping set was fitted into it. When the engine began to work and was revolving, his watch went unoperational. He showed it to a watch-maker. The watch-maker said that the foreign-made watch was so good that its parts would not be available here. So, he would repair it with some *jugad*. He repaired it and the watch was operational. Then there was some defect in his car. The same thing was repeated. The car mechanic said that its spare parts were not available here but he would repair it

* There is a pun in the word *Jugad*, which means a locally assembled device, it also means manoeuvring.

with some *jugad* and the car was repaired. When he returned to his country he told the President that there was a very nice thing in India called *jugad* which could make everything operational and that they should also ask them about it. So he rang up our Prime Minister and asked him, "What is this *jugad* ? Give it to us too." Our Prime Minister replied, "I am the Prime Minister with *jugad*. What will be the alternative here if I give this *jugad* to you?")

235. Jurassic Minister

This interesting exchange took place during the discussion on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 :

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee : ...This is my humble suggestion to the forward looking, dynamic, modern dinosaur or Jurassic Finance Minister that the dynamic Finance Minister should have this dynamic thinking that we must have a thinking...

The Deputy Chairman* : You are calling the Finance Minister a "Jurassic Minister"!

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee : No Madam. We are Jurassic, but he is a modern dinosaur.

The Deputy Chairman : He is talking of a lot of zoological terms, Jurassic and what not.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, however, had the last word : "All these terms I have learnt from him, Madam."

236. Just a wink will do

During a discussion in the House, Shri Ram Jethmalani put his leg on the chair as he spoke, to which Shri Janardhana Poojary raised an objection. Hurt that Shrimati Kamla Sinha had also echoed his protest, Shri Ram Jethmalani turned to her and said :

"Madam, you do not have to complain to him. You can wink at me and I would not do that."

Shrimati Kamla Sinha : You were looking elsewhere.

Shri Ram Jethmalani : I have always looked more at you than at anybody else.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

The Vice-Chairman* then wisely observed from his chair : "You can rest assured that he will be always careful."

237. Justification for a slip

During question hour, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had been engaged in a wordy duel with Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty. He was caught unawares when he accidentally addressed the Chairman** as Mahodaya*** . Thereupon the following repartee took place between Shri Vajpayee and the Chairman :

श्री सभापति : बात यह है कि इनका महोदया कहना पूरा जस्टिफाईड है, क्योंकि इनको स्वप्न में भी एक स्थिति आ गई है कि ...

(The Chairman : Now the thing is that he is fully justified in addressing me as *Mahodaya* because he has reached such a situation even in his dreams that...)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : महोदय, हर पुरुष में नारी छुपी होती है और हर नारी में पुरुष के दर्शन हो जाते हैं। अर्ध नारी नरेश्वर।"

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Sir, there is a woman within every man and one can perceive a man within every woman - the concept of *Ardha-nari nareshwar*.)

श्री सभापति : तो आप अर्धनारीश्वर हैं। यह न्यू डिस्कवरी है।

(The Chairman : You are *Ardhanareeshwar*. This is a new discovery.)

However, Shri Vajpayee had the final say when he said :

अगर सब हैं, तो मैं भी हूँ।

(If everyone is, then I am certainly one.)

* Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi

** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

*** Madam

Nothing more smooth than glass, yet nothing more brittle;
nothing more fine than wit, yet nothing more fickle

— H.G. Bohn

238. Labour without a boy or a girl

The Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961* was passed by the Rajya Sabha after a long debate. Thereafter, the following witty exchange took place in the House :

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : The Minister** is relieved of the labour.

The Vice-Chairman* :** We have passed this very important Bill with cooperation from everybody.

Inquiring about the pains the Minister had taken to get the Bill passed, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta asked in a lighter vein : "What was born, a boy or a girl?"

Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur quipped : "There was only labour. Nothing was born."

239. Lack of soul

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

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

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

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

240. Lacking knowledge of sweethearts

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I think, I have an open heart. I do not conceal my heart. Mr. Nanda# has become the sweetheart of some people.

* The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1995

** Shri P.A. Sangma

*** Shri Md. Salim

† Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, former Prime Minister was also the Home Minister.

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : You have the liberty to use any expression you like, but the expression 'sweetheart' does not suit you, because you know nothing about sweethearts.*

241. Lady friends

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

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand : Sir, may I ask the hon'ble member kindly to withdraw the expression "my lady friends", because it has not a very good meaning in English?

Shri D.P. Karmarkar* :** It may not be so in a technical sense.

242. Language trap

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

After Shri Das Munshi finished replying the supplementary in Hindi, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee said : "Sir, it is exported in Hindi and imported in English."

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

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

The Chairman, however, had the last say when he assured : "Bengali language is a national language."

* Shri Gupta was a bachelor.

** Hindu Marriage & Divorce Bill

*** Minister of Commerce

† Shri P.R. Das Munshi

Shri R. Venkataraman

243. Last call-girl

During the discussion on a calling attention regarding the startling disclosure made by Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former U.S. Ambassador to India, regarding payment of U.S. money for election purposes in India, there were frequent interruptions from various sections of the House. Shri Jagjit Singh Anand and Shri Piloo Mody were particularly having a wordy duel. Shri Piloo Mody at one stage doubted Shri Anand's knowledge of the English language and asked another member, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, to read out the disputed portion in Mr. Moynihan's book *A Dangerous Place*. Shri Bhupesh Gupta said :

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

244. Lathi vs. Hathi

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : May I know something about the *lathi* part of it?

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Yes, the *lathicharge* part of it.

Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi : As for the *lathi* part of it...

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Not the *hathi* part, but the *lathi* part.

Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi : Yes, yes, the *lathi* part of it.

245. Lawyer's instructions

The Vice-Chairman :** You are ensuring that you will speak till five?

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

Shri Kishan Chand : You are not then speaking from conviction? You are speaking only as a lawyer.

* Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi

** Shri V. K. Dhage

246. Leader most popular

Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla was elected Deputy Chairman of the House for a record fourth time on 9 July 1998. The felicitations offered to her in the House by leaders of various parties and groups noted her tremendous wit, charm and time-tested leadership. Some interesting excerpts are reproduced below :

Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar : ...I remember a proverb : "Where the heart beats, it speaks meaningful." That is the way Madam Heptulla was doing. I pray to God to give her more strength in order to give more protection to the Members of this House.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव :जब कभी ये गुस्से में होती हैं तो मैं समझ लेता हूँ कि अब काम बन जाएगा। ...मेरे ऊपर भी ये गुस्सा हुई हैं। एक बार तो इन्होंने मेरे खड़े होते ही सदन को स्थगित कर दिया। मैं इनके कमरे में गया और इनसे क्षमा याचना की और ये प्रसन्न हो गई और मुझे खूब बोलने का भी इन्होंने मौका दिया। इनके गुस्से में प्यार छिपा रहता है और हम सब लोगों को इनसे बहुत सम्मान मिलता है और हमें बहुत कुछ इनसे सीखने को मिलता है। ...हमारी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि हम जो बीच वाले हैं, बीच में बैठते हैं, हमारा भी आप ख्याल रखिएगा।

(Shri Ish Dutt Yadav : ...whenever she is angry, it takes me no time to understand that my purpose will be solved... she had been angry with me in the House. On one occasion, as soon as I stood on my legs, she adjourned the House, I went to her chamber and begged her pardon and she was pleased and gave me an adequate opportunity to speak. Her love is inherent in her anger and all of us get great respect from her and we get enough to learn from her. ...we request you to kindly take care of us also who are sitting in the middle.)

* * * * *

Shri R. Margabandu : In our Tirukkural, there is a couplet :

*"Idanai idanaal ivan mudikkum
enroindu adanai avankau indal."*

A person who is capable of discharging a particular duty has to be chosen for that post. That is the meaning of the couplet. The Tirukkural also refers to *saman saidu seethookkum koalpol*. There must be a balance maintained by a judge or a chairperson without leaning towards any side. ...we have seen that sometimes she behaved like a teacher and treated the members as students.

* * * * *

Shri Jayant Kumar Malhoutra : She has conducted the proceedings of this House with knowledge, charm and very rare wit. Her unanimous election reflects the perfection that this House finds in her.

श्री शरीफ-उद्-दीन शरीक : इस अवसर पर मैं कांग्रेस की लीडरशिप को भी मुबारकबाद दूँ कि उन्होंने इस जौहरे नायाब को इस कुर्सी पर बिठाने के लिए आगे कर दिया। साथ ही यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी इतनी तारीफ हुई है कि डर लगता है कि नजमा जी को किसी की नजर न लग जाए।

(Shri Sharief-ud-din Shariq : On this occasion, I would also congratulate the leadership of the Congress that they spared their best jewel for this post. I would also like to say that so much praise has been showered on her that I am afraid, Najmaji may get afflicted by the evil eye.)

* * * * *

Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan : In an increasingly chauvanistic and narrow-minded society, in a gender-discriminatory society, it is a joy to see that a woman is being elevated to this high post, not because she is a woman but because of the tremendous qualities that Najmaji has, by virtue of her dedication, her courage, her vision and her noble patriotic values.

* * * * *

डा. सी. नारायण रेड्डी : आज संसद में ही कवि के नाते अपने एक तेलगू दोहे के रूप में नजमा जी को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ। इसका छाया-मात्र हिन्दी अनुवाद है—“जितनी योग्यता उतना ही गौरव शोभा देता है, सिर से बड़ा मुकुट धरे तो सिर को नीचा कर देता है।”

...नजमा जी के उन्नत मस्तक को आज फिर एक बार समुचित मुकुट से अलंकृत किया गया है, इसकी हमें प्रसन्नता है।

(Dr. C. Narayana Reddy : I, being a poet, congratulate Najmaji in this Parliament by way of a Telegu couplet. Its shadow Hindi version is as follows :

Only as much honour looks graceful as is commensurate with one's merits. A heavier crown tends to lower the head it is worn upon.

...We are delighted that Najmaji's high head has once again been adorned with a matching crown.

* * * * *

श्री बालकवि वैरागी : ...हम तो पीछे बैठे हुए हैं, हमारा ध्यान रखने के लिए भी मुझे थोड़ा सा निवेदन करना है, चार पंक्तियाँ पढ़नी हैं। मैं नजमा जी का ध्यान भी चाहता

हूँ, सदन का ध्यान भी चाहता हूँ। बस इतना भर आप देख लेंगी तो हमारा काम चल जाए। निवेदन करना है कि:

हो मुबारक यह घड़ी, दिल से बधाई लीजिए
हमने रुतबा दे दिया, अब आप रौनक दीजिए
जो सामने हैं, रू-ब-रू, वो तो यूँ ही हैं सिकन्दर
चाहे अटल जी हों, सिकन्दर जी हों, ये तो किस्मत के सिकन्दर हैं श्रीमान,
पर हम भी इस महफिल में हैं, कुछ मेहरबानी कीजिए।

बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : We are the backbenchers and I have to recite a few lines so as to draw Najmaji's attention as well as that of the House. I am to submit :

Congratulations on this occasion,
we have given you this position and
Now, you grace the occasion.
Those who are sitting face-to-face
Are already lucky persons
Whether Atalji or Sikanderji
But we are also present here
So, kindly do a favour to us.

Thank you very much.)

* * * * *

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : “वे आए घर में हमारे खुदा की कुदरत है” यहां “घर” हाउस का तर्जुमा है। हमारे हाउस में तशरीफ लाई और तशरीफ लाती ही रही हैं। 8 साल से 18वां साल अब शुरू है। अच्छी उम्र है 18 साल की।

...मैं अपनी बात शिकायत से शुरू करना चाहता हूँ। एक शिकायत तो मेरी मुस्तकिल है, उस शिकायत को दूर करना नहीं चाहती। अल्लाह मियां इनसे नाराज क्यों नहीं है, मुझे ताज्जुब है, कि घड़ी-घड़ी इन्हीं को चुनकर भेज देते हैं। देखिए, नाराज होना ही चाहिए अल्लाह मियां को। ये अपना नाम, उनका पीछा छोड़ती ही नहीं, इसका कोई मतलब नहीं है दुनिया में। हर नाम जो अल्लाह से जोड़ा जाता है—नेमतुल्लाह यानी अल्लाह की नेयमत है, हैबतुल्लाह यानी अल्लाह का तोहफा है। जब ये ‘हेप्तुल्लाह’ होती होंगी तो अल्लाह सोचता होगा कि मैं क्या करूँ? ये उनका पीछा छोड़ती ही नहीं। लिहाजा मेरी सजीद शिकायत है कि आखिर ये अपने नाम को दुरुस्त क्यों नहीं करना चाहती? जगह-जगह ये ‘हेप्तुलह’ कहलाती हैं।

(Shri Sikander Bakht* : “She came to my House, it is the grace of God.” Here ‘ghar’ stands for ‘House’... she has been coming to our

* Leader of the House

House for the last 18 years, it is the beginning of the nineteenth year now. The age of 18 years is a pleasant one. ...I want to start my talk with a complaint. But she does not want to redress that complaint. Why God is not angry with her? I am surprised that she has been elected time and again. See, there are reasons for God to be angry with her. She does not leave off His name, it has no worldly meaning. Every name which is associated with God is not abandoned by her—‘Nemtulla’ means the gift of God, ‘Heptulla’ means the gift of God. When she is ‘Heptulla’ God must be wondering what to do. She does not leave Him off. My complaint, therefore, is why she does not want to correct her name? She is called ‘Heptulla’ here and there.)

* * * * *

उपसभापति : ...यह भी मेरी खुशकिस्मती थी कि मुझे चार वाईस प्रेसीडेंट्स के साथ काम करने का मौका मिला और यह भी बड़े गौरव की बात है कि उनमें तीन प्रेसीडेंट बन गए हैं। मैं चाहूँगी कि यह रिकार्ड जैसा मेरा चौथा हुआ है ऐसा ही यह रिकार्ड कायम रहे। यह तो सब उनकी काबलियत थी कि वह प्रेसीडेंट बने। मगर मैं थोड़ा बहुत इसमें हिस्सा अपना भी लगाना चाहूँगी कि मैंने उनको कोई परेशानी का मौका नहीं दिया हाऊस में ताकि वे आराम से अपने दूसरे कर्तव्यों को भी पूरा कर सकें।

पी.एम. साहब ने कहाहम चाहते थे कि वह लोक सभा में आएँ। अगर प्रधान मंत्री साहब इस वायदे को पूरा करें कि अगली दफे मुझे यूनेनिमसली स्पीकर चुनवाने की कोशिश करेंगे तो मैं जरूर नेक्सट इलेक्शन में लोक सभा के लिए खड़े होने को तैयार हूँ।

(The Deputy Chairman* : ...I was lucky in the sense that I got the opportunity to work with four Vice-Presidents and it is a matter of pride that out of them, three have become the President. I wish that this record may also come true like my record of being elected for the fourth time. It was all due to their capability that they could become the President. But I would like to say I have also made a little contribution in it in the sense that I did not give them any trouble in the House so that they could fulfil their other duties comfortably.

The Prime Minister had said that Najmaji has got elected in Rajya Sabha again and again and we want that she gets elected to Lok Sabha too. If the Prime Minister promises that he would try to get me elected as the Speaker unanimously, then I am certainly ready to fight the next election of the Lok Sabha.)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: बशर्ते वह प्रधान मंत्री रहें उस समय।

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

(Shri Sangh Priya Gautam : Provided he remains Prime Minister till that time.)

247. Less salt not without Salt

During the reply to the discussion on Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2002, the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar made a reference to the view expressed in the official publication of the Hypertension Society of India that the total intake of salt should ordinarily be restricted to six gram. The Minister also said that salt should not be taken in excess. Thereafter, the proceedings ran as follows :

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, अभी आपने हाईपरटेंशन के बारे में रेफरेंस दिया। उसमें आपने सिर्फ नमक के बारे में बात कही, पार्लियामेंट की बात नहीं कही कि जो हाईपरटेंशन पार्लियामेंट में हो रहा है उसकी दर भी कुछ कम करनी चाहिए।

(The Deputy Chairman* : Mr. Minister, just now you made a reference to hypertension. However, you have limited your observations to salt only. You have not said anything about Parliament and the necessity to curtail the rate of hypertension which has been prevailing in Parliament.)

श्री नीतीश कुमार : मैडम वह तो आपके हाथ में है। प्रणव बाबू सामने बैठे हुए हैं।

(Shri Nitish Kumar : Madam, it is in your hands. Pranab Babu is sitting in front of me.)

उपसभापति : मेरा तो वैसे ही लो प्रेशर है।

(The Deputy Chairman : I am already having low pressure.)

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : मैडम, मुझे लगता है कि रेलवे कैंटीन में ज्यादा नमक डाला जा रहा है।

(Shri S. S. Ahluwalia : Madam, it seems to me that salt is being used in excess in the Railway Canteen.)

Shri Pranab Mukherjee : But the consequence is, life would be without salt but anyway, let us accept it.

Shri Nitish Kumar : Life should be with less salt, not without salt.

248. Lesson in Chivalry

The House was having a debate on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill. After Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Mahishi had spoken

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

on the subject, the Chairman* called upon Smt. Kanak Mukherjee saying : "I am going to give preference to all ladies now."

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee thereupon quipped :

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

249. Let there be some difference

As Dr. Abrar Ahmed**, rose to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on behalf of Shrimati Krishna Sahi*** following interesting exchange took place :

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैडम, आपकी परमीशन से कोई पुरुष महिला कैसे बन जाएगा?

(Shri Shankar Dayal Singh : Madam, how can a man become a woman with your permission?)

The Deputy Chairman£ : I have permitted him because she is busy there.

उन्होंने खाली उनके पेपर ले लिए हैं।

(He has taken only her papers.)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैडम दाढ़ी और साड़ी में कुछ तो अंतर रहने दीजिए।

(Shri Shankar Dayal Singh : Madam, let there be some difference between beard and Sari.)

250. Linguistic indigestion

Roused by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta's† argument while trying to get the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1999 unanimously passed in the House, Shri Ram Jethmalani# stated that in fact, the repeal of the Act had been initiated by the earlier Governments in which a member\$ of the cabinet had belonged to the Left Party. It was the current Government which was not a party to it then. He, therefore, suggested

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of State in the Ministries of Finance and Parliamentary Affairs.

*** Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development and Department of Heavy Industry)

£ Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Member of the Communist Party of India (CPI)

Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment

\$ Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister

that Shri Gurudas Das Gupta's attitude to important legislative measures moved by the Government could not depend upon the locale of his seating arrangement in the House. Only the seating arrangement had changed but all were a party to the repeal of the Act.

The suggestion kindled a series of quick sallies in the House :

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : May I submit, Sir? The hon'ble Minister is suffering from locational aberration.

The Vice-Chairman* : Then, you are suffering from some kind of a time-factor aberration. Isn't it?

Shri Ram Jethmalani : I may be suffering from locational aberration. But my friend is suffering from something worst called the linguistic indigestion. I don't know from where he coined that word, which doesn't exist in the English language.

251. Living among animals

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

Thereupon, the Deputy Chairman** quipped :

मैंने पशुओं पर ही पढ़ाई की है।

(Animals have been my subject of study.)

Shri Yadav retorted :

आप तो उनके बीच रहती ही हैं।

(You do live among them.)

252. Long foreword

Dr. Mono Mohan Das* :** Madam,† the hon'ble member is in the habit of putting his question with a long foreword.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Is it to be a long backward then?

* Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education

† Addressing the Deputy Chairman, Shrimati Violet Alva

253. Look at the right sometimes

Shri Nilotpal Basu, a member of the CPI(M) objected to a discussion* from taking place in the absence of the Minister of External Affairs** in the House but the Minister had arrived amidst interruptions.

It led to the Deputy Chairman*** to remark : "...Yes; he has come. The left should sometimes look at the right..."

254. Looking after the Minister

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : We are looking after the displaced Minister also.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna# : But I come from West Pakistan.

255. Looking differently

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

Shri Arjun Arora : I must say I was very unfortunate.

256. Looking directly and seeking protection

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

Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi : Sir, I seek your protection. Sir, is the question relating to breaking of idols or stealing of idols?

* Short Duration Discussion on international situation arising out of terrorists' attack on World Trade Centre in U.S.A. leading to international intervention in Afghanistan.

** Shri Jaswant Singh

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

Shri Khanna, Minister of Rehabilitation was also a refugee.

\$ Shri R. Venkataraman

§ Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development

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

Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi : It is only because I am directly looking at you that I am seeking your protection, Sir.

The Chairman : I am really grateful to you.

257. Looking London, talking Tokyo

During a discussion regarding the poor performance and mismanagement of Air India, Shri Sharad Yadav* was drifting away from the topic when Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari intervened and said :

मंत्री जी, यह तो 'कहीं पर नजर है, कहीं पर निशाना' है।

(Mr. Minister, this is 'looking London, talking Tokyo'...)

Shri Sharad Yadav replied seriously :

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम तो एक तरफ ही नजर रखते हैं, कभी दूसरी तरफ रखी ही नहीं।

(Madam, Deputy Chairman, I always see on one side, never on the other side.)

Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari insisted :

सही लक्ष्य रखिए, लक्ष्य कहाँ है, वह देखिए?

(Keep accurate goal, see where is the goal...)

Shri Sharad Yadav continued in the same serious fashion and said :
हम तो अकेले...

(We are alone...)

Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari persisted :

अकेले ही चले थे...

(Went alone...)

Shri Sharad Yadav candidly admitted :

हम पतिव्रत नहीं पतिव्रता हैं, इसलिए हम अकेले ही चलते हैं। हमारी निगाह इधर-उधर नहीं जाती। हाँ, खूबसूरत चीज दिखे तो मस्ती में आते हैं।

(I do not fast, but am loyal to my wife, that is why I go alone. My eyes do not wander here or there. Yes, if some beautiful thing is seen, I get overjoyed.)

* Minister of Civil Aviation

258. Losing the thread

Shri A. C. Guha* : I think I have lost my thread...

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

Shri A. C. Guha : All the threads have gone to them to make ropes to get them hanged.

259. Lovable husband

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

Once you are an ICS Officer, you must be an efficient man, a very eligible groom in the marriage market, an excellent father, a lovable father-in-law and sometimes perhaps not so lovable a husband, because many of the ICS people believe in the permissive age.

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

Shri Sasankasekhar Sanyal : On a point of information, Sir. How did my friend develop this knowledge of lovable husbands?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Because you are one and I am in proximity to you.

260. Love letters

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

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

Shri Murasoli Maran : He would like to know whether she is your wife or not.

* Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure

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

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Normally love letters are not written to wife.

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

The Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Gopalsamy, is that your experience?

Shri V. Gopalsamy : That is the experience of the society, not mine.

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

The Vice-Chairman : I believe in you.

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Sir, he is affirming his allegiance to his wife.

Prof. C. Lakshman : I think, I need no platform to affirm my close allegiance to my wife.

Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya : To bring it on record.

Prof. C. Lakshman : There is no need for it.

261. Loving sons and naughty daughters

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Is it loving son or naughty daughter?

Miss Mary Naidu : Naughty daughters also must be taken care of, by loving brothers.

262. Lucky thirteen

Shri Pritish Nandy was the thirteenth and the last person to speak on a Bill. Shri Pramod Mahajan got up to reply saying that he was happy that Shri Pritish Nandy had been called to speak mainly because he happens to be the thirteenth person to speak on the Bill, and, number thirteen - is believed to be a lucky number for the Vajpayee Government.

The Deputy Chairman : I am also born on 13th.

* Shri Jagesh Desai

** Reference to Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Shri Sanjay Nirupam said jovially :

अब बिल आराम से पास हो जाएगा।

(Now, the Bill will be passed easily.)

Shri Pramod Mahajan then knowingly said :

आप हर सीढ़ी पर क्यों चढ़ती जा रही हैं, इसके रहस्य का मुझे अब पता चला।

(Now, I know the secret of how you manage to keep climbing up the ladder of success*).

263. Luxury of having lady members behind

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

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

Thereupon the Deputy Chairman*** quipped :

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla was elected the President of IPU.

** Shri Madhavrao Scindia

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

m

Humour is the funny situation or object;
Wit is the fun which a particular mind subjectively
perceives on the situation or object

— Guy Boas

264. Madam pleased, Sir automatically pleased

During the debate on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2003, Shri N. Jothi happened to address the Deputy Chairman* as 'Sir'. An hon'ble member objected, but the Deputy Chairman did not mind it. "He is addressing the Finance Minister, who has to answer. I don't have to answer", she explained.

Shri N. Jothi courteously replied : "I must address the Madam. I can address the Sir only through the Madam. When Madam is pleased, Sir is automatically pleased."

265. Maiden pilot of Marriage Bill

When Shri P.C. Thomas** begged to move the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the Deputy Chairman* interrupted him to ask :

"Is it your first piloting of a marriage?"

Shri P.C. Thomas replied : "Maiden."

The Deputy Chairman then made an interesting remark :

"Maiden piloting of a Marriage Bill. That is very good. Naturally, a maiden has to pilot a marriage. A married person should not."

266. Maiden retirement

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

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice

† They got re-elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Hearing this, Shri Parvathaneni Upendra advised him :

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

267. Maiden's reply

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

"Maiden reply".

"Maiden's* reply", corrected Shri Jagdish Tytler.

268. Man of the question hour

During the discussion following a question on the ONGC's new investment, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy had just got up to speak when Shri Prem Chand Gupta interrupted with an interesting revelation :

सर इन्हें "Man of the Year" अवार्ड मिला है।

(Sir, he has received the "Man of the Year" award.)

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy : Sir, today, I am speaking for the first time in this session. सर हर रोज कुछ न कुछ कहने से नजर लग गई है। आज एक ही बार बुलाया है मुझे।

(Sir, I have been speaking on something or the other almost everyday, that is why I have got afflicted by an evil eye. Today, I have finally been called once.)

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता : सर इन्हें "Man of the Year" अवार्ड मिला है।

(**Shri Prem Chand Gupta :** Sir, he has received the "Man of the Year" award.)

The Chairman** pleasantly remarked : "Man of the Question Hour" हैं ये, बोलिए।

(He is the "Man of the Question Hour", you may speak.)

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

** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

269. Marriage Bill favour women

Shri Pramod Mahajan* made a request to the House thus :

The next Bill is about marriage laws. It may take a little time because many women members would like to participate in this debate.

Shri Khan Gufran Zahidi enquired : "Why only women, why not men?"

Shri Pramod Mahajan replied : "I will tell you why. Because this Bill** is in favour of women."

The Deputy Chairman*** promptly commented : "Men might oppose it."

270. Marriage ending in separation

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

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

This led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to comment :

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

271. Marriage : fusion not confusion

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

Shri K. K. Madhavan : Sir, I think the mover of the Bill himself is confused. It is a product of confusion, of confused thinking.

Shri Yogendra Sharma : Marriage is also a product of confusion.

* Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Information Technology and Minister of Communications

** The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Minister of Commerce

Shri K. K. Madhavan : Fusion not confusion. There is a lot of difference between fusion and confusion.

272. Marriage itself is diplomacy

A question on elimination of married women from higher service led to a brief amusing exchange in the House :

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand : Are married women excluded from the diplomatic service in other countries?

The Chairman* : No, they are not excluded even here.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi :** Marriage itself is diplomatic.

273. Marriage party

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

274. Marriage without spouse

In the wake of Bofors controversy several members of Lok Sabha resigned *en masse*.† As was expected, the matter was raised in the Rajya Sabha. The tense atmosphere in the House was, however, enlivened to some extent by the following repartee :

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Madam Deputy Chairman, an unprecedented situation has arisen following wholesale resignation of the entire opposition from Lok Sabha. Madam, I say that this is an unprecedented situation because never in the history of Indian parliamentary democracy has it occurred that the entire opposition has resigned and the House of the People, the Lok Sabha, is sitting without the opposition. Madam, a Parliament without opposition is like a marriage without a spouse.

* Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

** Minister of Defence Organisation

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

† This happened in the Eighth Lok Sabha

Shri K. C. Pant* : Madam, what does one do when the spouse runs away?

Shri Dipen Ghosh : You may have a marriage without spouse because you are accustomed to have a Parliament without opposition.

275. Married vs. Bachelors

Putting supplementaries to his question on the Indian Ambassador in Spain, Shri Man Singh, the Maharaja of Jaipur, Shri Bhupesh Gupta charged the Government of political consideration in appointing him the Ambassador. This was promptly denied by Sardar Swaran Singh** :

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

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

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

Sardar Swaran Singh : A bachelor is not entitled to ask that question.

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

The Chairman* :** Do not go into this.

Sardar Swaran Singh : We know a bit more about it than the bachelors.

276. MCOCA, mauka and mukka

Speaking on the new legislation called MCOCA†, a member stated :

मौका मिलते ही मुक्का लगा देते हैं।

(Whenever you get mauka (opportunity), you never fail to strike with a mukka (fist) or you never fail to impose the MCOCA)††.

* Minister of Defence

** Minister of External Affairs

*** Dr. Zakir Husain

† Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999

†† There is a play here on three words MCOCA, mauka and mukka, which have different meanings but which are somewhat similar in pronunciation.

277. Medical expert vs. financial expert

During a discussion on the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1995, the following interesting exchange took place between two members of the House :

श्री त्रिलोकीनाथ चतुर्वेदी: मिश्रा जी, आप बार-बार वित्त मंत्री को एक्सपर्ट कह रहे हैं। किस चीज के लिए एक्सपर्ट कह रहे हैं? किस डिलीवरी की बात कर रहे हैं, किस बात की तरफ आपका इशारा है?

(Shri Trilokinath Chaturvedi : Mishraji, you are repeatedly calling the Hon'ble Minister of Finance an expert. What for are you calling him an expert? What is the delivery you are referring to? What do you want to indicate?)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: डिलीवरी कराने वाला डाक्टर दूसरा होता है। यह तो डिलीवरी कराने वाली सरकार के डाक्टर हैं।

(Shri Chaturanan Mishra : The doctor attending the delivery of a child is a different kind of doctor. But, he is the doctor of a Government that delivers.)

278. Member advised to have lunch

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

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

The Deputy Chairman retorted :

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

279. Member putting hand in other's pockets

The House was having a short duration discussion regarding use of money power in the recent biennial election to Rajya Sabha and the

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

implications thereof on the working and preservation of parliamentary democracy. Shri Akbar Ali Khan who participated in the discussion wanted to know whether there was any solution to the problem. Shri Mohan Lal Gautam suggested that leaders of different political parties could sit together and put their heads together and evolve some solution. The suggestion of Shri Gautam led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to comment :

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

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam referring to Shri Gupta remarked :

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

280. Men's interest

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

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

Shri Arjun Arora added from his side :

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

281. Militant Swamy

The Chairman† : Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

Shri Subramanian Swamy : I hope he does not regard me as a Tamil militant.

The Chairman : Your name shows that you are a militant. Your name is militant, Subramanian.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : How can a Swamy# be a militant?

The Chairman : But he is double : Subramanian, Kartikeya, he is a war lord.

* Shri Gupta was a communist member.

** Shrimati Violet Alva

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

† Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

Godman

282. Minister and drug peddling

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

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

The Deputy Chairman* : What are you saying?

The Minister of Finance :** I have to do with stopping the peddling of drugs, not with the peddling of drugs.

283. Minister cultivating humility

On his question on discontinuance of the Emergency, Shri Bhupesh Gupta put a very long and winding supplementary which made Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi*** remark that Shri Gupta had asked a long question. An hon'ble member added that the supplementary was, infact, a speech.

Hearing this, Shri Hathi said :

"During question hour, even if he (Shri Gupta) makes a speech, in my humility, I will call it a question."

An elated Shri Gupta replied :

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

284. Minister is always right

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

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

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

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao* then told Shri Mody that he would surprise him more and more by being always right.

Shri Piloo Mody replied :

"You are becoming like your boss**. She says she is always right. Sometimes to make some mistake is human."

285. Minister not sleeping

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

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

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

286. Minister of Beauty

Shri Pramod Mahajan† during his reply on the discussion on the Information Technology Bill, 2000 wanted to reassure the House that he was not intending to regulate information technology but to facilitate it. He said that when he became IT Minister people said that IT would not progress in the country : "There are two areas where we were of world standards—one was IT and another was beauty and only because there was no Minister for Beauty we had Miss Universe and Miss World! And now an IT Minister has come!" After he completed his reply, the Deputy Chairman# said :

प्रमोद जी, आपने सभी बातों का अच्छा जवाब दिया लेकिन एक बात का जवाब नहीं दिया। आई.टी. की मिनिस्ट्री तो बन गई है, ब्यूटी की मिनिस्ट्री का कौन मिनिस्टर होगा?

(Pramodji, you replied well on all points but on one point you have not replied. IT Ministry has been made but who is going to be Minister for the Ministry of Beauty?)

* Minister of External Affairs

** Reference to Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

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

† Minister of Information and Technology

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

A chivalrous Shri Pramod Mahajan promptly replied :

मैडम, जब तक आप चेयर में हैं, मुझे और कोई मंत्री मिलेगा नहीं।

(Madam, as long as you are in the Chair, I will not get any Minister.)

287. Minister should run faster

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance* was not present in the House to lay Paper on the Table of the House. As soon as he came, the Chairman asked him to apologize for not being present in the House at the appropriate time. Apologizing profusely, Shri Poojary said :

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

Shri R. Ramakrishnan witnessed to the Minister's explanation : "We saw him running".

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra, however, advised : "You should run faster".

288. Minister's cap

Dr. K. N. Katju** : I was reminded that there is something like 'white lie'.

Shri S. Mohanty : And that exactly is the colour of the hon'ble Minister's cap!

289. Minister's reply like a bikini

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

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

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

* Shri Janardhana Poojary

** Minister of Home Affairs and States

*** Shri T.A. Pai

290. Minister's reply like a small mouse

Hearing a rather long reply from the Minister*, during a question hour, Shri Ram Deo Bhandari said :

आदरणीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने काफी लंबा-चौड़ा जवाब दिया है मगर इस जवाब में कुछ भी सार्थक नहीं है। कहा जा सकता है कि "खोदा पहाड़ और निकली चुहिया"। मान्यवर...

(Hon'ble Chairman**, Sir, the Minister has given quite a lengthy reply but there is nothing relevant in that. It can be said that the whole mountain has been dug up and what has been discovered is just a small mouse.)

When the Chairman told the member to ask a specific question from the Minister, Shri Bhandari sought some time to frame a question on a very long reply. At this, another member, Shri Rajiv Shukla remarked :

चुहिया पहाड़ से बड़ी हो गई है।

(The small mouse has become bigger in size than the mountain.)

291. Minister's watch

Once the Minister of Scientific Research*** was late by three minutes in reaching the House due to slow running of his watch for which he apologised to the House. Taking advantage of the situation, Shri Bhupesh Gupta had a dig at the Minister :

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

The Deputy Chairman : Anyway, it will be set right now, we shall have to wait and watch.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I would wish to present him with a watch which gives him the right time.

An hon'ble member : From Russia?#

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : If he pleads inability to produce one here.

* Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, the Minister of Water Resources

** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

*** Shri Humayun Kabir

† Addressing the Deputy Chairman, Shrimati Violet Alva

Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a communist.

292. Ministers are always honourable

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

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

293. Ministers can afford to be robbed

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

"Ministers can afford to be robbed", was Dr. Bhai Mahavir's reaction.

294. Ministers' faces on the T.V.

Shri N. K. P. Salve: I do not for a moment agree that there is any political interference whatsoever. I have worked in it. Except, when Mrs. Gandhi told me once, "Please do not show the Ministers too often". She said, "If you want to show some programme in which the Ministers are there, kindly give importance to programmes and do not show the faces of the Ministers too often".

Shri Jaswant Singh : Ministerial faces are quite entertaining. Do not deprive us. Do not deny us.

Shri S. W. Dhabe : We are not averse to it.

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

* Minister of Home Affairs

** Shri K.C. Pant

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

295. Ministers in uniform

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

Shri Piloo Mody got up and quipped : "From the Minister onwards".

296. Misconception

During the question hour, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja*, was replying to supplementaries to the question relating to the telecast of serials on family planning by Doordarshan. An interesting exchange took place as Shrimati Mira Das deviated from the subject and said :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is not directly related to this question, yet I will fail in my duty if I do not speak in this House about the news carried in newspapers about Lord Jagannath. Sir, Lord Jagannath is not worshipped in Orissa only. He is worshipped throughout India and he is the symbol of *dharma sangraha*. Recently there was a report in newspapers and also on electronic media that a stone had fallen into the sanctum sanctorum, *Garbha Griha*, while the deities were being removed... This has been categorically denied by the temple administration and also by the main priest of that temple. I would request the Minister to take action against those persons who are carrying this sort of news because...

The Chairman :** What has it got to do with the family planning?

An hon'ble member : *Garbha Griha* means it has got some relation with family planning.

Shri Subramanian Swamy : She is saying something about *Garbha Griha*. So, it must have some relation with *garbha****.

Putting an end to this confusion, Shri Panja remarked :

Lord Jagannath temple or its sanctum sanctorum has nothing to do with that conception or with *garbha*.

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

** Shri K. R. Narayanan

*** Womb

297. Misfortune

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

The Deputy Chairman : You have made it very clear.

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

An hon'ble member : Are you sure you will be able to convince?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : We live with good hopes just as you live with hopes.

The Deputy Chairman : Let us hear the Minister then.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : You seem to be very fond of hearing the Minister.

The Deputy Chairman : You said you live in hopes and...

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I know the Ministers are charming and very nice to hear but we are sometimes also not so uncharming and not so unpleasant to hear.

The Deputy Chairman : Your charm is known all round.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : No, Madam. This is one of my misfortunes that I cannot charm the Chair.

298. Mitterand not Mitra

Shri N. K. P. Salve : I happened to be the Minister-in-waiting way back in 1983 when Mr. Mitterand came to India... I had an opportunity of having a long talk with him, a heart to heart talk. He said one thing :

Communist party unfortunately is one which has its own predilections and affiliations to its party and when it comes to a doctrinaire matter, they will keep all other interests secondary, including national interest.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Mr. Salve, you please repeat the quote because Mr. Mitra is not here. If you could write it down, I will give it to him.

* Shrimati Violet Alva

Shri N. K. P. Salve : To whom? To Mr. Mitterand! Mr. Mitterand is no longer here. I am referring to Mr. Mitterand of France not Mitra of India.

Shri Biplab Dasgupta : I could not follow the French accent. That is all.

The Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Salve is talking about the late French President.

An aghast Shri N. K. P. Salve declared : "I could not be Minister-in-waiting for Ashok Mitra ever. I hope not."

299. Modern Hanuman

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

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

"He is a Hanuman***", quipped Shri Sitaram Kesri†.

300. Monkey's tail

During the discussion on the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2. Bill, 2000, Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey was talking about the scarcity of resources. She expressed the whole matter in a poetic fashion, which led to an interesting story :

महोदय, इन्होंने कहा कि यह रेल बजट निराशारूपी अंधकार को मिटाने के लिए आया है। लेकिन संसाधनों के अभाव में आशा लालिमा बनकर आकाश के एक कोने पर सहमी खड़ी है। समय ही बताएगा कि ममता जी की उम्मीदें कब पूरी होंगी और हम ममता जी के प्रति जो उम्मीदें लगाए बैठे हैं, वे कब पूरी होंगी। महोदय, सुरक्षा, संरक्षा और बेहतर सफाई के लिए जितने अर्थ की अपेक्षा है, वह कहाँ से आएगा, किस तरह से आएगा? एक चीज मुझे जरूर लग रही है कि ममता जी जनमुखी से राममुखी हो गयी हैं। रामजी की कृपा हुई तो सब प्रकल्प पूरे हो जाएंगे। छप्पर फाड़कर संसाधन खुद-ब-खुद जुट जाएंगे।

* Shrimati Kamla Sinha

** Minister of External Affairs

*** Monkey-god in Hindu mythology

† Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

(Sir, she said that this Railway Budget has come to dispel the darkness of despair. But due to scarcity of resources, hope is standing scared in a corner of the sky as the sun glows. Time will tell when the hopes of Mamataji will be fulfilled and when the hopes we have on Mamataji would be fulfilled. Sir, how the amount of money required for safety, security and better cleanliness, will be arranged and where from? One thing I am sure about is that Mamataji has become *Rammukhi* from *janmukhi*. Rama's willing all plans will be materialized. Resources will be mobilized automatically.)

Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi said aptly :

राम जनता की तरफ देखते हैं।

(Rama looks towards the public.)

Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey replied :

आजकल राम आप की ही तरफ देख रहे हैं। महोदय, राम की चर्चा चली तो मुझे वाल्मीकि रामायण का एक प्रसंग याद आ गया। इसे सुनाकर मैं पुनः रेल बजट पर आऊंगी। यह काव्य है, पुराण है, यह कहते हुए मैं बताना चाहती हूँ कि राम के राज्याभिषेक के समय सीता अद्भुत रूप में सुंदर दिखाई पड़ रही थीं। हनुमान और उन के साथियों ने उन्हें बनवासिनी के रूप में देखा था, जब उन्होंने सीता के इस रूप को देखा तो उन्हें लगा कि यह तो अद्भुत रूप है। लेकिन वे लोग कहने लगे कि कहीं कुछ कमी है। क्या कमी है? तो एक वानर ने दूसरे वानर से कहा पूंछ नहीं है और सब तो ठीक है, लेकिन पूंछ कहाँ गयी। वह अपनी दृष्टि से देख रहे थे कि पूंछ नहीं तो सुंदरी कैसे? उसी तरह सारी चीजें हैं - ममता जी बहुत मेहनती हैं, ममता जी का दिल बहुत अच्छा है, दिमाग भी बहुत अच्छा है, उसके बावजूद प्रश्न यह उठता है कि पूंछ कहाँ है, संसाधन कहाँ हैं? हम अपने एंगल से देखते हैं, जैसे कि वानरों ने अपने एंगल से देखा था, जब पश्चिमी बंगाल के लोग अपने एंगल से देखते हैं तो वही प्रश्न आ जाता है कि पूंछ कहाँ है, संसाधन कहाँ हैं?

(Now-a-days, Rama is looking towards you. Sir, while discussing about Rama I recall an anecdote of Balmiki Ramayana. After telling this, I will come back to the Rail Budget. While referring to this epic, I wish to tell that at the time of coronation of Rama, Sita was looking extremely beautiful. Hanuman and his companions had seen her in the form of *Banwasini**. When they saw Sita in this form, it appeared to them that she is wonderfully

* A forest dweller.

beautiful. But they began to say that there is something lacking. What is she lacking? One monkey said to the other that she has no tail. Everything is fine but where is the tail? They had their views about beauty that how can she be beautiful without tail? This applies everywhere. Mamataji is hard-working, Mamataji is good at heart, she is also an intelligent person, despite this, the point is, where is the tail? Where are the resources? We see from our own angle as the monkeys saw from their own angle. When people of West Bengal see things from their angle, then the same question arises : Where is the tail? Where are the resources?)

301. Monkeys and Ram Rajya

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : How can he think of the Congress *Ram Rajyatva* when the monkeys are being exported?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : There are many more available, Sir.

The Chairman :** Not in this House.

302. Monogamy

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

An hon'ble member : Some have no wife.

Shri B. K. Mukherjee : Some members have no wife at all.†

303. Monopoly over wisdom

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

* Minister of Agriculture

** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

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

† Perhaps reference here is to Shri Bhupesh Gupta who was a bachelor.

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

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

(**Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it appears that Shri Chaturanan Mishra has monopolised over wisdom.)

श्री बूटा सिंह : इसलिए वे चतुरानन हैं।

(**Shri Buta Singh*** : That is why, he is Chaturanan.**)

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

(**Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee** : If Chaturanan has more wisdom, I am afraid he may become *Dashanan**** also.)

304. More poisonous than poison

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Madam Deputy Chairman,† a Congress member has given me a tablet. Kindly examine whether it is a poison.

Shri Abid Ali : Eat it.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : If it comes through you, it must be poison. Kindly send it for medical examination.

Shri Chandra Shekhar : Today you are so poisonous, I think that it will not affect you.

305. More than a boy

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

* Minister of Home Affairs

** A four-headed person.

*** *Ravana* or *Dashanan* is said to have had ten heads.

† Shrimati Violet Alva

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : We have got only a boy on the burning deck.

Shri B.C. Ghose : He is not a boy, he is more than a boy.

306. More yielding

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

I am reminded of an anecdote, a story, which I will just tell for the benefit of the House and for the benefit of the Finance Minister. Those were the days of Disraeli in England, the later part of the 19th century. He was the leader of the opposition. Disraeli said to Gladstone : 'Mr. Gladstone I would like you to tax the rich people and leave the poor; do not rely upon indirect taxes.' For that the classic reply given by Gladstone was : 'Look, both direct and indirect taxes are like two charming sisters. I love them both. Though, in the family parlance it may be called immoral and bigamous. Because they are both charming, I love them both. But in this I give a little more love to indirect taxes, the second sister, because she is more charming, she is more yielding and she is more welcome for exploitation. Therefore, I depend upon this source, though, I do not give up the other source.

An hon'ble member : You are charging him with bigamy?

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

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh : The other sister has been more yielding...

307. Mother and daughter stations

During the debate on the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas** was explaining that the reason for the long queues at CNG stations was because there were three kinds of stations : on-line stations, mother stations and daughter-booster stations. There were also some daughter stations which unlike the other

* Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

** Shri Ram Naik

stations took more time to fill gas and so people normally didn't go there. This led to some witty exchanges in the House.

The Deputy Chairman* : What did you say? Daughters? Why are you always so sex-biased and gender-biased? The daughters are not working; and the mothers are working. What is this?

Shri Ram Naik : The daughters are to be fed by the mothers till they become quite young.

The Deputy Chairman : Even the sons are fed by mothers. Why don't you make the more inefficient stations son stations?

Shri Ram Naik then improved his statement : "We have decided to upgrade all the daughter stations to daughter booster stations..."

308. Mother and Son

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

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

309. M.Ps and Empties

When the House reassembled after lunch for Private Members' Business**, the Deputy Chairman* suggested that if the House agreed, the members could discuss with the Chairman to have on the Friday set for Private Members' Resolutions, two Resolutions and on the following Friday set for Private Members' Bills, one Bill only so that more Bills could be taken up instead of one Bill going on for three sessions consecutively.

Some discussion followed and Shri B.P. Singhal wanted to take a consensus right away.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Private Members' Business Resolution regarding taking effective steps for providing safe drinking water and setting up a Central Drinking Water Advisory Board.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

The Deputy Chairman : No, no; not right away. Some members are not here; the number of empty benches is more...

Shri B. P. Singhal : They will always remain empty on Fridays. Those who are interested in Friday's debate are present here. So we should be able to take a decision.

Shri Balbir K. Punj then had the last say in the matter : "We have to decide it with M.Ps and Empties!"

310. Mr. Baby

Shri P. N. Sukul : When you are called to speak, you speak.

The Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Baby, I request you not to become an interrupter.

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

The Vice-Chairman : Leave it to your party leader.

Shri P. N. Sukul : Mr. Baby, don't behave like a baby.

311. 'Mr.' Renuka Chowdhury

The Chairman** : Now Mr. Renuka Chowdhury.

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : Sir, you called me 'Mr.'!

The Chairman : Oh! From the masculinity of your voice I thought it was Mr.

312. Much ado about laughter

While speaking during a debate, Shri M. Thambi Durai*** wondered as to what provoked Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta to laugh and make a sarcastic remark. The latter protested that he had made any remark, only laughed. This interesting exchange took place thereafter :

Shri M. Thambi Durai : If you are laughing in the way you like, somebody may misunderstand as to why you are laughing.

The Deputy Chairman† : It should not be a delinquent laugh. As long as it is an eloquent laugh, it is okay.

* Shri Anand Sharma

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs

† Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Madam, it should be an eloquent laugh.

The Deputy Chairman : That is what I said. Eloquent laugh is allowed, not a delinquent laugh.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee : It should not be a mischievous laugh.

At that, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta lamented that he could do nothing if his friend saw everything as a mischief. He insisted that his laugh was hearty and eloquent and he was only laughing at the performance of the Minister.

Supporting the argument of Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, the Deputy Chairman dryly remarked : "At least, he is not making you cry."

313. My lord and my lady

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

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

314. My Lord! My Lady!

At the farewell to retiring members in the House, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla recounted one of the lighter moments in the House from the past. It was about the time when Shri Asoke Sen had been speaking at length during the discussion on Anti-Defection Bill. He kept addressing the Deputy Chairman*** as 'Sir, Sir'. Shrimati Margaret Alva had interrupted at that moment to say "Asoke Senji, she is a lady!" And then he had continued :

"Madam, in the other House, sometimes I forget and call the Speaker 'My Lord'!†"

* Resigned on January 20, 1986.

** Minister of Law

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Mr. Sen was a lawyer by profession.

The Deputy Chairman had quipped : "I hope, Mr. Sen you are not going to call me 'My Lady'!"

315. My son's father

Shri N. E. Balaram : In Kerala, suppose you ask a Namboodri lady, I mean a Brahmin lady, what her husband's name is. She will never say that. She will only reply, "The name of my husband is my son's father". Suppose she is asked to recite the mantram of Narayanaya Namaha and suppose her husband's name is Narayana, she will say : "My son's father Namaha". Like that, the Foreign Minister is like that Brahmin lady in Kerala. He does not want to say where the danger is coming from.

Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy : If that lady has no son, how will she address?

Shri N. E. Balaram : I do not know that. Ask the Minister.

n

Without humour you cannot run
a sweetie-shop, let alone a nation

— John Buchan

316. Naming problem

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

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon : They do it in some cases.

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand : Whoever is more illustrious.

317. Need to change specs

The House was discussing the international situation. Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy** who was speaking in the House had all praise for India's foreign policy. This made Prof. Mukut Bihari Lal comment : "Congratulations on self-praise."

It evoked a brief repartee in the House :

Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy : It is not self-praise. It is there for you to see, my dear friend. It is there. The whole world see it today. How can you not see it? You are a Professor in addition.

Shri Arjun Arora : He stands in need of changing his specs.

318. Neither cat nor queen

While speaking in the House Shri Humayun Kabir was looking at Shri Bhupesh Gupta. Shri Gupta did not like this and in turn requested Deputy Chairman*** to ask Shri Kabir to look at the Chair. The Deputy Chairman advised Shri Gupta not to be so touchy, but he held to his position said, "When you are there why should he look at me? He should look at you."

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

The Deputy Chairman : He is not a Queen either.

Shri Humayun Kabir : I am sure he is not a Queen but in any case...

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : But you are approaching the Queen by occupying the throne.

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

** Belonged to the ruling Congress Party

*** Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao

319. Neither common nor sense

Shri K. Santhanam, who was speaking on the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, was interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta. This was objected to by Shri Santhanam. Justifying himself, Shri Bhupesh Gupta said :

"I am not a lawyer at all. It is common-sense."

Shri K. Santhanam : I am strictly on the legal interpretation of it. You have no business to interrupt. I think it is neither common nor sense.

320. Never too late to correct one's mistake

The Prime Minister* had made a statement in the House regarding the visit of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Speaking on the statement of the Prime Minister, Shri A.G. Kulkarni said :

"Finally, Sir, I want only to say that I am really very very happy that the youthful Prime Minister of this country has risen to the stature of a world statesman."

Shri V. Gopalasamy : It is for the home-coming, I think**... Warm welcome for the home-coming.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Sir, the opposition not only opposes, but also it has a bias towards all good things in life. I am very happy that the Prime Minister rose to the occasion and brought himself on to the forum of world statesmen which I really want to encourage and which people like me, people of my age, would really encourage. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you will protect me from the remarks of my friends on this side.

The Chairman* :** Mr. Kulkarni, I am protecting you by saying that it is never too late to correct one's mistake.

* Shri Rajiv Gandhi

** There were Press reports that Congress(S) Party was merging with the Congress (I) Party. Mr. A.G. Kulkarni was a member of Congress(S) Party which merged with Congress (I).

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

321. New Chairman

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

The Chairman :** Not the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Some intruder.

Shri R. Mohanaragam : I thought she was promoted.

The Chairman : Some day in future.

322. Nine months is the natural period

Shri V. M. Chordia, who moved a motion in the House to discuss the Fourth Annual Report of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), expressed his surprise over the fact that the Report in question was laid nine months after the close of the year and went on criticising the functioning of LIC.

Replying to him, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance*** said that the Report had been submitted within the stipulated time limit of 9 months and that if the Report could not be submitted within one or two months, it did not mean that the LIC was inefficient or it could be blamed for the delay.

In support, Shri Akbar Ali Khan quipped : "And nine months is the natural period."

Shri B. R. Bhagat remarked sardonically : "Well, the House was very wise in putting that period."

323. No accolade for loud members

At the farewell to retiring members, accolades were showered upon three retiring members† from Kerala for their soft-spokenness and good behaviour in the House. The Deputy Chairman‡ said that in fact she didn't think that they had the capacity to shout like some of the members who always tended to raise their voices.

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Shri B. R. Bhagat

† Sarvashri S. Ramachandran Pillai, C.O. Poulse and J. Chitharanjan

‡ Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

The Chairman* quickly interrupted : "Who are those members?"

The Deputy Chairman tactfully side-stepped the question and continued with her speech.

324. No *chakka jam* of the House

Initiating the discussion on the motion for consideration of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, Shri Balkavi Bairagi *inter alia* referred to the very sharp increase in freight rates in respect of salt and the rising prices of sugar, edible oil, pulses, etc.

At this, the Deputy Chairman** quipped :

नमक और शक्कर महंगी हो तो कोई हर्ज नहीं क्योंकि ये बी.पी. और डाइबैटीज की बीमारी पैदा करती हैं।

(One should not mind if the prices of sugar and salt go up because they cause blood pressure and diabetes.)

Later in the day, when the Minister of Railways*** was about to reply to the discussion, Shri Balkavi Bairagi stood up and began reciting a short poem, the concluding lines of which were as follows :

पटरी पर यश की रेल चले
अपयश का काम कभी न हो।
गतिशील रहे इसका चक्का
यह चक्काजाम कभी ना हो॥

(Let the train of fame run on the rails,
Let no one ever commit any disgraceful act,
Let the wheels of train remain in motion,
Let there be no *chakka jam* at any time.)

These lines drew the following comment from the Deputy Chairman :

मुझे लगता है कि अब नेक्स्ट सेशन रेल गाड़ी में लगना चाहिए क्योंकि कम से कम आपकी पंक्तियों के अनुसार रेल चलती तो रहेगी, चक्का तो जाम नहीं होगा हाऊस का।

[I think that the next session should be held in a train because according to the message conveyed through these lines of your poem, at least there would be no *chakka jam* (jamming or stoppage of wheels) of the House.]

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Shri Nitish Kumar

325. No consideration for a grown up baby

During the course of a discussion, the Vice-Chairman* asked Shri M. A. Baby repeatedly to conclude his speech since he had exceeded his time. Shri M.A. Baby conceded and said : "Madam, I will wind up within five minutes."

The Vice-Chairman : One of the hon'ble member would get up and say, "How long it is going to take, Madam?" Then I will be landed in trouble. Do you want to put me in trouble?

Shri M. A. Baby : Madam, there can be some more consideration towards a baby.

The Vice-Chairman retorted :

"You are not the real baby. You are a grown-up baby now."

326. No fights on birthdays

The discussion on the Cauvery waters dispute provided an occasion for a lively banter in the House. While speaking on the subject, Shri H. Hanumanthappa was interrupted by Shri V. Narayanasamy which provoked him to say : "Madam, has it gone on record? He spoke without your permission..."

Shri V. Narayanasamy : Madam, several times Mr. Hanumanthappa spoke without your permission.

The Deputy Chairman :** I know that when we discuss the Cauvery issue our House gets flooded with different voices.

Shri V. Narayanasamy : Madam, today is Mr. Hanumanthappa's birthday.

The Deputy Chairman : Mr. Hanumanthappa, many happy returns of the day.

Shri Hanumanthappa : Thank you.

Shri V. Narayanasamy then had the last word :

"At least on this day he should not fight."

327. No hot line to God

During the debate on the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1998, the discussion took a rather interesting turn :

* Miss Saroj Khaparde

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Dr. M. N. Das : Through you, Madam, I pray to Almighty God that our Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, should remain the Railway Minister for another 50 years to travel on that line... as the first passenger... without ticket.

The Deputy Chairman* : Dr. Das, you don't have to pray to God through me, you can directly do that. Only to the Minister do you need to go through me.

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi :** There is no hot line between him and God.

The Deputy Chairman : Nor is there a hot line between me and God.

328. No Krishna without prem

During the question hour, a question was asked about the complaints against DDA*** for poor construction. Putting his supplementary Shri A.G. Kulkarni wanted to know from the Minister :

"...how much harassment has been done to the people who have paid monies. There was one Mr. Krishna Kumar who was a Chairman or a Managing Director..."

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Prem—Prem Kumar.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Vajpayeeji†, you can talk of prem‡, I cannot talk of Prem...

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wittily replied : "How can you talk of Krishna without prem."

329. No nationalisation of wife

Speaking on the Resolution on the Nationalisation of Film Industry, Shri Lokanath Mishra said about the nationalisation : "If you start nationalising culture, art and all that, there may be a doubt in the minds of a section of the people in India that you may nationalise anything."

Hearing this, Shri Sheel Bhadra Yajee quipped :

"Except wife everything should be nationalised."

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** The Minister of Human Resource Development

*** Delhi Development Authority

† Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a bachelor.

‡ Love

330. No question about laughing

Shri John F. Fernandes had just finished speaking when an amusing exchange followed :

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Madam, can I ask a question?

Shri John F. Fernandes : Yes, why not?

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Can I laugh? Is it unparliamentary?

The Vice-Chairman* then replied dryly : "No question. Kindly take your seat."

331. No undesirable husbands

Shri B. K. Mukherjee : ...By development in all spheres, I mean a society where there will be no unemployment, where there will be no want.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : And where there will be no undesirable husbands!*

Shri B. K. Mukherjee : Whether Mr. Gupta is married or not, I don't know, but he is certainly not a very desirable husband.

332. No women, no clothes

During a discussion***, Dr. C. P. Thakur was speaking about the pace of development of medical science and the need to have a Centre for excellence and to keep it up-to-date. To substantiate his point he began quoting a proverb, which led to the following humorous exchange in the House :

जो सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस है उसको हमेशा एकदम अपटूडेट रखना पड़ेगा। केवल काम ही देखना जरूरी नहीं है क्वालिटी आफ वर्क, जैसे एक कहावत है—“औरत केवल साड़ी पहनती है उससे मतलब नहीं कि उसको किस तरह से पहनती है, हम लोगों की तरफ कहा जाता है.....

(The Centre of excellence has to be kept up-to-date always. It is not necessary to see the work only. Quality of work is also necessary. For example there is a proverb : "Ladies wear sarees only, it does not matter how they wear," this is said in our area...)

* Shrimati Kamla Sinha

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

*** The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2000

The Deputy Chairman* objected :

आप पुरुषों के कपड़ों पर ऐतराज क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं। वे कैसे कपड़े, धोती और सूट पहनते हैं। महिलाओं पर ही आपकी निगाह क्यों रहती है।

(Why don't you object on the dresses of men... How they put on dresses, dhoti and suit! Why do you pay attention to the ladies only.)

Shri Balkavi Bairagi quipped :

माननीया उपसभापति जी, इस टिप्पणी पर मुझे एक बात कहनी है—अगर संसार में नारी नहीं होती तो पुरुष कपड़े पहनता ही नहीं।

(Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Madam, I have to say something on this remark—If there were no women in the world, men would not put on any clothes.)

The Deputy Chairman concluded in exasperation :

अगर संसार में भारत में नारी नहीं होती तो साड़ी भी नहीं होती।

(If there were no women in the world, in India, there would be no saree.)

333. Not a strong back for back-benchers

Announcing that there was only two hours for legislative discussion as more business in the House awaited, the Deputy Chairman* pleaded with the Members to consider the time factor and be brief about their points. She called the turn of Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy and a short repartee ensued between the two :

Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy : Madam, I requested you to allot me nine minutes' time.

The Deputy Chairman : No, I can't, because we have a problem.

Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy : Madam, we know that you are very magnanimous towards the back-benchers.

The Deputy Chairman wittily commented : "I know that I am magnanimous towards the back-benchers. But, my back is not strong at this moment."

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

334. Not maiden every time

The Parliamentary Secretary* to the Prime Minister gave his maiden answer to a question regarding INSAT-IC. Afterwards, when for the second time he was replying to another question, Shri Parvathaneni Upendra commented, "Maiden answer".

The Chairman** countered :

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

335. Not only charming but harming also

Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare : ...Now, I must confess that a warrior-like stance of the very charming member*** has left me unmoved.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Have you heard what she has said?

Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare : I will read it tomorrow.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : She says "charming lady is moved by a man like you".

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: मैं चार्मिंग नहीं, हार्मिंग हूँ।

(**Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury :** I am not charming, I am rather harming.)

336. Number 420

The Chairman† : Question No. 421

Shri Subramanian Swamy : Sir, question no. 420 first.

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल हमेशा हंगामा हो जाता है।

(**The Chairman :** Your question always creates an uproar.)

Shri Subramanian Swamy : I thought the Prime Minister has come, so he would make a statement on Bofors, on 420.

Shri V. Narayanasamy : He will make statements only outside Parliament, not inside.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh‡ : Sir, it is very appropriate, the question no. 420 is being asked by Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

* Shri Arun Singh

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Reference made to Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury

† Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

‡ Prime Minister

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Humour is, by its nature, more truthful than factual

— P.J. O'Rourke

337. Of beauty and the Bill

Speaking on his motion to refer the Constitution (Sixty-sixth Amendment) Bill to a Select Committee, Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur pointedly asked the Parliamentary Affairs Minister* :

Let me ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who is sitting here, who was very attentively listening to the beautiful ladies he had fielded in support of this Constitutional Amendment Bill, what has been the progress of land reforms in a State where Telengana movement started first... what is your objection that they are not beautiful ladies?

This certainly changed the tenor of the debate, and resulted in the following interesting interjection :

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra** : I have not fielded anybody. They have come in their own right.

Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur : Madam, I would not like to impose my thoughts on Shri Upendra. He can have his own choice.

The Deputy Chairman*** : Whether Mr. Upendra fielded that beautiful lady or not but that lady is beautiful, we should accept that.

Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur : That I accept.

338. Old furniture in a new place

Immediately after the lunch break some members wanted to know whether the Home Minister would be making a statement on the students' march. Not finding the Home Minister in the House, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to know where the Minister was. The Deputy Chairman† assured the members that the Home Minister would be coming. Meanwhile, Shri Gupta had the following interesting exchange with Shri P.S. Naskar, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Let us have a look at the new Home Minister‡.

Shri P. S. Naskar : You have already had a look at him, Mr. Gupta.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Old furniture in a new place.

* Shri Parvathaneni Upendra

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

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Shrimati Violet Alva

‡ Shri Gulzarilal Nanda was relieved of the charge of the Home Minister and Shri Y. B. Chavan had recently taken over

339. Old in age and young in spirit

Shri A. G. Kulkarni was putting supplementaries on a question relating to States affected by drought and famine. Shri Kulkarni reacted strongly to replies given by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation*. Looking at the mood of Shri Kulkarni, Shri Makwana commented :

"I do not know why this old man is so agitated over this."

This comment of Shri Makwana led to the following humorous exchange in the House :

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Mr. Makwana, who told you that I am old?

The Chairman :** I certify that Mr. Kulkarni is very young.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : He is an old young man.

Shri Yogendra Makwana : Old in age and young in spirit.

340. Oldies too have heart

When Shri Subramanian Swamy was speaking on the Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill, he was interrupted by Shri A.G. Kulkarni. Thereafter, the House witnessed a brief light hearted exchange :

Shri Kamal Morarka : Sir, at this age, Mr. Kulkarni should not participate in a discussion, on eve-teasing.

The Vice-Chairman* :** He is also intelligent.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Is age a bar to participate in such a lively and romantic discussion? Sir, these youngsters feel that it is their own field. Don't think that the oldies are devoid of heart. We also have heart.

The Vice-Chairman : Kulkarniji you can also speak on this.

Shri Kamal Morarka teasingly added : "*Apa Saheb*, you can participate in eve-teasing also."

* Shri Yogendra Makwana

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Shri Jagesh Desai

341. Omnipresent Swamys

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Madam, save us from Swamys. Swamys are everywhere.

The Deputy Chairman* : See, ladies cannot save you from Swamys.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : But ladies also require Swamys—Chandraswamy, this Swamy and that Swamy.

Dr. Bapu Kaldate : Except Gurupadaswamy.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : You cannot incur the wrath of God. Swamy is God.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Swamys are scoundrels also.

Shri Subramanian Swamy : He knows because he keeps the company of scoundrels everyday.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Because of you.

The Deputy Chairman : Well, I think every party has one Swamy at least. Please continue.

342. Once more please

The Deputy Chairman :** I am ringing the bell, Mr. Saksena.

Shri H. P. Saksena : Yes, I have heard the bell but I was waiting for another bell, if you don't mind.

343. One or more Government?

Some doubt about the number of Governments in power was raised before the question regarding disinvestment of profit making companies could be taken up in the House.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सर, इस सवाल पर हम बहुत बहस कर चुके हैं।

(**Shri Janeshwar Mishra :** Sir, we have had sufficient discussion on this question.)

श्री सभापति : इस पर ज्यादा काहे बोल रहे हो?

(**The Chairman*** :** Why are you speaking more on this?)

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao

*** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : लेकिन इसके बावजूद जो मुनाफा कमाने वाली कम्पनियाँ हैं, उनका जब कभी भी विनिवेश का मुद्दा आया है, मंत्री जी के सहयोगियों ने अखबार में बयानबाजी दी है और लग रहा था कि एक नहीं कई तरह की सरकार चल रही है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा सरकार से, मंत्री जी से नहीं, कि वे कितने मंत्री थे जिन्होंने मुनाफा कमाने वाली कम्पनियों के विनिवेश के खिलाफ बयान दिया और कई बार छपा है जो उन विभागों के मंत्रियों ने दिया है

(Shri Janeshwar Mishra : But despite this, whenever the issue of disinvestment of profit making companies came up, the way the colleagues of the Ministers gave statements in the press, it appeared as if more than one type of government exists. I want to ask the Government and not the Minister as to how many Ministers have given statements against the disinvestment of profit making companies. The statements of the Ministers of those departments have appeared a number of times...)

The Chairman also inquired :

बता दीजिए कि कितनी सरकारें चलती हैं, एक दो या तीन?

(Tell us how many Governments are there—one, two or three?)

344. Onions in between

During a discussion on the current economic situation, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said :

I am sorry to bring onions in between... at one point of time, when I was sitting on the other side (ruling) and when the price of onions went high, an hon'ble member sitting on this side presented me with a garland of onions*. As a result of that, the whole House had to be suspended for two minutes to clear the onions.

Shri Md. Salim intervened ruefully :

"But now, unfortunately nobody is presenting such a garland."

The Deputy Chairman** jovially explained :

"It is too expensive to buy a garland of onions."

* Shri Pranab Mukherjee was then Minister of Finance.

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

345. Only for public consumption

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri S. Peter Alphonse said that the Address, but for the coinage of words, was nothing but a verbatim repetition of the National Agenda of the BJP. It reminded him of an allegory which he narrated to the House. He said :

On a Sunday morning in a church, when the morning service was going on, the priest was giving long sermons about stealing other's properties, how it is bad before the law, how big the sin is, etc. Finally, he made emotional appeals to all the people assembled before him. He said, "After the service is rendered, you go to your homes and return all the properties you have stolen to their owners". His wife was one of the faithfuls before him. She was moved by the emotional words of the priest. Immediately, she sent a note to the priest asking, "What should I do with the stolen chick of the neighbour, which I have kept for cooking for today's breakfast?" Immediately the priest sent a note replying, "All this is only for public consumption, and not for you".

346. Only the loudspeakerwalla

Admonishing the Members during the discussion on Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 for their lack of patience in listening to other speakers, the Deputy Chairman* narrated the following story :

मुझे एक कहानी याद आती है कि एक भाषण हो रहा था, एक-एक बोल बोलकर चले जा रहे थे, खाली एक आदमी बैठा रह गया तो जो बेचारा लास्ट स्पीकर था उसने कहा कि तुम कितने अच्छे हो मेरा भाषण सुन रहे हो। कहने लगा कि नहीं, मैं तो माइक वाला हूँ। आप बोल दें तो मैं माइक उठाकर जाऊँ। तो कंडीशन यह होने वाली है कि अगर हम लोग यहाँ बैठ रहे हैं तो खाली मैं बैठी रहूँगी, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर बैठेंगे, उनके असिस्टेंट्स बैठेंगे और हमारे रिपोर्टरस बैठे रहेंगे।

(...a public function was going on. Everyone was going out one by one after delivering his speech. Only one person was left there. The last speaker thanked him saying how nice he was to listen to his speech. The other person replied that he was the 'loudspeakerwalla'. He would take the loudspeaker once he concluded his speech.)

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

The Deputy Chairman had feared that at the end, only herself, the Finance Minister, his assistants and Reporters would be sitting in the House.

347. Only three questions

During the question hour, when the hon'ble Chairman* called out Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy's turn to ask a question, Shri Prem Chand Gupta informed that the Member had only three questions for that day.

As the said member raised questions in the House regularly, the hon'ble Chairman feigned surprise and asked : "Only three. Are you sure?"

"इसकी जांच होनी चाहिए" (There should be an investigation), suggested Shri Prem Chand Gupta jocularly.

348. Operation successful but patient died

During the course of supplementaries to a question the following witty interjection took place :

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Sir, the honourable Minister's statement reads like a doctor's report that the patient is very healthy except that he suffers from cancer, tuberculosis, heart-attack and diabetes.

The Chairman** : Operation was successful but the patient died.

349. Opportunity for employment

During the debate on the motion for consideration of Science and Technology Policy, 2003, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi*** stated that the Government was making full efforts to promote women's participation in the field of science. He hoped that women would, apart from becoming Chairman and Deputy Chairman†, get involved in the scientific field also. The Government wanted to make full use of their potential and if due to some reasons they had got aside from the mainstream they could return back.

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Ocean Development

† Perhaps referring to the Deputy Chairman, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla who is a scientist, M.Sc. in Zoology and Ph.D. in Cardiac Anatomy.

This led the Deputy Chairman to comment :

मेरी अनइम्प्लोएमेंट की प्रॉब्लम सोल्व हो गई।

(My unemployment problem is solved.)

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : सॉल्व हो गई।

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi : It is solved.)

उपसभापति: अगर मैं पार्लियामेंट छोड़ दूँ।

(The Deputy Chairman : If I leave Parliament).

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi assured her of employment, saying :

वैज्ञानिक सेक्रेटरी यहां बैठे हुए हैं। आपके लिए बिल्कुल सॉल्व है।

(The Secretary of the Department of Science is sitting here. Your problem is solved...)

When the Deputy Chairman, trying to confirm that, said : "I can go back to my career", Dr. Joshi quipped : "Yes, but depending on your experience in which type of zoology..."

350. Opposing with tooth, nail and tail

Shri Banka Behary Das : Madam Deputy Chairman*, I oppose this Bill** tooth and nail.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla*** : Add tail also.

351. Orientalisation of ball-room dance

Speaking on the budget, Shri R.D. Sinha Dinkar touched upon the cultural needs of the people and made the following comment :

...In fact I feel that the very ball-room dancing should be orientalised and we shall have no objection if the Indian ladies and the gentlemen dance, frolic and jump to Indian tunes.

Shri Kailash Bihari Lall immediately quipped : "*Ras Lila*."

Agreeing with Shri Lall, Shri Dinkar then said : "Yes, *Ras Lila* could provide the basis."

* Shrimati Violet Alva

** Essential Service Maintenance Bill, 1968

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

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**Wit must be foiled by wit:
cut a diamond with a diamond**

— William Congreve

352. Pain killer not human killer

Shri M. Kadharsha : Sir, this Dextropropoxyphene is a basic killer drug, and the hon'ble Minister herself* has admitted...

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao :** It is a pain killer. Sir, not a human killer...

353. Painful heart

Prof. V. Gopalsamy : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with a painful heart, I would like to say...

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao :** Do not say anything about heart. The Health Minister is sitting here.

354. Pandey hour!

Interrupting Shri Subramanian Swamy during the course of a discussion, Shri A.G. Kulkarni asked the Vice-Chairman*** : "Madam, under what rule all these are going on?"

"Under the Zero Hour", replied the Vice-Chairman.

A light-hearted exchange followed briefly between Shri A.G. Kulkarni and Shri Subramanian Swamy :

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : It should now be called the "Pandey Hour"! Considering his† lungpower, it should properly be called "Pandey Hour".

Shri Subramanian Swamy : You can even call it "Pande(y) monium" Hour..... if you so like!

Expressing his preference, Dr. Pandey himself opined :

नॉट पाण्डेयमोनियम, पाण्डेय आवर ज्यादा सही है।

(Not Pande(y) monium, "Pandey Hour" is more appropriate.)

* Kumari Saroj Khaparde, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

** Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Health and Family Welfare

*** Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan

† Referring to Dr. Ratnakar Pandey, who was a very vocal member of the House.

355. Pandit, commando and members

Discussions were over on the last day of the session and members were in a mood for some light-hearted bantering. This is what followed :

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : महोदय, यह सत्र समाप्त हो रहा है तो मुझे कुछ 5-6 पंक्तियां पढ़नी हैं यदि आपका अवसर मिले, यदि आपकी अनुमति हो।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Sir, while this session is coming to an end, I have to read out some 5-6 lines. If you give me a chance...)

उपसभाध्यक्ष : क्या अभी पढ़ना चाहते हैं या बाद में पढ़ेंगे?

(The Vice-Chairman* : Do you want to read them now or later on?)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : जब आपका मन चाहे, वरना पंडित जी चले जाएंगे यहां से... ज्यों ही जोशी जी बस्ता लपेटते हैं तो मुझे डर लगता है कि इस देश से पंडित जी और पांडित्य दोनों ही चले जाएंगे ...

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Whenever you like, otherwise Panditji will go away from here... as soon as Joshiji holds his bag, I apprehend that both Panditji and pedantism will leave this country...)

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : जैसे ही पंडित बालकवि बैरागी खड़े हो जाते हैं तो मुझे भरोसा हो जाता है कि... न पंडित भागेगा, न पांडित्य भागेगा—न कविता भागेगी, न श्रोता भागेंगे।

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi :** As soon as Panditji Balkavi Bairagi gets up, I become confident that...neither Pandit nor pedantism will leave, neither poet nor audiences will leave).

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : कहीं वैराग्य न धारण करवा दें हाउस में किसी को...

(Shri Moolchand Meena : I am afraid he may make someone in the House adopt renunciation...)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : आज सुबह, पहले मुझे डर लगा था एक क्षण के लिए, क्षमा कर देना, श्री राजगोपाल जी का जन्म-दिन आज हमने बधाई दे कर के शुरू किया। उनके पास आ करके ज्यों ही प्रमोद महाजन नाम के सज्जन बैठे तो उनकी ड्रेस कुछ ऐसी लगी कि जैसे कि राजगोपाल जी अपना कमांडो साथ में ले करके आ गए हैं।

* Shri Suresh Pachouri

** Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Please excuse me for saying so but this morning, I got scared for a moment as we started the day offering felicitations to Shri Rajagopalji on his birthday. As soon as the gentleman namely, Shri Pramod Mahajanji sat beside him, it so appeared from his dress that Rajagopalji had come along with his commando).

उपसभाध्यक्ष : वह आई.टी. का कमाल है।

(The Vice-Chairman : That is the miracle of IT).

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : राजगोपाल जी इतने बड़े हैं कि उनके जन्म-दिन पर ये कपड़े उन्होंने मुझे दिए हैं, इसलिए मैं पहन कर आया हूँ।

(Shri Pramod Mahajan* : Rajagopalji is so great that he has presented this dress to me on his birthday. That is why I have come here wearing this dress).

The Vice-Chairman then warmly concluded :

यह अच्छी बात है कि सत्र का समापन अच्छे क्षणों में हो रहा है।

(It is good that the session is coming to an end with happy moments).

356. Parlour invitation

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

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

To this, Shri Bhupesh Gupta replied : "Why not? It is a good parlour."

357. Parlour of the opposition

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

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

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : The parlour will disappear at the sight of you.

* Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Information Technology and Minister of Communications

358. Pass for spouse and spice

A debate concluded with some spice on the subject of rail passes issued to spouses of Members of Parliament. Shri Vayalar Ravi pointed out that the Railway Board had issued directions entirely different from the Bill passed the previous day. Meanwhile, Shrimati Urmila Chimanbhai Patel suggested that the word 'companion' should replace 'spouse'.

Assuring that the word 'companion' had already been incorporated, the Deputy Chairman* closed the discussion with humour ascribing the use of the word 'spouse' to Shri Vayalar Ravi. She said :

It is spouse because Mr. Vayalar Ravi has a spouse... Those who do not have a spouse, can use their spice.

359. Pass for spouse, not for spice

Speaking on the Railway budget, Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj raised the issue of only a member being allowed to travel by ACC while his companion has to go either in the chair car or first class or second class. Adding that companion is companion and the wife is wife he pleaded with the Minister to either allow members to travel by the first class or permit 'her' to travel by ACC. The vagueness of his plea led Shri Madhavrao Scindia** to ask Shri Bharadwaj whether he was talking about the companion or his wife.

Thereafter, the members started bantering about wives and companions in the House :

The Vice-Chairman*** : He is talking about both.

Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj : There are bachelors also.

Shri R. Mohanarangam : Spouse or companion. Let it be both.

Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee : I have paid Rs. 320 today.

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

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

*** Shri R. Ramakrishnan

Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee : What is this? There is a difference between the two. We have to pay extra.

The Vice-Chairman : That is why the hon'ble member is making a request.

Shri R. Mohanarangam : "Spices" are not expected to pay.

360. Pati or Patni

The Deputy Chairman* was in the Chair. It struck her that the official terminology in Hindi 'Deputy Chairman' is quite gender biased. She expressed that the word '*Sabhapati*' for a woman looks very funny. But at the same time she admitted that she couldn't be called '*Upa Sabhapatni*'.

Shri Md. Salim suggested :

सभानेत्री कहना ठीक है।

(It is proper to call her *sabhanetri*.)

Shri Pramod Mahajan** clarified : Madam, in this case *pati* does not exactly mean husband. It means leader.

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : राष्ट्रपति भी है।

(**Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** : There is *Rashtrapati* also.)

The Deputy Chairman said ruefully :

अभी तक तो सब पुरुष हुए हैं इसलिए राष्ट्रपति शब्द चलता है।

(So far there have been only men, therefore the word *Rashtrapati* is used.)

361. Pepsi, Coke and the elusive garland

During a discussion on the Anti-Dumping Act Bill, the topic centered around the popularity and sales of cold-drinks and the House witnessed the following interesting exchange :

उपसभाध्यक्ष : मुझे लगता है, मिश्रजी, आपका यह बयान जो है, ठीक नहीं है इसलिए कि "पेप्सी" और "कोक" हिन्दुस्तान में लोग उतना पसंद नहीं करते हैं जितना यहां के लोकल प्रोडक्ट को पसंद करते हैं।

(**The Vice-Chairman***** : "Mr. Mishra, I think your statement is not correct because people in India do not prefer 'Pepsi' and 'Coke' more than other local products.")

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information Technology

*** Miss Saroj Khaparde

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आपकी बात सही होगी, आप चेयर से बोल रही हैं। आप एक आदेश दीजिए सर्वे कराने का कि सबसे ज्यादा कोल्ड ड्रिंक किसका इस देश में बिक रहा है? आप अगर सही होंगी तो इस फूल की माला आपको पहनाएंगे, लेकिन भ्रम में मत पड़िए।

(**Shri Chaturanan Mishra :** You may be true as you are speaking from the Chair. You may issue an order for conducting a survey to find out as to which brand of cold drink is being sold in India in the largest quantity? If your statement is proved to be correct I shall offer you a garland of flowers but please don't have any misconception about it.)

उपसभाध्यक्ष : मैं भ्रम में बिल्कुल नहीं हूँ।

(**The Vice-Chairman :** I haven't any misconception at all).

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: मिश्रजी को इस उम्र में फूल की माला पहनाने का शौक चढ़ गया है।

(**Shri Satish Agarwal :** Mishraji has developed a fancy for offering a garland of flowers even at such a ripe age.)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: इस उम्र में हम पहना दें वह खतरनाक नहीं हैं, वह हमें पहनाएं तब खतरनाक है।

(**Shri Chaturanan Mishra :** It is not dangerous on my part if I offer the garland even at this age but it is certainly dangerous for her if she does so.)

श्री वीरेन जे. शाह: मिश्रजी, आप कहिए-अभी तो मैं जवान हूँ।

(**Shri Viren J. Shah :** Mishraji, you should rather say, "I am still youthful".)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: हम यह कहने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं क्योंकि काफी लोग आकर्षित हो जाएंगे तो हम मुश्किल में पड़ जाएंगे, इसलिए हम आपकी तरह लिबरल नहीं हैं इस विचार पर।

(**Shri Chaturanan Mishra :** I am prepared to say like that, for if many people are charmed I would be in great trouble. Therefore, I am not as liberal as you are on this point.)

362. Personal interest

During question hour, Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik wanted to know whether the heavy subsidies on diesel, kerosene and LPG would also help in the production of other petroleum products, including cosmetics,

especially lipstick for ladies and make the country self-sufficient in its production. Replying to the member, Shri Brahm Dutt* said :

"Sir, I thought my interest in lipstick has practically vanished, so has the hon'ble members."

When an hon'ble member objected to it, the Minister retorted :

Sir, the hon'ble member cannot object to my personal interest being reduced. But I am more interested in supplying diesel, kerosene and LPG to the people. For that we will be utilising it and whatever residues are there, you can use them for lipstick and other cosmetics. That is not my affair. You can use it.

363. Personal questions not allowed

Shri Humayun Kabir** was replying to a question on flight training to MPs when Shri Bhupesh Gupta put this supplementary question to him :

What will be the cost of such training (flight training), assuming that the trainees possess the intellectual and physical qualities of hon'ble Minister?

Shri Humayun Kabir : Personal questions are not allowed.

364. Persuasion rather than fighting

There were two more speakers left during the discussion on the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Shri N. Jothi, member from Tamil Nadu indicated that he needed more than four minutes because he had to talk about the problem of his State.

The Deputy Chairman*** cautioned : "...But do not fight with Shri Virumbi†. Do not go closer to him."

Shri N. Jothi replied in all modesty : "I will not. I rather believe in persuasion than in fighting".

365. Phir kaise

During supplementaries on a starred question regarding killing of snakes by *Madaris* (roadside showmen), Shri Santosh Bagrodia recited the following poem :

* Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas)

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam—Tamil Nadu

साँप तुम सभ्य तो हुए नहीं, न होंगे।
नगर में बसना भी तुम्हें नहीं आया,
एक बात पूछूँ, उत्तर दोगे।
फिर कैसे सीखा डसना, इतना विष कहाँ से पाया।

(O snake! You have not and will not become civilized.
You have also not learnt how to settle in cities.
May I ask you a question, will you answer it?
Then, how did you learn to bite, from where did you get so
much poison?)*

366. Photo only in the Chair

The Securities Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 had just been passed when members started discussing agitatedly whether to have a supplementary List of Business. It led to the following humorous banter in the House :

उपसभापति : अगर कोई सवाल चेयर से किया जाये तो कृपया चेयर को इतनी तो इजाजत दीजिए कि जवाब दे दे, नहीं तो यहां बैठने का क्या फायदा। मैं खाली अपनी तस्वीर रख दूँ। आप लोग आपस में बातचीत कर लीजिए।

(The Deputy Chairman :** If a question is put to the Chair, please allow the Chair to reply otherwise, there is no use of sitting here. Should I put only my photograph here? You all finish the talk among yourselves...)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : मैडम, चेयर का जवाब बेंच से नहीं आना चाहिए।

(Shri Pramod Mahajan : Madam, Chair's reply should not come from the bench.)

उपसभापति : जवाब बेंच से तो नहीं आ सकता और न बेंच का जवाब चेयर से आ सकता है।

(The Deputy Chairman : Reply cannot come from the bench nor can bench's reply come from the Chair.)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : मैडम, जो बात आप में है वह आपकी तस्वीर में नहीं है।

(Shri Md. Salim : Madam, your physical presence is important than your photograph.)

* This poem very succinctly exposes the seamy side of the so-called civilized human society and the dehumanizing effect of urbanization. Modern man has become such a poisonous brute that even the dreaded snake cannot match him in villainy. The subtle satire of the poem rests on the word 'Phir kaise' which means 'then how'.

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

उपसभापति : शुक्रिया आपका कि आपने यह महसूस किया है।

(The Deputy Chairman : Thank you for appreciating that...)

367. Pilot piloting Bill

The House was discussing the National Airports Authority Bill.

Speaking on the Bill, Shri M. Kadharsha unwittingly made the following introductory remarks :

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

The Deputy Chairman** made this witty observation on the members' confusion :

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

368. Play of four days

The House re-assembled after lunch to resume the discussion on the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001 but not before some light-hearted exchange :

एक माननीय सदस्य : नमस्कार, स्वागतम्।

(An hon'ble member : Namaskar, welcome.)

उपसभापति : क्या स्वागतम्, मैं नहीं होती तो आप लोग काम भी नहीं करते, छुट्टी कर देते हैं।

(The Deputy Chairman : What welcome, if I am not here, you also don't work and observe leave.)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : अभी आप कितनी देर तक हैं?

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

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

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

(Shri Pramod Mahajan* : How long are you here?)

उपसभापति : जितनी देर तक आप लोग काम करने के मूड में हैं।

(The Deputy Chairman : As long as you are in the mood to work.)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : महोदया, ह्यूमन राइट्स ग्रुप की मीटिंग में आपने जो भारत का सफलतापूर्वक प्रतिनिधित्व किया है और प्रतिनिधित्व करने के बाद आपकी जो वापसी हुई है उसके लिए हम आपका अभिनन्दन करते हैं।

(Shri Suresh Pachouri : Madam, you have successfully represented India in the meeting of Human Rights Group and we welcome you on your return.)

उपसभापति : थैंक यू। अगर मैं चली जाऊं तो काम तो करते रहा करो।

(Deputy Chairman : Thank you. But keep on working in case I go.)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : लेकिन महोदया, इतना लम्बा नहीं जाना चाहिए।

(Shri Suresh Pachouri : But Madam, you should not go for such a long period.)

उपसभापति : चार दिन! चार दिन में आप लोग कुछ काम नहीं करेंगे।

(The Deputy Chairman : Four days! You will do nothing in four days.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : मैडम, आपने सुना होगा कि उम्रेहयात मांग कर लाए थे चार दिन के लिए। चार दिन का तो सारा खेल है। आप चार दिन के लिए चली जाती हैं, दो आरजू में कट गए, दो इंतजार में। अब आप तशरीफ लाई हैं।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Madam, you might have heard that we were blessed with the age of four days. It is the play of four days. If you go away for four days, two days are lost in request and two in waiting. Now you have come back.)

उपसभापति : नहीं, अब इंतजार नहीं, मैं आ गई हूँ।

(The Deputy Chairman : No. Now, you have not to wait, I have come.)

* * * * *

The Deputy Chairman : Are you there?

Shri N.K. Premachandran : Yes, Madam, Premachandran.

* Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Information Technology and Minister of Communication

उपसभापति : हाँ, प्रेमचन्द्रन। I am sorry! चार दिन में मैं नाम भी भूल जाती हूँ।

(The Deputy Chairman : Yes, Premachandran. I am sorry. I even forget names in four days.)

369. Plurality of God

While participating in the debate on a Government motion on the Seventh Five Year Plan, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee implored : ...For God's sake, or for the Prime Minister's sake if he is your God, give consignment tax and...

"Your God is in China", interrupted Shri N.K.P. Salve.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee responded : "By God I have the Chinese figures but I am sitting right now in India, if you don't mind."

Shri N. K. P. Salve : "Or your God is in Russia", Mr. Salve continued.

370. Political patient

Not knowing what made Shri Raj Narain impatient, Shri Krishan Kant said :

"I do not know why he got a little impatient. What I was saying was..."

"He is not impatient. He is a political patient," Shri M.M. Dharia intervened.

371. Polyandrous government

While participating in the discussion on General Budget for the year 1996-97, Shri Biplab Dasgupta, referring to the remarks made by some Minister on the vulnerability of the present Government, commented thus :

The Government's position is like that of the great lady Draupadi, the mythological character from Mahabharat. Draupadi had five husbands and this Government has thirteen husbands. In Mahabharat, there was a strict rule that if Draupadi was with one of the husbands, the other should not enter the room. But in the case of this Government, all the thirteen husbands enter at the same time. The situation is even worse. There is a fourteenth character who lurches somewhere in the dark, he is not her husband but is equally interested in molesting the young lady and is always waiting to see when she would take a U-turn...

372. Population matter

During the discussion on the Population Control Bill, 2000, Shri Sangh Priya Gautam and Shri Ramdas Agarwal, both from the same party, were quarrelling on who should speak first. The following exchange gave an amusing respite to the members :

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : फिर भी मैं दो मिनट आपको दे देता हूँ।

(Shri Ramdas Agarwal : Even then, I give you two minutes).

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : आप पार्टी लाइन पर टाइम ले लेंगे, लेकिन मुझे टाइम नहीं रहेगा तो मेरा हक क्यों मार रहे हैं, आप। इसलिए मुझे पहले समय दीजिए।

(Shri Sangh Priya Gautam : You will be taking time on party line but I do not have time, so why are you depriving me of my chance? Therefore, give me time first).

उपसभापति : आप अभी इन बातों पर क्या लड़ाई-झगड़ा कर रहे हैं। आप उनको बोलने दीजिए, आपकी ही पार्टी के हैं।

(The Deputy Chairman* : Why are you quarrelling on these issues. Let him speak, he belongs to your party).

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : यह तो प्राइवेट मੈम्बर्स का राइट है ... (व्यवधान)

(Shri Sangh Priya Gautam : This is the right of Private Members....)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी (मध्य प्रदेश) : दोनों के बच्चों की संख्या अलग-अलग है, मामला जनसंख्या का है।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Both of them have different number of children. This is a matter of population).

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : हम दोनों का एवरेज बड़ा खराब हो जाएगा और डेढ़-डेढ़ हो जाएगा।

(Shri Ramdas Agarwal : Our average will be very disturbed and it will become one and half for each).

उपसभापति : एक हेल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब थे और उनके ज्यादा बच्चे थे। उनसे कहा कि आपके तो खुद ही ज्यादा बच्चे हैं तो वे कहने लगे कि इसीलिए तो मैं हेल्थ मिनिस्टर बना हूँ, यह बता सकूँ कि ज्यादा बच्चे होना कितना नुकसानदेह होता है। रामदास जी, जल्दी बोलिए।

(The Deputy Chairman : There was a Health Minister who had many children. When he was told that he himself had many children, he

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

replied that the reason he had become Health Minister was so that he could explain how harmful it was to bear more children).

373. Posting with interruptions

When Shrimati Lakshmi Menon* was frequently interrupted by Shri Bhupesh Gupta in her speech, she objected and requested him not to interrupt her.

Answering her in a lighter vein, Shri Bhupesh Gupta remarked : "I am posting you with good interruptions".

374. Poverty, not poverty line

During the course of supplementaries on a question regarding people living below poverty line, Shri R. Mohanaragam asked : "What are the concrete steps taken by the Government to erase completely the poverty line"?

The Chairman** wittily replied : "Not the line but poverty".

375. Pre-condition for putting a question

During question hour Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to ask a question on the National Perspective Plan for Women. Raising an objection in a lighter vein on the ground of his being unmarried, Shri A.G.Kulkarni asked :

How is he going to ask this question? First he should marry. The bachelors should marry first and then ask about the National Perspective Plan for Women. Is he prepared to marry? Only then he can ask any question about it. He cannot ask now.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, कल मुझे पूरा मौका नहीं मिला, इसलिए आज सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ।

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not get an opportunity to ask a question yesterday. Therefore, I am asking the question today.)

Shri P. Shiv Shanker : Mr. Vajpayee is disqualified to put this question.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : As a member of the House, I am fully qualified.

* Deputy Minister of External Affairs

** Shri R. Venkataraman

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : You ask him to marry first and then he can put the question. Otherwise, he cannot put the question.

श्री सभापति : शादी भी नहीं करा पाये इतने बड़े पंडित होकर? शादी का इंतजाम नहीं करा पाये?

(The Chairman* : Despite being such a great Pandit, you could not even get married - could not arrange it even for your own self.)

Shri A.G. Kulkarni : As a Pandit, I will find a partner for him....

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, आखिरी वक्त में क्या खाक मुसलमां होंगे।

(Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the fun in marrying at this age.)

Shri Subramanian Swamy : Sir, marriage is not a pre-condition to know women.

Shrimati Margaret Alva : I do not know why the men are objecting. We have no objection to Mr. Vajpayee asking the question.

376. Prelude

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

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

Shri V. Gopalsamy : It is a prelude, Sir. It is in the offing.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Sir, that is yet to come.***

377. Present but cannot represent

Shri Piloo Mody : Sir, what about Question No. 303?

The Chairman† : The member is absent.

Shri Piloo Mody : Sir, I am present.

The Chairman : You are present, but you cannot represent.

* Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

** Shri R. Venkataraman

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

† Shri M. Hidayatullah

378. Preserving chastity

During supplementaries to a question relating to the permission to import bullet-proof jackets by the Uttar Pradesh Government, the following amusing exchange took place in the House :

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I appreciate very much the ever vigilant efforts of the Government to give maximum security to our VIPs by getting these bullet-proof jackets, may I know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will try to get bullet-proof pants also? If so, I would like to know whether the bullet-proof pants and the bullet-proof jackets which they are already going to purchase, will be covered by Khadi cloth or polyester cloth.

Shri P. Chidambaram* : Sir, the hon'ble member, with great respect to him has not read the answer. These bullet-proof jackets are being got ready for police personnel deployed on high-risk duties and not for VIPs.

The Chairman :** The thrust of the question is not whether you will provide bullet-proof jackets only but whether you will provide bullet-proof pants.

Shri P. Chidambaram : I sincerely hope that hon'ble members are not ridiculing the idea...

Shri V. Gopalsamy : I am not ridiculing. I am very serious in my question.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi* :** Sir, if I may interrupt, I appreciate very much the worries of the hon'ble member and I will definitely ask the Home Ministry to get a bullet-proof pant made for the hon'ble member.

Shri K. Mohanan : It is not necessary for Mr. Gopalsamy. It is necessary for you.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : What will he do with pants, without a jacket?

Shri Rajiv Gandhi : It may preserve his chastity.

379. Preventing heart attack

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

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Prime Minister

† Leader of the House

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

380. Prime Minister, party president and price rise

While speaking on the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri Jaswant Singh made the following humorous remarks with a dose of satire :

I talk to you about the price rise, about President Rajiv and Prime Minister. Prime Minister Rajiv announces price rise. President Rajiv of the Congress Party telephones Prime Minister Rajiv and says : "Reduce the price rise". Is this the functioning of the Government?

381. Procurement of soft stuff

The House was discussing a calling attention on the non-availability of foodgrains in various parts of the country. Referring to the situation in West Bengal, Shri Lokanath Mishra expressed his dissatisfaction and stated that some supporters of either the Congress Party or the CPI who owned fair price shops did not allow foodgrains to percolate down to the consumers.

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

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

382. Promises to keep

After a prolonged discussion on supplementaries to a question relating to achievement of targets for firewood and fodder plantations, the Chairman** ended the debate by remarking thus :

The woods are lovely, dark and deep but I have promises to keep the question moving.

* Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the West Bengal Government

** Shri R. Venkataraman

383. Promoted to the front row

During the discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2003-2004, the Deputy Chairman* called Shrimati Vanga Geetha to speak, who was not sitting in her seat. There were some interruptions immediately :

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi : Madam, she is not speaking from her seat...

The Deputy Chairman : I allowed her to speak from the front seat. I wanted her to be promoted to the front row...Why two ladies should sit at the back...I find all the women members...sitting at the backbenches...

Shri N. Jothi : Madam, I am having a lady's name. So, I may also be accommodated in the front row.

The Deputy Chairman : What is your name?

Shri N. Jothi : Jothi.

The Deputy Chairman quipped : "Then, you will have to come in a sari from Mubarakpur".

384. Purchase by Minister's wife

The Minister of Commerce**, Civil Supplies and Steel and Mines was replying to supplementaries to a question on the price of edible oils. Apparently dissatisfied with the answer, Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay said :

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

The Commerce Minister quickly replied :

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

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

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

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Pranab Mukherjee

*** Shri M. Hidayatullah

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Brevity is the soul of wit

— William Shakespeare

385. Quarrelling daughters-in-law

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Shri G. Swaminathan argued that the parties in a coalition government had a right to make recommendations for ministerial berths to the Government even if the Prime Minister had to make the final decision. The following interesting exchange took place thereafter :

श्री त्रिलोकीनाथ चतुर्वेदी: ... घर में जब दो बहुएं आती हैं तो एक कहती है कि हमें यह मकान चाहिए, यह कमरा चाहिए, दूसरी कहती है कि हमें वह कमरा चाहिए, आपको एतराज क्यों है इब्राहिम साहब?

(Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi : ...when two daughters-in-law come home after marriage, one of them says, 'I want this house and that particular room while the second one says that she wants some other room. Ibrahim Sahib, why are you objecting to it?')

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: आप हसबैंड बने रहेंगे और सबको बहुएं बना लेंगे?

(Shri Md. Salim : You will continue to be husband and all others would be taken to be daughters-in-law/wives?)

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: यह हसबैंड की बात नहीं है, यह तो हम सिर्फ बहुओं की बात कर रहे हैं।

(Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi : This is not the matter of husband. We are talking about daughters-in-law only...)

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री : यह उदाहरण है, उदाहरण का अक्षरशः पालन नहीं होता। यह तो उदाहरण है ... उदाहरण का भाव लिया जाता है, शब्दार्थ नहीं लिया जाता।

(Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri : This is only an example... One should not go for the words of any example. In fact, its sense should prevail.)

386. Question of energy

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

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

सभापति महोदय, सदन काफी गर्म हो गया है।

(Mr. Chairman Sir, much heat has been generated in the House.)

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee replied :

ऊर्जा का सवाल है।

(After all, the question is one of energy.)

387. Quiet flows the Cauvery

When the matter regarding release of Cauvery water was raised with the permission of the Chair, the members from Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, cutting across party lines, criticised the Karnataka Government for not releasing water from the Cauvery river. There was no opposition to the debate and Shri O. Rajagopal* assured the House that he would duly convey the concern expressed by the members to the Government.

The Deputy Chairman's** concluding observation had a delightful insight :

This is for the first time that the Cauvery is being discussed in this House when there is no flood, because whenever the Cauvery comes, I really do not know how to put a *baandh**** on it to stop it.

* The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** A barrier

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A thing well said will be wit in all languages

— John Dryden

388. *Raagi* and moonlight

The House had assembled after lunch to continue a discussion* but it began with some light-hearted exchange :

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: मैडम, बैरागी जी, आज से रागी हो गए।

(Shri Sangh Priya Gautam : Madam, Bairagiji has become *Raagi* from today.)

उपसभापति: राग उनके ठीक हो गए होंगे। ताल, सुर बराबर हो जाएंगे तो रागी हो जाएंगे।

(The Deputy Chairman** : His *Raag* may have become right. When his rhythm and melody will become consonant then he will become *Raagi*.)

Exchanging the compliment, Shri Balkavi Bairagi then jocularly remarked :

मैडम, जब आप आती हैं सदन में तो लगता है कि सूरज की गर्मी के बाद चांदनी आ गयी।

(Madam, when you come to the House it seems that moonlight has appeared after the heat of the sun.)

389. Rabies and the elections

The House was discussing a question on detection of rabies disease in Delhi.

Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay asked the Minister : "When you catch stray dogs, what do you do with them?"

The Chairman*** : I thought, Mr. Piloo Mody, will have much to say about rabies...

Shri Piloo Mody : I have already said that since the last election† the danger has gone up in Delhi.

* Short Duration Discussion on economic situation in the country in the context of mid-term appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan.

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Shri M. Hidayatullah

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

390. RAC in Parliament

The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill 2000 was being discussed in the House. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao got up to speak but he was not speaking from his seat—which led to the following volley of light-hearted exchange in the House.

The Vice-Chairman* : You are not speaking from your seat.

Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao : Sorry, Sir.

Shri Md. Salim enquired : "Has he got a confirmed seat or is he on the waiting list?"

Shri V.P. Duraisamy quipped : "He is speaking from an RAC seat."

Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu promptly retorted : "I vacated it."

391. Rail engine Minister

There was some cause for light humour when the Deputy Chairman** called the Minister of Railways, Ms. Mamta Banerjee to lay a Statement on the Table showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1999-2000.

The Deputy Chairman : ममता जी, आप आगे बैठिए, आपकी गाड़ी पीछे क्यों रुकी है? आगे आइए। आप गार्ड के डिब्बे से कंट्रोल कर रही हैं। आप तो हमारे लिए इंजन हैं।

(Mamtaji, come and sit in front, why has your train stopped at the back? Come forward. You are controlling the train from the boogie. You are the engine for us.)

She is taking the railways forward.

श्री राघवजी: अब आपने इंजन बना दिया इनको।

(**Shri Raghavji** : Now you have made her an engine.)

"Madam, Congratulations", the Minister quipped drily.

392. Railway food and railway coaches

While discussing the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003, Shri Balkavi Bairagi said that it hardly mattered whether the train passenger fare was increased or decreased but whosoever was caught travelling ticketless

* Shri Suresh Pachouri

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

should be given railway food at least twice. The person would stop travelling without ticket on his own.

* * * * *

Shri Sangh Priya Gautam was immediately inspired to tell a humorous story which went like this :

एक स्टेशन पर तीन डिब्बों की रेल गाड़ी खड़ी थी। बड़ी सुंदर देखने में, तीनों डिब्बे-एयर कंडीशन और देखने में कोई फर्क नहीं। लेकिन एक पर लिखा फर्स्ट क्लास, एक पर सेकेंड क्लास और एक पर थर्ड क्लास। एक आदमी आया, उसने पूछा जब सब डिब्बे एक से हैं तो रेल गाड़ी पर फर्स्ट, सेकेंड और थर्ड क्यों लिखा हुआ है। किराये के बारे में पूछा तो उसे बताया गया कि किराये में भी फर्क है। उसने पूछा ऐसा क्यों है, तो उसे कहा गया कि आप बैठ कर देख लीजिए। आपको पता लग जायेगा। वह थर्ड क्लास में टिकट लेकर बैठ गया। जब गाड़ी चली और चढ़ाई पर पहुंची तो रेल गाड़ी रुक गई। टीटीई ने कहा कि फर्स्ट क्लास के यात्री बैठे रहें, सेकेंड क्लास और थर्ड क्लास के यात्री नीचे उतर आयें। उसके बाद बोला कि सेकेंड क्लास के खड़े रहें और थर्ड क्लास के धक्का लगवा दें।

(A three-coach train was standing in the station. It was magnificent; all three coaches were air-conditioned and looked alike. But they were marked as first, second and third class respectively. A man came by and asked why all the three wagons were alike and why they were marked as first, second and third class. When he inquired about the fare he was told that the fares also differed. When he asked the reason he was told to climb aboard and find out the difference. He purchased a ticket and boarded the third class coach. When the train started and moved, it stopped at an ascent. The T.T.E.* asked the passengers of first class to keep sitting and asked the passengers of the second and third class to get down. Then he told the passengers of the second class to keep standing and told the passengers of the third class to push.)

The Deputy Chairman** remarked approvingly :

"That's a good one. अगर ऐसे ही कुछ न कुछ ह्यूमर हाउस में हो तो काम हल्का हो जाता है।"

(If there is humour of this kind in the House, the work is lightened.)

* Travelling Ticket Examiner

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

393. Railways as dutiful housewife

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur : The hon'ble Minister, while speaking in the other House, likened the railways* to a dutiful housewife who was asked to discharge many responsibilities...

Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja : I think he compared the Railway Minister with a good housewife.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur : ...Well, I think I will just concede this also to the ladies, to a good housewife, to a beautiful housewife.

394. Railways disconnecting people

Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, while participating in a debate on the Budget (Railways) 2003-04, asserted that the railways had to concentrate on avoiding accidents. Yet, they were busy in creating new divisions and disturbing the old divisions. He stated :

"They claim that they help in national integration but the people in the railways are busy in disconnecting the people."

395. Rain of words

When Shri P.N. Sukul was speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, he was interrupted by Shri Moturu Hanumantha Rao who said :

"You must congratulate the rain that has come to our aid."

Shri P.N. Sukul retorted : "I want to avoid the rain of your words—the verbal rain."

396. Rare visitor to the House

Shri R. Ramakrishnan : I want to know whether the textile policy discussion will conclude today and the Minister's reply will be tomorrow. Yesterday also, this point came up. The hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is not there. Last week...

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad :** I am here.

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

* The House was having a discussion on the Railway Budget.

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad : I think you are used to lady Minister only.*

397. Rasgullas from abroad

During the discussion on The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999, this interesting exchange took place :

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवाल्या : धन्यवाद। सर, इस बिल पर बोलते समय मुझे दुख भी है, लेकिन एक खुशी भी है कि इतिहास में हर चीज एक्सपोज हो रही है। मेरे बी.जे.पी. के मित्र और उनके दोस्त सारी जिंदगी यह कहते रहे, 'भगवान राम और शबरी के बेर और वह भी जूटे।' ये बात तो गरीबनी शबरी की करते रहे, लेकिन अमल आज रसगुल्ला खाने वालों की सेवा करने का कर रहे हैं और रसगुल्ला भी कलकत्ते का होता तो मैं मान जाता, वाशिंगटन और लंदन के रसगुल्ले देकर सेवा कर रहे हैं।

(Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia : Thank you, Sir, I feel sad to speak on this Bill but I am also happy that everything is being exposed in history. Throughout their lives, my friend from the B.J.P. and his colleague has been saying 'Lord Rama and Shabari's jujube and that too tasted'. They have been talking about poor Shabari** but in practice, they are serving the people eating *rasgullas*. I would have been satisfied if the *rasgullas* were from Calcutta. But, they are serving them *rasgullas* from Washington and London.)

श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी : ये रसगुल्ले आपने इकट्ठे करके रखे थे जब आप मिनिस्टर थे।

(Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi : These *rasgullas* were collected by you at the time of Ministership.)

The Vice-Chairman*** intervened with a placatory remark : "Let us not miss the sweetness of the *rasgullas*".

398. Red turns pale

During the course of his reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Prime Minister† was trying to drive home a point that there was lack of reaction on the part of the opposition members (particularly the leftist members) to various schemes launched

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

** According to the epic 'Ramayan', Shabari, a low-caste woman and devotee of Lord Rama, tasted all jujube plums to select the sweetest ones for him.

*** Shri Adhik Shirodkar

† Shri Rajiv Gandhi

and measures taken by the Government. In this context the Prime Minister had the following dig at the leftist members :

The question that is worrying me is how can ideologies be forgotten in this way? What is worrying me is what has happened to all our red-blooded leftists?

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Prime Minister, they are tired of hearing your platitudes. Your grandfather was much more expert in making platitudes.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi however had more to say about the left :

Perhaps that red has become so pale because of the mixing with all the other colours. It has become so pale that even when they blush, you cannot see the pink.

399. Reddys ready to speak

While replying to the debate on the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, the Minister of Education* inadvertently referred to Shri Babul Reddy as Shri Madhav Reddy. The following is an excerpt of the interesting exchange in the House :

Shri K. C. Pant : Madam, the hon'ble member, Shri Madhav Reddy spoke about...

The Deputy Chairman :** Shri Babul Reddy.

Shri S. W. Dhabe : Mr. Madhav Reddy is in Lok Sabha.

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

The Deputy Chairman : There are many 'ready' to speak.

Shri S. W. Dhabe : Here also we have got more than one Reddy.

400. Re-enacting Mahabharata

Once speaking in the House, Shri Arjun Arora referred to Mrs. Yashoda Reddy as Mrs. Subhadra but immediately retracted by addressing her correctly and made this comment to explain the slip of the tongue :

"Being Arjuna I always think of Subhadra.***"

This led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to remark :

You are making a speech like Krishna. Hence you think of Yashoda.†

* Shri K. C. Pant

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Subhadra was the wife of Arjuna, who was the hero of the Mahabharata war.

† Yashoda was the foster mother of Lord Krishna.

401. Refresher course for railway drivers

While replying to the questions* relating to several railway accidents occurring due to the negligence of drivers, Shri Nitish Kumar** stated that renewed efforts would be taken to check drivers who consumed alcohol on duty and a refresher course would also be held to induce a sense of discipline in them.

The Chairman*** asked half in jest:

रिफ्रेशर कोर्स किस चीज का? पीने का?

(A refreshers' course in what? Drinking?)

402. Relativity in time

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

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : We have to remind Dr. Heptulla, the scientist, that time is a very very relative concept as has been established in the earlier century.

The Deputy Chairman : Not since I have taken the Chair.

403. 'Reputed' terrorists

While answering supplementaries on a question relating to opening of a new institute of guerilla warfare by Pakistan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs†† informed the House : "Already there are about seven people, very reputed terrorists (in Pakistan)".

Shri Dipen Ghosh enquired in a lighter vein : "Are terrorists reputed?"

"He meant disreputable terrorists...", the Chairman††† clarified.

* Starred Question regarding 'Accident due to derailment'

** Minister of Railways

*** Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

†† Shri K. R. Narayanan

††† Shri R. Venkataraman

404. Return her youth and due

The Marriage Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 inspired many members to speak, sometimes to banter about marriage and divorce. One such light-hearted exchange went as follows :

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: महोदया, जेटली साहब बोलें, इससे पहले दो पंक्तियाँ इसमें जरूर डाल दीजिएगा, बड़ी कृपा होगी। वक्त निकल गया है, इसलिए मैं आपसे कह रहा हूँ—

बिना तुम्हारे मुझको खुद से डर लगता है,
तुम होती हो तो घर सचमुच घर लगता है।

मैडम, ऐसे में ये काहे तलाक की बात कर रहे हैं? जो कुछ कानून बनाना है, जल्दी पास कर दो। बहुत अच्छा बिल लाने के लिए मंत्री जी आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। हम प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं, भगवान करे यह शब्द ही हिन्दुस्तान से चला जाए।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Madam, before Mr. Jaitley* speaks, two lines must be said, I shall be obliged. Time has lapsed, so let me say :

I get scared of myself without you
Home is really a sweet home when you are there.

Madam, why is he talking about divorce in such a situation? Whatever law you are to make, pass it quickly. Many thanks to the Minister for bringing such a nice bill. We are waiting, may this word be banished from Hindustan.)

उपसभापति: बालकवि बैरागी जी की क्या परिस्थिति है इस सिलसिले में।

(The Deputy Chairman :** In this regard, what is the position of Mr. Balkavi Bairagi?)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: मैडम, परिस्थिति यह है कि हम सचमुच में आपसे कहें कि यह मुल्क कोई अकेले रहने का मुल्क नहीं है, यह तो सब के साथ मिलकर रहने का मुल्क है।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : Madam, my position is that in fact this is the country where no one should live alone, one should live together with others.)

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: मैडम, औरत के अहसास के मुताल्लिक और इस तलाक की पीड़ा से मुताल्लिक एक बात मैं भी कहना चाहूंगा मंत्री जी के बयान से पहले।

* Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of Commerce and Industry

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

तलाक दे तो रहे हो, जला दो कहर के साथ,
मेरा शबाब भी लौटा दो मेरी मेहर के साथ।

(Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi : Madam, with regard to the feelings of a woman and agony of divorce, I would also like to say something before the statement of the Minister.

When you are divorcing, burn with fury
Return my youth also alongwith the Mehar*)

उपसभापति: मंत्री जी, ऐसे बिल बार-बार लाया करिए जिससे लोगों को काफी इंस्पिरेशन आता है बोलने का।

(The Deputy Chairman : Mr. Minister, bring such Bills frequently that inspire people to speak.)

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: यह तो शबाब का “श” भी नहीं लौटाएंगे।

(Shri Balkavi Bairagi : He will not return even an iota of youth.)

मौलाना ओबैदुल्लाह खान आजमी: नहीं, शबाब तो आप नहीं लौटाएंगे, आप उसका हक लौटाइए।

(Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi : No, you are not going to return her youth but return her due.)

405. Reversal of chivalry

During the course of a debate when Shri Prafull Goradia requested the Deputy Chairman** to allow him to speak for some more time, this witty exchange took place :

Shri Prafull Goradia : Madam Deputy Chairperson, as I have said, I have the honour to speak under your helmsmanship for the first time. To an extent, I know, with the changing time you will be chivalrous because, I think, with women's empowerment we expect chivalry being reversed.

The Deputy Chairman replied sardonically :

“I wish the Bill comes and then I will show to you”.

406. Reverse alimony

When the House was having a discussion on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, the following interesting exchange took place in the House:

* Security money

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : ...I know, in the other House, there is a lady member who possesses a crore of rupees. I do not grudge if, in such a case, the husband were to demand a little bit of alimony.

An hon'ble member : What is her name?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I cannot give the name of an hon'ble lady. You see, generally, ladies' names and age should not be mentioned.

The Deputy Chairman* : Ladies or gents, you can't give their names.

407. Reversed roles

Shri Piloo Mody wanted to make some submissions when the Minister was answering a question. The Chairman did not allow Shri Mody to speak and told him that nothing would be recorded while he (Chairman) was standing.

Shri Piloo Mody : I am sitting.

The Chairman :** I am standing.

Shri Piloo Mody : Unfortunately, the roles are being reversed. The person who should be sitting is standing and the person who should be standing has to sit.

408. Revolution

Dr. M.N. Das was called to speak on the Finance Bill 2001. He began his critical appreciation of the economic policies with the story of the French Revolution which conveyed the whole gist of his criticism. The story went something like this :

The King's Treasury was empty and the King was burdened with heavy foreign debt. The Finance Minister of the King advised him that there was no need to worry. He said, "Our country is a wealthy country. We can fill up the Treasury in one day. Look at the baronial class. The barons have their unlimited wealth through the State. They have amassed a huge wealth. One, tax the barons. Money will flow in. Look at the priestly class. They receive donations from the population, and they have accumulated wealth. Second, there is church property and church land. So, just tax the priestly class. Third, cut down the expenditure on the court, courtyard and the palace. There is no need to appoint 600 servants for the king and the royal family. Cut down the lavish

* Shri S.V. Krishnamoorthy Rao

** Shri M. Hidayatullah

expenditure of the court. That will solve the problem. You will have enough money." But the king dismissed the two wise ministers, one by one.

The third minister, Calony, came. His advice was, "Your Majesty, nothing to worry. We can fill up the treasury without any trouble. You need not tax the barons. They are the pillars of monarchy. Never do it. You need not tax the priestly class. They pray for the king's life. Of course, you cannot tax the people because any addition to taxation will be like the last straw on the camel's back. The camel will die. So, what will we do? We have to borrow money from other kings of Europe". His advice was, "In order to borrow money, you have to show yourself rich. And in order to show yourself rich, you have to spend more and more lavishly, as much as possible, on the court, the courtiers and getting the palace glamorous." The ultimate result was the French Revolution.

409. Road-blocks in speeches

There were only two more speakers left to speak on the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002, namely, Shri N.K. Premachandran and Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury. The Deputy Chairman* requested them to withdraw their names if they felt that the short duration discussion, which was to follow, was also of great importance. Besides, they were almost speaking everyday. This remark was met with a lot of protest.

Shri N. K. Premachandran : No, no.

The Deputy Chairman : Yes, you speak on every Bill... Yes, I know. I have got all the records that you and Mr. Shankar Roy Chowdhury always speak. Sometimes, we have to see timing also.

Shri N. K. Premachandran : Madam, I am throughout the time available in the House also, irrespective of the fact whether I am speaking or not. That may be taken into consideration.

The Deputy Chairman then seemed to make a decision : "I want to bring some road-blocks," she asserted.

410. Roses and thorns

During the course of half-an-hour discussion on a starred question regarding erection of barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border, the following pleasantries were exchanged between the Deputy Chairman* and Shri Jaswant Singh :

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Jaswant Singh : Indeed, I will attempt to confine myself...

The Deputy Chairman : ...within the barbed wire fencing. I am just reminding you.

Shri Jaswant Singh : From you Madam Deputy Chairman, the last thing I expected really was the barbed response...

The Deputy Chairman : The roses are always accompanied by some thorns.

Shri Jaswant Singh : As long as I have the roses, I will put up with the thorns.

411. Running with the hare and hunting with the hound

While replying to the clarifications sought by members on a calling attention on the immediate need to pay remunerative prices to the sugarcane growers, Shri K.P. Singh Deo* remarked :

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

S

There is no such whetstone, to sharpen a good wit
and encourage a will to learning, as is praise

— Roger Ascham

* Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies

412. 'S' for Scindia

While participating in the general discussion on the Railway Budget, Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav complimented the Railway Minister* for presenting a very good budget in the following manner :

Sir, I would like to congratulate the honourable Railway Minister who has presented a very good budget and I would like to say in one sentence that the honourable Railway Minister has made three S's in his Budget - this is not a slogan - and these three S's stand for Sense, Service and Sacrifice, and Sir, with these three S's, I am sure, the honourable Railway Minister, Mr. Scindia, will definitely succeed and will go ahead. Thank you, Sir.

Shri Scindia then quipped :

"Sir, I stand for the fourth 'S'."

413. *Sanyas and sanyasi*

When members were speaking on a short duration discussion on Bofors gun deal, the following interesting repartee took place between members in the House :

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Even if Shri V.P. Singh takes to *sanyas***, it will still remain a mystery as to who had received that commission which you have admitted.

Shri K. C. Pant* :** ...Sir, the one thing Shri Dipen Ghosh will never understand is *sanyas*.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : ...Because, he will get away with the money and I will take to *sanyas*; that will never happen. It will never happen. I will not allow him to take away that money by going to *sanyas*.

Shri Subramanian Swamy : ...Mr. Chairman, Sir will he answer a question?

The Chairman† : ...You are already a *sanyasi*.#

* Shri Madhavrao Scindia

** Asceticism

*** Minister of Defence

† Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

Ascetic. Alluding to the suffix 'Swamy' which generally means ascetic.

414. Scapegoat

During the discussion following the question on 'Fund for expansion of AI and IA', Shri Lalu Prasad observed that whenever purchases were made in the country, one could not really prevent some mishap. He, therefore, asked the Minister of Civil Aviation :

आप फिर दस हजार करोड़ रुपये की खरीद कर रहे हैं। क्या आप इस बात की गारंटी दे सकते हैं कि इसमें घपले नहीं होंगे?

(You are again making a purchase worth rupees ten thousand crores. Can you give a guarantee this will be free from scams?)

श्री सभापति : नहीं होंगे, आप कह दीजिए छोटी सी बात है।

(The Chairman* : There will not be any scams. Just say that it is a small matter.)

श्री लालू प्रसाद : सर, ये फंसेंगे, ये फंसेंगे और बलि का बकरा बनेंगे।

(Shri Lalu Prasad : Sir, He will get involved in that and become a scapegoat).

श्री सभापति : जब फंसेंगे उस समय हम पकड़ लेंगे।

(The Chairman : When he gets involved, we will save him.)

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन : सर, लालू जी की पूरी सिम्पैथी हमारे साथ है। ये मुझे बकरा नहीं बनने देना चाहते।

(Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain** : Sir, Laluji's full sympathies are with me. He does not want me to become a scapegoat.)

415. Schizophrenic mood

The heated debate on the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections compelled Dr. Biplab Dasgupta to declare :

"Madam, this evening I am in a schizophrenic mood."

This interesting exchange followed thereafter :

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : I am here to look after him.

The Deputy Chairman*** : She is your personal security guard.

* Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

** Minister of Civil Aviation

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury : Madam, I am looking after his health.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta courteously acceded to the ladies saying :

"I will be privileged to have a guard like her."

416. Searching the bathrooms

The Vice-Chairman* : Mala Sinha** not Mala Singh.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I do not go to films. Therefore, I stand corrected.

The Vice-Chairman : So you should not talk about it.

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

417. Secret ambition

Shri K.C. Pant : Sir, he*** talked of Ministers mixing with Yogis. Sir, one of the hallmarks of a Yogi† is *Brahmacharya*†† and to that extent, I think my hon'ble friend comes within the classification of Yogis and so, we will mix with him freely.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Sir, if I am a Yogi, how is it that not even one Minister comes to me to ask whether he shall be a full Minister or a Deputy Minister or the Prime Minister. Why don't they bring bananas to me? Why don't they worship me? They can bring mangoes and other such things.

Shri K. C. Pant : Sir, if we knew that it was his secret ambition, we will consider it even now.

418. Secret of getting first priority

A question regarding Chakma refugees was the first question which was listed in the name of Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. The previous

* Shri Banka Behary Das

** She is a famous film star.

*** Shri Bhupesh Gupta

† Ascetic

†† Continence

week also had another question listed in her name. It was the first question in the list of starred questions. This led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

Shri K. Natwar Singh* : Sir, I am very impressed by the facility with which Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury manages to get the first question. This is the second week in succession that she had done so.

The Chairman** : You do not mean to say that you are charmed by her, others are also.

Prof. C. Lakshman : Sir, if this is the case, then kindly let us know about that secret so that we will also get the same opportunity.

The Chairman : You first acquire the charm that she has got.

Prof. C. Lakshman : Sir, if that is the case, then all of us will have to pray for becoming charming.

श्री के. नटवर सिंह : मैं यह कह रहा था—जब खुदा हुस्न देता है, तो किस्मत खुल ही जाती है।

(**Shri K. Natwar Singh** : I was saying—When God gives the charm; luck also becomes warm.)

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Sir, the secret of becoming charming should be made known to all the members.

The Chairman : You meet her and get the secret.

419. Secret of good health

The Deputy Chairman*** : I understand the problem, and I want to give the benefit of doubt to the Minister. This is a very short session. A lot of business was pending in this short session. A number of Ordinances were to be cleared. He was running between Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha for getting the business done.

Shri Satish Agarwal : That is why he is keeping good health.

420. Seeing directly and speaking indirectly

Members were asking supplementaries on a question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. Shri Vasant Sathe† was replying on behalf

* Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Minister of Energy

of Shri N. D. Tiwari.* The Minister's reply to a supplementary from Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh was punctuated with several interruptions.

The Chairman**, coming to the rescue of the Minister, advised him :

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

Shri Sathe thereupon quipped :

"I see them and speak through you."

421. Seeing Mr. Chairman in every member

The Chairman** : Mr. Minister, please address me. If you address him, you will go on replying to him.

Rao Birendra Singh† : Sir, I see you in every member. You are pervading the whole House.

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

422. Sex appealing perfume

During the discussion on a private member's Bill for amendment of the Constitution, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav submitted that while there was unemployment and under-employment in the country, he found that sex-appealing perfumes were being sold in the market.

Interrupting him, Shri A.G. Kulkarni observed :

"This sex appealing perfume is only for youngsters and not for people like you and me."

423. Shahjehan's follower

Shri Subramanian Swamy : Sir, recently, I had been to the Taj Mahal.

The Chairman® : Very good.

* Minister of Industry

** Shri R. Venkataraman

† Minister of Food and Civil Supplies

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

@ Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: आपने बेरी गुड कहा, मैं कहने वाला था ताज्जुब है।

(Shri Sikander Bakht : Sir, you said "Very good", but I was about to say that it was strange.)

Shri N. K. P. Salve : Did Shahjehan come to know that Mr. Subramanian Swamy had come to visit him?

The Chairman : He will realize that there is a follower of his.

424. Shakespeare to Gandhi—a short route

During a special mention, Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, while quoting from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* to illustrate the position of the minorities and deprived sections of the society, said : "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings." He continued for a while and ended his speech with a quotation from Gandhiji emphasizing that those who are moved by the spirit of service and love for the country have a claim upon India.

Fairly impressed, the Vice-Chairman*, commented in a lighter vein :

"Thank you, Mr. Samadani, for travelling from Shakespeare to Mahatma Gandhi in such a short time."

425. Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

The House was discussing the statement on flood situation in the country. Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Irrigation and Power** observed that the question of water management and development of water resources had been raised by two members—two *Shantas*. The Deputy Chairman*** corrected him by saying there were not two *Shantas* but two *Shantis*† who had raised the issue.

Shri Shankaranand then observed :

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

* Shri Adhik Shirodkar

** Shri B. Shankaranand

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Refers to Shri Shanti Tyagi and Shrimati Shanti Pahadia who had taken part in the debate.

426. Sharing a bench and a chair

The House was extending felicitation to Shri Shyam Lal Yadav on his election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman* called upon Shri Yadav to reply. Shri Piloo Mody submitted that Shri Yadav should reply from his existing seat**.

Commenting in a lighter vein the Chairman said : "He is already in bad company."

Shri Piloo Mody quipped : "He may be sharing a bench with me, but he is sharing a Chair with you."

427. Shrimati or Miss

The Deputy Chairman*** : We take up further discussion on the Budget (General). Shrimati Jayalalitha Jayaram had not completed her speech yesterday. She may continue now.

Miss Jayalalitha Jayaram : Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to thank you for permitting me to continue from where I left yesterday on the General Budget for 1987-88. By the way, I am 'Miss' and not 'Shrimati'.

The Deputy Chairman : Even Miss can be called as Shrimati.

Miss Jayalalitha Jayaram : I didn't know it.

428. 'Sir' includes 'Lady'

When Vice-Chairman, Shrimati Maya Devi Chetty was presiding, Shri B.N. Datar† repeatedly addressed the Chair as 'Sir'. Noticing this slip, Shri Bhupesh Gupta said :

"On a point of order, I think that when a woman is in the Chair the fact should be acknowledged by addressing the Chair as Madam. In these days of emancipation of women it should be acknowledged in the address, but the hon'ble Minister is insisting on 'Sir'."

Shri B.N. Datar, however, replied :

"After all 'Sir' includes 'Lady'."

* Shri M. Hidayatullah

** The Deputy Chairman used to be seated next to Shri Piloo Mody who was the leader of the largest group in the opposition.

*** Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil

† Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

429. 'Sir' includes 'Madam'

When Shri Abdul Ghafoor* started replying to a question regarding defective construction of houses by the DDA**, he addressed the Chair as 'Sir' while the Deputy Chairman*** was occupying the Chair. This made Shri R. Ramakrishnan remark :

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

430. Sir vs. madam

Shri Asoke Sen†, during his reply to the discussion on the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Bill, explained his repeated slips in addressing the lady Deputy Chairman*** as 'Sir', with this observation :

Now, Sir...Madam, when a Madam adorns the Chair, we forget our pledge to God to thank him for making us man because we forget that this country is based on equality between the sexes and the Constitution forbids discrimination on ground of sex alone as on ground of religion. Therefore, you will excuse me Sir...Madam, due to habit we address you as Sir. But the General Clauses Act says 'a male includes a female'. Eve was born out of the very flesh of Adam, that is what the Old Testament teaches us.

431. Shirshasan

Principal Devaprasad Ghosh : ...I would have suggested that Ministers be given training in *shirshasan*®, a practice to which I understand our respected Prime Minister\$ is very much addicted, and which, if results be any test, has produced excellent effect so far as his health is concerned, though it might have produced some sort of topsyturviness in his general outlook on things mundane.

* Minister of Works and Housing

** Delhi Development Authority

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

† Minister of Law and Justice

@ A yogic posture wherein one stands upright on one's head

\$ Shri Jawaharlal Nehru

Shri B. K. P. Sinha : What about the experience of the hon'ble member?

Principal Devaprasad Ghosh : As to myself, I seem to be in the happy company of the Prime Minister, for I have had hardly any serious illness in my life, though I do not practice *shirshasan* and have thus been able to retain a normal outlook on affairs in general.

432. Sister, mother and grandmother

Shri S.S. Chandran, completed his speech* by saying that seeing the Deputy Chairman on the Chair gives a motherly and a sisterly feeling. The Deputy Chairman** rather objectively stated :

...The Chair is nobody's relative. But I just wanted to tell you that I am not only a mother, but I am a grandmother also. So, you are welcome to call me grandmother outside the House, I do not mind.

433. Sisterly indulgence vs. brotherly cooperation

The repeated use of the word 'indulgence' caused much laughter when the House was discussing labour unrest and unemployment through a calling attention. While speaking on the subject Shri Gurudas Das Gupta sought the motherly indulgence of the Deputy Chairman*** for permitting him some more time. When the next speaker, Shri Sukomal Sen, stood to speak on the subject Shri Nirmal Chatterjee, another member wanted him (Shri Sukomal Sen) to seek the sisterly indulgence of the Deputy Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman ended the matter by seeking the "brotherly cooperation" of the hon'ble member.

434. Sitting on a spring

The House was discussing the statement made by the Prime Minister† in respect of elections in Punjab. While replying to the point raised by Shri Dipen Ghosh, the Prime Minister quipped : "You seem to be sitting on a spring because you keep on bouncing up and down."

* On the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil

† Shri Rajiv Gandhi

Shri Dipen Ghosh retorted : "I do not take off like him."

The Deputy Chairman* teased : "He only sometimes crash-lands."

435. Skimmed milk and liberalisation

During a discussion on increase in prices of rice, wheat, kerosene, LPG and other items of daily consumption, Shri Kapil Sibal wished to stress on the need to check inefficiency in the whole process of liberalisation. Giving an interesting analogy he explained :

What happens is, because of creamy layer, you accumulate fat. When you accumulate fat, you get slothful. When you get slothful, you become inefficient and when you become inefficient, you lose power. ...It is the person who has skimmed milk that is always healthy.

436. Smart, smarter, smartest

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : Sir, the hon'ble Minister** has tried to be very smart in his answer...

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao*** : He is smart all round, not only in his answer.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : I know he is smart but no amount of smartness can conceal the ugly facts in this question.

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao : He wants to suggest that he is smarter.

An hon'ble member : But the Minister is the smartest.

437. Snippet

During the question hour, the members were not satisfied with the answers given by the Minister†. The incomplete information furnished by the Minister led Shri Yashwant Sinha to come out with this snippet of information :

"You can take a Minister to Parliament but you cannot make him answer."

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of Railways was answering a question on the import of electric locomotives by the Railways.

*** Minister of Human Resource Development

† Dr. Chinta Mohan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

438. Snoring is unparliamentary

Shri Balbir K. Punj was making his speech during the debate on the Budget (General) 2003-2004 when after a while, a member found another member sleeping. The following brief exchange provided a lighthearted respite :

प्रो. रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा: मैडम, बालकवि बैरागी जी शायद सो रहे हैं।

(**Prof. Ram Baksh Singh Varma** : Madam, Perhaps Balkavi Bairagiji is sleeping.)

Shri Balbir K. Punj : No problem. Sleeping is perfectly parliamentary, snoring is not. If he snores, the Chair will take notice. But if he is sleeping, he should not be disturbed.

The Deputy Chairman* : He is not disturbing the House. You can go ahead.

Concluding the arguments, Shri Balbir K. Punj observed that his speech was so soothing that it sent the member to sleep.

439. Soft on words and hard on facts

During the question hour, Shri K. Natwar Singh** was replying to a question on the supply of U.S. AWACS to Pakistan, when he was told by the Chairman*** : "You are talking very mildly. He (the questioning member) wants you to raise your voice."

This remark of the Chairman led to the following interesting exchange between Shri Suresh Kalmadi, who was asking his supplementaries, and the Minister :

Shri K. Natwar Singh : Sir, the only emotion a diplomat is allowed is controlled indignation and hence I do not want to raise my voice.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : You are no more a diplomat. You are a Minister now.

Shri K. Natwar Singh : Even as a Minister, I would like to be soft on words and hard on facts.

440. Solving the problem under the sun

A question asked on the assessment regarding power requirement led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

Shri Vasant Sathe* : ... I want to say this again, very emphatically, that the ultimate solution of the power problem lies in the sun, the sun power. Unless, we are through the sun, by the sun, and for the sun, we cannot solve the problem.

Shri Suresh Kalmadi : Under the sun.

441. Some stones can be thrown

Hearing Shri Bhupesh Gupta who was speaking on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to amend the first schedule, the Chairman commented that Shri Bhupesh Gupta had come to the point but in a roundabout way.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta replied :

I had to make an excursion in order to come to the point because he** invited it. If he had not talked about the autonomy of the States, I would not have spoken on this subject. One who is in a glass house should not throw too many stones at others.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee : Some stones should be allowed.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Some are allowed. How can our Home Ministry live without throwing stones at somebody or the other? Perpetually it throws stones at others. I only say, do not throw too many stones.

Shri M. Ruthnaswamy : One stone is enough.

442. Something for men too

During the course of discussion on the General Budget, Shri Chimanbhai Mehta pointed out that the Excise Duty on costly cosmetics produced by multinational companies had been reduced from 70 per cent to 30 per cent though they were charging 15 or 20 per cent more than the cost of production. Whereas there had not been even 1 per cent reduction of Excise Duty on the items of mass consumption such as detergent powder.

Referring to his comment the Deputy Chairman*** made the following witty remark :

Mr. Mehta, you have made good points, but you were only talking about cosmetics and nothing for men. It is very discriminatory. It is not fair that you only talked about things which women use. You should also talk about something which men use.

* Minister of Energy

** Shri R.M. Hajarnavis, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

*** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

443. Son-in-law's concern

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta suggested an amendment to clause 5 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964. He found that the suggestions made by him on the matter were not included in the papers placed before the House. When he wanted to know the reasons, the following interesting exchange took place among the members :

The Deputy Chairman* : ...Mr. Biplab Dasgupta, the amendment that you had was for the previous one, it had come last time. That has lapsed. This is a new one.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : Madam, does this mean that these amendments be considered now?

The Deputy Chairman : No. They won't be taken up because when the Bill is reintroduced you have to give it again.

Dr. Biplab Dasgupta : I understand.

Putting an end to the arguments, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia offered his advice to Shri Dasgupta and said :

"Madam, Shri Biplab Dasgupta is my father-in-law and I request him he should not take in expired medicines."

444. Soul in peace

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari** : He*** must hold his soul in patience.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor : But he does not believe in soul.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : It does not matter; he has a soul nevertheless.

445. Sound sans light

During interpellations on a question regarding 'Sound and Light' show at Sun Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, the House witnessed the following exchange of repartees :

Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra : I would like to know from the Minister of Tourism as to in how many cases this Light and Sound, in other words *Son et Lumiere* programme, has been introduced.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Minister of Finance

*** Reference to Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

Question No. (b)...

The Chairman* : No, No.

Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra : Sir, not (b), but whether it has been introduced in Orissa...

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh** : Sir, he is making only sound but throwing no light.

446. Speak less, be better parliamentarian

It was time for a short duration discussion*** and the Deputy Chairman† called for Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi to begin. At this, the member replied :

मैडम, मेरा तो काफी टाइम है। आधा घंटा तो मेरी पार्टी का टाइम है।

(Madam, I have enough time. My party has got half an hour).

उपसभापति: मुझे यह कहना चाहिए कि आपकी बारी है।

(**The Deputy Chairman** : I should say that it is your turn).

श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी: हां, मेरी बारी है और मेरी बारी में आप मुझे पूरा मौका देंगे, क्योंकि कल जो यहाँ पर पीठासीन थे, उन्होंने कहा था कि जितना टाइम सिब्बल साहब को और ज्यादा दिया है उसका दो-तिहाई हमको और दे देंगे। अगर जरूरत होगी तो मैं आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा वरना फिर आपको तकलीफ नहीं दूंगा। वैसे भी आपकी आज्ञा और आदेश मैं हमेशा मानता हूँ।

(**Shri T.N. Chaturvedi** : Yes, it's my turn and you will give me full chance on my turn because yesterday, the Presiding Officer had said that for any extra time given to Sibal Sahib, two-third more of that time would be given to me. If need be, I will request you, otherwise, I will not give you any trouble. Even otherwise, I always follow your order).

The Deputy Chairman had a word of advice :

पार्लियामेंटरी डेमोक्रेसी में आप जितना कम बोलेंगे उतने आप ज्यादा अच्छे पार्लियामेंटरियन होंगे, क्योंकि कोई आपको पकड़ नहीं सकेगा। अगर आप ज्यादा बोलेंगे तो आपके पकड़े जाने के ज्यादा चांसेज हैं।

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of Finance and Leader of the House

*** Short Duration Discussion on working of UTI with special reference to freeze on sale and repurchase of US-64.

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

(In parliamentary democracy, the less you speak, the better parliamentarian you become, because nobody can catch you. If you speak more, the chances of getting caught are more).

447. Speaking without the subject

The Vice-Chairman* : In my college days I remember, there used to be an elocution competition of speaking without the subject and one could ramble on everything. I think you are perhaps a champion in that.

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

The Vice-Chairman : For your information, I am a graduate in science.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : I am glad to hear. You look like a graduate, I agree.

448. Specialised course for husbands

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

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

Shri Madhavrao Scindia*** : There should be a specialized course for husbands also.

The Chairman† : No Minister can put a question to another Minister.

449. Spicy debate

After the House had adopted the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chairman announced that the Minister of Commerce and

* Shri A.G. Kulkarni

** Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao

*** Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

† Shri R. Venkataraman

Food and Civil Supplies* would move the Spices Board and Spices Cess Bills.

"After the spicy debate", quipped Shri Parvathaneni Upendra.

450. Split-vision

During a short duration discussion, Shri P. Shiv Shanker** referred to a statement made by the Foreign Minister***. This led to the following interesting exchange between the Prime Minister† and Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh :

Shri P. Shiv Shanker : May I draw your attention to what the Foreign Minister said after visiting Maldives? He said that under no circumstances our troops will go outside our territory.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh : I have not said of troops; I said of the role of peace.

Shri P. Shiv Shanker : No, not you; the Foreign Minister.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh : Yes, right.

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh : Prime Minister, you have finally perfected the art of double-speak. I congratulate you. I congratulate you.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : He is a double-man. He speaks like that.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh : Some people suffer from the disease of split-vision. They need corrective specs.

Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh : My spectacles, Mr. Prime Minister, see you in at least ten *avtars* every day...

This led the Prime Minister to remark :

"I did not know the disease has gone to that extent. I thought only two. You say ten."

451. Spouse or spice

A debate on the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1999 took on a spicy flavour when Shri Ram Jethmalani# argued in favour of allowing companions of

* Shri P. Shiv Shanker

** Leader of Opposition

*** Shri I. K. Gujral

† Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment

Members to travel without their identity being inquired into by the railway staff as it leads to inconvenience. He suggested :

...there ought not to be an embarrassing inquiry about the identities of the spouses and their "spices". Anybody who is more happy with his "spice" can always be so masquerading and you see they create problems.

452. Starred and unstarred questions

At the farewell to retiring members in the House, Shri G. Swaminathan narrated an entertaining anecdote that occurred in the Notice Office in his presence. A member, who was a famous film star, had walked in to ask the meaning of starred and unstarred questions. Overjoyed at being asked by a celebrity, the Notice Officer elaborately explained that to her for 10-15 minutes. As she got up to leave, a senior member of the House who had been listening went up to her and said that he could put it more simply.

The film star eagerly asked : "what is the difference?"

The senior member said :

"A starred question is one filed by a film star who is a celebrity like you. An unstarred question is something filed by ordinary persons like me."

453. Step-fatherly, for a change

During the discussion on the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2001, Shri Khagen Das accused the former Minister of Railways* of mortgaging the nation's tomorrow for her today and said that the Railway Budget for 2001-2002 had displayed neglect, gross injustice and step-motherly treatment to the people of the North Eastern region.

Protesting at the gender terminology, the Deputy Chairman** said :

"He is not a mother. He is a father. Why are you using this very gender prone thing?"

Shri Khagen Das : Madam, the reference was to the ex-Railway Minister.

The Deputy Chairman : Now, she is not here. It is 'he'. So, you may use the correct terminology as 'step-fatherly'.

* Ms. Mamta Banerjee

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Khagen Das : I am not manipulating anything...

The Deputy Chairman : No, my objection is, why women should always become the target? Why should everybody say 'step-motherly'? Why can't they say, sometimes 'step-fatherly'? This is a very gender biased statement which I object to.

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव : यह प्रिविलेज महिलाओं को ही प्राप्त है।

(**Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav :** This privilege belongs only to the women.)

उपसभापति : आप ले लीजिए...

(**The Deputy Chairman :** You take it...)

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव : उन्हें सुपीरियर मानते हैं इसलिए उन्हें ही...

(**Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav :** They are considered to be the superior species so...)

The Deputy Chairman promptly retorted : "We willingly relinquish our rights to all the men."

454. Sterilising the discussion

Shri B. C. Ghose : Sir, it appears that the hon'ble members are suffering from the incurable habit of continuously speaking on this subject*. Now the proposal is to sterilise this discussion itself.

The Chairman :** So you want the question to be put.

455. Stronger than the tiger

During a calling attention***, Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty informed the Deputy Chairman† that during the Assam movement she was banished to the jungle infested with tigers, lions and bears. Hearing this, the Deputy Chairman asked whether she had been thrown to the tigers.

Shrimati Chakravarty replied in the affirmative. The Deputy Chairman thereupon remarked :

"Then you are stronger than the tiger to come back to Rajya Sabha."

* The House was discussing a Resolution regarding sterilisation of adults suffering from incurable diseases or insanity.

** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

*** Calling Attention to the agitation by All Bodo Students' Union for a separate State in Assam and the steps taken by the Government in the matter.

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

456. Substitute for a calculator

While answering a supplementary question on Railway's failure to earn profits from scrap, Shri Madhavrao Scindia* said :

Sir, I would like to inform the honourable member that the procedures have been fairly tightened up in the last year and-a-half and that is the reason why the scrap sale which was Rs. 150 crores in 1984-85 has risen to as much as Rs. 208 crores in 1985-86 which is a rise of—Sir, you have been the Finance Minister and I think you can calculate it about—thirty to forty per cent.

The Chairman :** Do you carry a calculator in your pocket?

Shri Madhavrao Scindia : Sir, when you are in the Chair, why do I need a calculator?

457. Substitute runner

During the discussion on the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1998, this interesting exchange took place which probably left Shri Suresh A. Keswani quite piqued :

Shri Yashwant Sinha* : Unfortunately, I find that a great tradition of members staying back to listen to the reply...

Shri Suresh A. Keswani : Madam, he (referring to another member Shri Santosh Bagrodia) has asked me to stay back on his behalf.

Shri Yashwant Sinha : Then you listen to me on his behalf.

The Deputy Chairman† : He is having a substitute.

Shri Yashwant Sinha : Madam, he is a runner for him.

The Deputy Chairman : I hope he will keep him as his substitute when he retires.

Shri Yashwant Sinha : Madam, Mr. Santosh Bagrodia is a stroke-maker and he is his runner.

* The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** Minister of Finance

† Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

458. Sugar for speeches

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh* was answering supplementaries to a question on the consumption and import of sugar when Shri Bhupesh Gupta asked this interesting supplementary :

"May I know the amount of sugar consumed for sugar coating the speeches of the Food Minister?"

Equally interesting was the reply of the Minister :

"It is all for the benefit of the opposition."

459. Suicidal suggestion

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

460. Sukulism

When Shri P.N. Sukul was speaking on the Hospital and other Institutions (Redressal of Grievances of Employees) Bill, a member wanted to know from Shri Sukul as to what he meant by socialism. While Shri Sukul was giving his definition of socialism, he was interrupted by Shri Dipen Ghosh thus :

"Socialism means 'Sukulism'."

461. Superfast question hour

On a particular sitting of the House as many as 10 questions for oral answers were disposed of as against an average of 4-5 questions. Three questions went off without any supplementaries being put. The next question was pertaining to the Railways which was answered by Shri Madhavrao Scindia*** who in the end also made the following interesting comment on the fast pace with which the questions were disposed of :

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

* Minister of Agriculture

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

*** Minister of State in the Department of Railways

The Chairman* : We want the trains to be as fast as we are going.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia : I wish at the super fast speed I did not end up with an accident.

462. Surrogate mother

During the discussion on the Gold (Control) Repeal Bill, Prof. Madhu Dandavate** expressing his intention to share the credit of introducing the Bill with the former Finance Minister, said :

...I formally went and confirmed from the former Finance Minister if it is true that in the last Budget he had already expressed his intention and desire to introduce such a Bill. He confirmed that. Therefore, I do want to share the credit with the former Finance Minister also. Appreciation comes from this side. Sir, because they know you very well.

Responding to him the Vice-Chairman*** said :

"And from this position also I am taking note of your gesture and spirit."

The discussion took a witty turn thereafter as Prof. Dandavate commented thus :

Thank you. But I must go on record also that the former Finance Minister conceived of the idea and it is he who delivered it. Of course, don't read too much into that and try to give biological interpretation of the financial phenomenon.

The Vice Chairman : That raises many questions.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate : That is why I warned you, Sir.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha : Hopefully you will deliver the baby also.

A quick repartee came from Prof. Madhu Dandavate :

"I can assure you I would not throw that responsibility on you at this age."

463. Surviving the injection

During the course of supplementaries to a question relating to the Safety Committee to review toxic effect of drugs, Shri Virendra Verma enquired :

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Minister of Finance

*** Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur

“माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि यूनीकैम जो गाजियाबाद की फर्म है उसका एक इंजेक्शन मैंने मंत्री जी को दिया था, जो भी इसी प्रकार का डेंजरस ड्रग था जिसमें फॉरन मैटर था, उसके संबंध में आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है?”

(Would the hon'ble Minister please state as to what action has been taken with regard to the injection of Unichem, a Ghaziabad firm, which I had given to him, and which was a dangerous drug containing foreign matter.)

The Chairman* immediately quipped :

“He has survived after your injection.”

464. Surviving with an allergy

Shri N. K. P. Salve : Sir, Penicillin is a very valuable antibiotic but is extremely dangerous to those who are allergic to it. I am myself allergic to Penicillin, Mrs. Salve, who is a doctor, once injected Penicillin to me...and nearly killed me. Unfortunately, I survived, Sir.

The Chairman :** It is not your allergic reaction.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Mr. Salve, how do you dare to criticise Mrs. Salve?

Shri P. Shiv Shanker : Sir, I object. She is not here to answer him. He has no business to criticise her.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Mrs. Salve is not present here to reply.

The Chairman : Did she inject him?

This led Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to quip :

Mr. Salve is surviving with an allergy.

465. Swamy and Gurupadaswamy

Speaking on a short duration discussion on Bofors gun deal, Shri K.C. Pant*** remarked :

Each one of us has to look within. Sometimes it is good to look within also and not always look without and my friend, Shri Gurupadaswamy has sufficient spiritual resources to be able to look within. I would not say that for everybody.

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

*** Minister of Defence

Shri Subramanian Swamy commented immediately :

“Kindly look into your own self.”

Shri K.C. Pant, however, had an edge over Shri Swamy when he said :

“All Swamys are not like Gurupadaswamy.”

466. Swamis galore

The House was having a discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shri A.G. Kulkarni was emphasising the importance of value-based politics, and the harm caused to it by the growing nexus between criminals and politicians. Referring to an article he said :

I am not going to quote it because it is a very long article. But out of that, you can see the havoc created by *Swamis* in this country. Are you aware of that? You may please read that article.

This led to a brief light-hearted exchange in the House :

An hon'ble member : Are you referring to Subramanian Swamy?

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : There are many *Swamis*; not only Subramanian Swamy. This is one type of *Swamis*. There is Chandra Swami, there is Rajni Swami, and *Swamis* and *Swamis* are there in this country.

An hon'ble member : There is Mr. Narayanasamy.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : He is not a *Swami* of that cult who sabotage democracy. The other *Swamis* sabotage democracy.

467. Sweet memories

Here are some excerpts of lighter moments from the farewell to retiring members in 2003 which also gives a rare insight into the camaraderie between members in the House :

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : शबाना आजमी जी सिने वर्ल्ड की एक नामी-गिरामी अभिनेत्री जब इस सदन में आई थी तब लोगों की आंखें चौंधिया गई थीं।

(**Shri S.S. Ahluwalia :** ...when Shabana Azmi, a well known actress of the cine world joined this House, people's eyes were dazzled.)

श्री कुलदीप नैयर : अभी तक चौंधिया रही हैं।

(**Shri Kuldip Nayyar :** Even now they are dazzled.)

* * * * *

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: मृणाल सेन जी जब आए थे, चूंकि मैं बहुभाषी हूं, पहले दिन जब मुलाकात हुई तो मैंने कहा बंगला में—“क्या बंगला में आप किसी सरदार जी की पिक्चर बनाइएगा?” उनका वचन था—“तुम्हारे जैसे सरदार की मैं पिक्चर जरूर बनाऊंगा।” पर उनकी मसरूफियत इतनी है ...

(**Shri S. S. Ahluwalia :** When Mrinal Sen joined this House and I met him the first day, being a polyglot, I asked him in Bangla whether he would make a film on a Sikh in Bangla. His reply was that he would definitely make a film on a Sikh person like me. But he is so busy ...)

सभापति: बन गई क्या वह पिक्चर।

(**The Chairman* :** Has that film been made?)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: अब उन्होंने यह वादा किया है कि मैं यहां से रुखसत होकर जा रहा हूं अब जरूर बनाऊंगा। मैं यहां रहूं या न रहूं, कुछ न कुछ तो करता ही रहूंगा। मैं यही उम्मीद करता हूं कि मृणाल बाबू जी, जो उनकी बाहर की जिंदगी का ऐक्सपीरिएंस है, उसको लेकर उन्होंने कई पिक्चरें बनाईं। पार्लियामेंट में रहते हुए उन्होंने जो ज्ञान अर्जित किया है, मुझे उम्मीद है कि उस पर भी वे काफी काम करेंगे।

(**Shri S.S. Ahluwalia :** Now he has promised that since he is being bidden farewell he will surely make that film... whether he remains here or not, he will continue to do something. I hope that Mrinal babuji, who has experience of life outside this House and has produced a number of films with that experience, will work a lot on the knowledge he has acquired while being in the Parliament.)

* * * * *

श्रीमती सुष्मा स्वराज : शबाना आजमी से तो मेरा अलग रिश्ता है। लोग बहुत बार आश्चर्यचकित होते हैं मेरी और उनकी दोस्ती देखकर। इस बात को मैंने उनके सामने भी बहुत बार कहा है और मैं आज यहां सदन के सामने भी खुलासा करना चाहूंगी कि वे मेरी चहेती अभिनेत्री रही हैं। उसका एक कारण रहा। महेश भट्ट ने एक फिल्म बनाई थी “अर्थ”। उस “अर्थ” में एक बहुत स्वाभिमानी महिला की भूमिका शबाना आजमी ने अदा की थी। उससे पहले जितनी फिल्में बना करती थीं, उनमें बीच में कुछ भी दिखाया जाए लेकिन अंत में महिला को झुकता हुआ, compromise करता हुआ, समझौतावादी ही दिखाया जाता था लेकिन वह एक फिल्म थी जहां अंत में एक स्वाभिमानी महिला समझौता नहीं करती बल्कि अपने स्वाभिमान के साथ खड़ी रहती है। वह भूमिका शबाना

* Shri Bhairon Singh Sekhawat

ने अदा की थी। उस दिन से वे मेरी चहेती अभिनेत्री, favourite actress हो गई थीं। इस बात को मैंने बहुत इंटरव्यूज में भी कहा है। मैंने कल्पना नहीं की थी कि कभी किसी समय उनके साथ एक सांसद, साथी और सहयोगी के रूप में काम करने का मौका मिलेगा मगर वह मौका जब मिला तो परिचय बहुत जल्दी दोस्ती में बदल गया और दोस्ती बहुत जल्दी आत्मीयता में। शायद उनके कुछ खयालातों से मेरी भी भिन्नता रही हो लेकिन एक genuineness जो उनके अंदर मुझे दिखाई दी, उसने हमेशा मुझे प्रभावित किया। लोग हैरान होते थे कि कैसे आपकी और उनकी इतनी दोस्ती है। आज वे जा रही हैं, मुझे एक कमी खलेगी लेकिन शायद उससे भी ज्यादा कमी मेरे पति को खलेगी क्योंकि केन्द्रीय कक्ष में उनके साथ बैठने वाली जो चंद साथिनें थीं, शबाना उनमें से एक होती थीं।

(**Shrimati Sushma Swaraj* :** I have a different type of relationship with Shabana Azmi. People are often surprised to see our friendship. I have expressed this fact in her presence a number of times and today, I would like to mention before this House that she has been my favourite actress. One of the reasons has been Mahesh Bhatt's film *Arth*. Shabana Azmi has played the role of a self-respecting lady in that film. Before that in all films, irrespective of the things shown in it, a woman was shown as a yielding and compromising lady but that was the only film in which a self-respecting woman did not compromise and stood out with self-respect. That role was played by the Shabana Azmi. From that day on she became my favourite actress. I have expressed this in many interviews. I had never imagined that I would get a chance to work with her as a Member of Parliament, friend and colleague but when I got that chance, the introduction was turned into friendship and friendship into intimacy very soon. Perhaps we may differ in our views but I was impressed by the genuineness I saw in her. People were surprised to see our closeness. Today she is leaving this House and I will feel her absence but this absence will be more intensely felt by my husband because she was one of the few lady colleagues who used to sit with him in the Central Hall...)

Shri Swaraj Kaushal** interrupted :

श्री स्वराज कौशल: सर, यह शिकायत करने का फोरम तो नहीं है। इस पर तो घर पर बहुत चर्चा हो चुकी है।

(Sir, this is not the forum for making complaints. This topic has been discussed extensively at home.)

* Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

** Husband of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj

The Chairman replied :

शिकायत तो तब हो जब उनके मिलने से आपको कोई जलन हो रही हो।

(It can be termed as complaint only if she is jealous of her meeting with you.)

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ended the matter wittily :

यह शिकायत नहीं है सभापति जी। यह और जिम्मेदारी का अहसास है क्योंकि थोड़ा समय जो वे बांट लिया करती थीं, वह समय अब मुझे साथ बिताना पड़ेगा।

(This is not a complaint, Mr. Chairman. It is a feeling of greater responsibility because the little time she used to share with him will now have to be shared by me.)

t

Humour can be an incredible,
lacerating and effective weapon

— Carl Hiaasen

468. Tax, throttle, kill

Shri Akbar Ali Khan : Do you know what big business speak of T.T.K.*? They say it means "tax, throttle, kill."

469. Teasing the maidens

After Shri C. Perumal finished his maiden speech during the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Labour, the Deputy Chairman** next called Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi to make his speech and not to reply to what he had heard.

Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi commented : "Madam, my colleague has made a very good maiden speech."

The Deputy Chairman wittily reminded him : "... your views and not a reply to his maiden speech. Please don't try to tease the maidens."

470. Tending other person's baby

Reacting to the reply given by Shri Vasant Sathe*** to a question on the allocation of coal to Andhra Pradesh, Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy expressed himself in the following words :

The coal is being produced in Andhra Pradesh. We are not against supply of coal to other parts of the country but the development of the State is the development of the country also. Why don't you supply the coal for the Manuguru, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam projects? How much time you will take to fulfil the aspirations of the people of the State?

Shri Vasant Sathe replied to him by narrating the following story :

Sir, unfortunately the attitude of the Andhra Pradesh Government, as expressed by the hon'ble member, Shri Satyanarayan Reddy, a senior member, is very vocal and like that of Vishwamitra...I am talking about a mythological fact. Sir, you know the famous attitude of Vishwamitra in the story. He had an affair with Menaka and when Shakuntala was born, this fellow, the great Vishwamitra raised his hands and said : "I have nothing to do with it. I do not know anything. This baby is of somebody else". The poor

* Referring to the Finance Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Minister of Energy

Shakuntala had to be brought up in Kanvarishi's ashram. Now this is the position. Andhra Pradesh only conceives and hand-over these babies to the Central Government. Then he says, "You find the resources. You find the coal". It is just like saying I have produced the baby, you feed it, you do everything, you bring it up. My dear good friend, even then, we, like the Kanvarishi, believe in taking care of these babies. We will look after them. We will find food but we must also find resources.

This led Shri A.G. Kulkarni to remark :

"Don't assure them that you will take care of the orphans; otherwise they will produce orphans in large number."

471. The only Jogi

श्री अजीत जोगी: उपाध्यक्ष जी, आपको एक नया नियम बनाना पड़ेगा। इस हाउस में तीन स्वामी हैं और तीनों बड़े प्रखर हैं। ऐसा कुछ कर दीजिए कि एक समय में एक ही स्वामी बोले तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा।

(**Shri Ajit Jogi :** Mr. Vice-Chairman, you will have to make a new rule. There are three Swamys* in this House, all the three are very sharp witted. Please do something so that only one Swamy speaks at a time. That will be better.)

उपाध्यक्ष : ये प्रखर हैं, आपने अच्छा कहा।

(**The Vice-Chairman** :** They are sharp witted, well said.)

श्री कमल मोरारका: इस हाउस में स्वामी तीन हैं, जोगी तो एक ही है।

(**Shri Kamal Morarka :** There are three Swamys*** in this House but there is only one Jogi†.)

472. The Pope and the Swamy

Once Shri Subramanian Swamy was narrating a story in the House when the following humorous banter took place among members :

Shri Subramanian Swamy : When Pope went back to Italy, he was asked what struck him the most about India? And he said : "I am surprised

* Referring to Shri V. Gopalsamy, Shri Gurupadaswamy and Shri Subramanian Swamy.

** Dr. Bapu Kaldate

*** Swamy means Godman

† Alluding to the surname 'Jogi' which means mendicant.

how this country has continued. It has no Pope, it has no church, it has no book and still that country has continued this way."

Shri N. K. P. Salve : We have you.

Shri Subramanian Swamy : The Swamy is all over. But they are all decentralised Swamys. They are in the districts. There is no one Pope.

The Deputy Chairman* : There are two Swamys. One is behind him**.

Shri N. K. P. Salve : No, no, he is a gentleman.

Shri Buta Singh* :** One is grand-father of the other.

473. The problem

During the course of discussion on a Bill†, Shri V. Narayanasamy observed :

"I find from the film industry, most of the film stars have become Chief Ministers. Especially from the south, super-stars have become Chief Ministers."

This led to the following interesting exchange :

Shri Mentay Padmanabham : I advise Mr. Narayanasamy also to join the film industry so that one day he can become the Chief Minister of Pondicherry.

Shri V. Narayanasamy : I am quoting his leader. That is why he got hurt.

Shri Mentay Padmanabham : When pilots can become Prime Ministers, why film stars could not become Chief Ministers?

Shri V. Narayanasamy : I have no grudge against them. I am only quoting the people who were involved in the cine field and became Chief Ministers.

Shri Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh : One problem, sir, when pilots become Prime Ministers, they stop being pilots and they really become Prime Ministers. The problem with the film stars is that when they become Chief Ministers they continue acting in films.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Reference to Shri V. Gopalsamy, another member

*** Minister of Home Affairs

† The Cine Workers' Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1993

474. The real Home Minister

During the course of a discussion, Dr. M. Aram made a reference to the emergence of women power as the most encouraging development in the country. Narrating the experience of working under five women bosses, he said that as Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram University, he had to serve under his immediate Chancellor, Dr. Soundaram Ramachandran, a distinguished women's leader and former Union Minister. And since Gandhigram was a deemed University, he had to work under the Chairperson of the University Grants Commission, Dr. Madhuriben Shah, at that time. Being a Central University, he had to work under the Education Minister, Mrs. Sheila Kaul and very important decisions and files had to go to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Adding to the above four women bosses, he was guided by the 'Home Minister' his wife at home, and therefore, he had to work under five women bosses.

475. They also serve who sit and keep quiet

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee : Sir, we have been told that they also serve who stand and watch.

The Chairman* : Also who sit and keep quiet.

476. Thing of beauty is joy forever

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

I know, sir, a thing of beauty is a joy forever, Dr. Najma is a beautiful member of the House. If the ruling party wanted beauty we also could have given beauty from here.**

The Chairman* thereupon said :

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

Subsequently, while felicitating Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on her election, the Leader of the House*** reacted as follows :

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

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Referring to the opposition benches

*** Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

477. Things means persons

The House was having a discussion on the Annual Reports of Air India and Indian Airlines Corporation. Addressing Shri Raj Bahadur* who was answering the points raised by the members, Shri Arjun Arora said :

I praised your airhostesses, charming things as they are. I praised their pronunciation of English. I only lament that they do not understand Hindi at all. A smattering of Hindi will do them some good. I do not say that they should give up their pronunciation and that instead of speaking the convent type of English they should speak Babu English which I speak. I never said that. I praised their pronunciation. I again repeat that they are pretty things and very considerate for passengers.

This led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja : I want to know what are the "things" you are referring to.

Shri Arjun Arora : I mean the persons.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Pretty young ladies, for example.

Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja : I protest against this light talk about women whenever something is referred to about women.

Shri Arjun Arora : Let us go to the other point. It is not at all light talk. What I suggest is that they should know a little Hindi. That will make them appear more Indian. As far as women are concerned, I have a preference for lighter women and not heavyweight ones.

478. Throat vs. brain

Shri Dipen Ghosh : You wait...your leader has taught you only to make noise, not to apply your brain.

Shri V. Narayanasamy : I am putting a pointed question : 'Are you agreeing with the findings of the Commission**?' Don't think that you only know things. We also know things.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : The anatomy of human beings does not contain only the throat. There is another anatomy which is above the shoulder.

Shri V. Narayanasamy : You are not using that.

* Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport

** Justices Thakkar-Natarajan Commission of Inquiry into Utilisation of Fairfax Group Inc.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : In some cases that part of the anatomy seems to be the dullest.

479. Ticketless travel, only facility

While participating in the general discussion on the Railway budget, Shri R. Ramakrishnan was hammering home a point that ticketless travelling in general was less in the Southern States than in the North. In this context, he made the following observation :

Definitely in the South, ticketless travel is much less than in the States in the North, particularly, if I may say, in the State from which my hon'ble friend, Mr. Jagadambi Prasad Yadav* comes....

Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav quickly retorted : "This is the only facility they are getting."

480. Tikka on lady's finger

Expressing his concern and stating the need to change the mindset of the people administering agriculture credit during a debate**, Shri Ekanath K. Thakur narrated his personal experience thus :

I was talking to a senior officer who was administering agriculture credit. I was telling him that recently in one of the areas there was *tikka* on lady's finger. ...first, he did not understand what lady's finger is. These are the people who are financing agriculture. In lady's finger also there could be *tikka*. He thought *tikka* is a chicken dish and lady's finger he thought was 'the finger'. People don't know even what is lady's finger and that *tikka* is a paste of lady's finger. Such people are sitting there and they are financing the agriculture.

481. To file or not to file FIR

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Madam***, Let me put to you one question. If I steal the diamond ring that your husband had given to you on your honeymoon...

The Deputy Chairman : He never gave me anything. I wish that he did.

* Shri Yadav hails from the State of Bihar.

** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2003

*** The Deputy Chairman, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

Shri Gurudas Das Gupta : Madam, if I steal the diamond ring and ultimately I am caught and I am forced to return it, will you not file an FIR in the nearest thana?

The Deputy Chairman : Not against you.

482. To smoke or not to smoke

During a special mention on the need to ban smoking, Shri Md. Salim suggested that there had to be some gesture from the Members of Parliament to atleast ban smoking in the Lobby. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia added that somebody had to take a pledge. However, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, a smoker and accused of polluting the Lobbies, had the last word when he quipped :

"Those who do not smoke, give sermons."

483. Tongue slip

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

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

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

The Vice-Chairman* :** He meant adulteration, not adultery. It was a slip of the tongue.

Shri A. P. Chatterjee : Oh, I see.

The Vice-Chairman : I think Mr. Tyagi is better when speaking in Hindustani.

* Leader of the House

** Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance

*** Dr. Akbar Ali Khan

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

Shri Pitamber Das : Over the question of adultery between Mr. Tyagi and Mr. Shah, I would not like to be a party.

484. Too handsome to bend

Supplementaries were being asked on a question regarding manufacture of Dexamethasone. While a member was formulating his supplementary, the Chairman noticed that Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, was talking to another member slightly bending which made it appear as though he was showing his back to the Chair. This led the Chairman* to remark :

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

485. Too many eggs to lay

Delay in laying the document entitled "Approach to the Fourth Five Year Plan" on the Table of the House was thus commented upon by two members :

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : This is the first time it has been laid on the Table of the House. The Government should explain why it was not possible for them to lay it on the Table of the House earlier.

Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel : They have got too many eggs to lay.

486. Travelling with Minister

During a question hour a member wanted to know whether the Railways had received a request from the *Bharat Sadhu Samaj* for running a special train for teaching *Sadachar*. Supplementaries to this question were quite interesting and led to laughter. When Shrimati Yashoda Reddy wanted to know the meaning of *Sadachar*, she was told by the Chairman, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan that it was "exactly the kind of conduct which you are expected to adopt in Parliament". When the Deputy Minister of Railways** informed the House that the Railways had received a request from Air Freight (Private) Limited, Bombay for organizing a '*Charitra Nirman*' special and the Northern Railway was also making arrangements for running a special train, Shri Bhupesh Gupta remarked :

* Shri R. Venkataraman

** Shri Shah Nawaz Khan

An elegant name has been given '*Charitra Nirman*'—character building train—character will be built on special trains. May I know in that case whether the Minister will also travel in that train?

This led Shri Jagjivan Ram* to comment :

"I might request the party to accommodate my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta."

But Shri Gupta did not want to travel alone so he remarked :

"If the Minister travels, I am prepared to travel with him."

487. Troubled waters

Shri H.P. Saksena : Is this deep sea fishing done in smooth waters or in troubled waters**?

Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai* :** This experiment is not being carried on in U.P. Therefore it is not in troubled waters.

488. Truth of age

During the course of a discussion† when Shrimati Suryakanta Patil referred to her age, the following interesting exchange took place :

श्रीमती सूर्यकांता पाटील : ...मान्यवर, जब हम छोटे थे, पहली या दूसरी कक्षा की छात्रा रहे होंगे, तब से इन रेल मार्गों की मांग हम करते आ रहे हैं। आज हमारी उम्र के 42 साल गुजर गए और इस संसद में जाने 35-36 साल से इस मांग को हम...

(Shrimati Suryakanta Patil : ...Sir, the demand for these railway lines has been voiced since I was in my tender age and was studying in school in the first or second standard. Now I have completed 42 years of my age, and this demand, which has been repeatedly made in the Parliament for the past 35-36 years, still...)

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह अहलुवालिया : उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह पहली महिला हैं जो अपनी सच्ची उम्र बता रही हैं।

(Shri S. S. Ahluwalia : Mr. Vice-Chairman, she is the first woman who has disclosed her correct age.)

* Minister of Railways

** The question was on the equipment for deep sea fishing.

*** Minister of Food and Agriculture

† The Budget (Railways) 1991-92

श्रीमती सूर्यकांता पाटील : ऐसी महिलाएं काफी हैं, दुनियां में जो सच बताती हैं।

(Shrimati Suryakanta Patil : There are many women in the world, who tell about their age correctly.)

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह अहलुवालिया : नहीं बताती हैं उम्र, वह टीन्स के अन्दर ही रहना चाहती हैं। इन्होंने 42 साल बताया। मैंने समझा कि मैंने गलत सुना है।

(Shri S. S. Ahluwalia : No, they do not. They want to remain within teens. She said that she was 42. I thought I was not hearing her correctly.)

श्रीमती सूर्यकांता पाटील : नहीं बिल्कुल सही सुना है। धन्यवाद!

(Shrimati Suryakanta Patil : No, you have heard me correctly. Thanks!)

उपाध्यक्ष : वैसे मैं एक बात माननीय सदस्य को कहना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सभा की जो परिचय पुस्तिका है—“हू इज हू”— उसमें सभी की उम्र लिखी हुई है।

(The Vice-Chairman* : However, I want to inform the honourable member that “Who’s Who” of Rajya Sabha Members contains an entry on age of the members.)

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह अहलुवालिया : उसमें मुझे पता है कि मैंने अपनी उम्र कितनी लिखाई है। इसलिए मैं जानता हूँ।

(Shri S. S. Ahluwalia : I know very well the age which I have got recorded in that book. So, I know all about it.)

श्रीमती सूर्यकांता पाटील : सफेद सर की तो लाज रखो कम से कम।

(Shrimati Suryakanta Patil : Show at least a little bit of consideration for your grey hair.)

489. Two is enough

During the discussion on the Vice-President’s Pension Bill, 1999, the whole House protested against what it considered to be an ill-conceived and poorly drafted Bill. As the Prime Minister** himself concurred with the contentions, Shri Satish Agarwal stated that he would not press his amendments. But he, first of all, observed that the Prime Minister was a member of the family of the Upper House :

...this House is so rich that way that we have produced two Prime Ministers during the last eleven months — two Prime Ministers in this House, you just imagine!

The Prime Minister had quipped immediately :

“I would be at ease now to practice family planning.”

* Shri Shankar Dayal Singh

** Shri I.K. Gujral

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Wit's an unruly engine, wildly striking
Sometimes a friend, sometimes the engineer

— George Herbert

490. Understanding belatedly

While refuting the charge that the Budget had been dictated by the IMF or the World Bank, Dr. Manmohan Singh* referred to members' habit of understanding things belatedly. In this context, he was reminded of a joke which runs as follows :

"Never tell a joke to a Scotsman on Saturday because he would start laughing in the Church on Sunday."

491. Unelected entrant

When the House assembled after lunch-recess, a fly bothered the Deputy Chairman**.

The Deputy Chairman asked annoyed :

ये मक्खी कहां से आ गई?

(Where did the fly come from?)

Shri Sangha Priya Gautam commented :

अगर मच्छर आ सकते हैं तो मक्खी भी आ सकती है।

(If mosquitoes can come so can flies.)

The Deputy Chairman said half in jest : "*Makkhi*, you have come without being elected! Even *macchhar* cannot come"!

492. Unwanted baby

While replying to the general discussion on the Railway Budget Shri Madhavrao Scindia*** made a reference to the suburban transport system in his inimitable witty style as follows :

But nowhere in the world is suburban transport the responsibility of the national railway system... In India, however, the Railways have been landed with the baby. We have been nominated as the father of a baby no one wants to own but everyone wants to claim to have sired. I can assure the honourable members that we will do our best to fulfil the role of an indulgent and doting parent...

* Minister of Finance

** Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

*** Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

493. Use of oil

The House was discussing ESSO (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Amendment Bill. During the course of his speech Shri Niren Ghosh complained to the Chair :

“Sir, the Minister is not listening. Another member is talking to him. What does he know about oil or oil products?”

Shri Bhupesh Gupta immediately rose and quipped :

“I object. He is a big farmer. He uses lot of oil; besides he knows how to oil the Minister.”



The sense of humour a person inherits from
Parliament becomes an integral part of his
personality in every walk of life

— Madhu Dandavate

494. Vayudoot or Yamadoot

Shri K. Mohanan : ...Sir, actually, the people are afraid of travelling by the Vayudoot service nowadays.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : It is 'Yamadoot'!

Shri K. Mohanan : I do not know whether it is 'Yamadoot' or 'Vayudoot'. But the fact is that the people are very much afraid of travelling by the Vayudoot service.

495. Vicarious satisfaction

When the House was having a discussion on the report about Chinese and Pakistanis arms coming into the hands of extremist elements in West Bengal, the following exchange took place in the House :

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : ...Even the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee, has stated that women are molested. The Chief Minister has gone on record to this effect. Have we to forget West Bengal?

* * * * *

Shri A. P. Chatterjee : Old bachelors get a vicarious satisfaction in imagining women to be molested.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : Your Chief Minister has stated this.

Shri A. P. Chatterjee : He is a bachelor.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : I want to know whether it is also not a fact that...

Shri A. D. Mani : On a point of order, Sir. All these remarks should be expunged.

Shri A. P. Chatterjee : Why? The reference to the Chief Minister as an old bachelor may be expunged, but the statement that old bachelors get a vicarious satisfaction in imagining women to be molested, should remain.

496. Visit to a zoo

Shri B.R. Bhagat* was replying to the clarifications sought by members on his statement on the visit of Prime Minister to Vietnam and Japan. In reply to a point raised by a member (Shri Jaswant Singh)

* Minister of External Affairs

regarding visit of the Prime Minister to UENO Zoo in Tokyo, the Minister was trying to explain that the two baby elephants Asha and Daya gifted by India to Japan, were extremely popular amongst Japanese and they were symbols of hope, compassion and friendship between the people of the two nations. Shri J.K. Jain at this stage intervened to remark jokingly :

Our members have no love and affection for human beings; how can they have love for animals?

Professor C. Lakshmanan retorted :

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

Shri B.R. Bhagat went on to elaborate further that the Prime Minister's visit to the zoo was shown on their TV network and was watched by millions of people and the impact the visit had on relationship between the Japanese and Indian people had to be seen to be believed. The Deputy Chairman* interrupted the Minister by saying :

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

This led to the following exchange of repartees :

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

The Deputy Chairman : I am a zoologist and so I said.

Shri Jaswant Singh : Anyhow, Madam, visit to the zoo by the Government of India is particularly appropriate.

497. Voice is golden

Pandit S. S. N. Tankha : It is a well known saying that silence amounts to consent.

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : Yes, there is a well known saying that silence is golden but I think that adage does not apply in Parliament because there voice is golden.

The Vice Chairman :** At least Mr. Bhupesh Gupta believes in that.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Nafisul Hasan

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A proverb is one man's wit and all men's wisdom

— Lord John Russel

498. Wake-up alarm

Dr. L.M. Singhvi was making a serious appeal in the House to evolve a strategy to deal with the threat of terrorism in the country when some music was heard in the background.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee : I think there is some background music.

Shri Nilotpal Basu : I think what you are speaking is music to the ears of the Prime Minister.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi : I am happy to be accompanied by background music.

The Deputy Chairman* : It was somebody's cellular phone...

Apologising, Shri Satish Pradhan confessed :

"Madam, after every hour, my cellular phone gives an alarm. While switching off that alarm, that sound came..."

The Deputy Chairman then jestingly inquired :

"Is it to wake us all?"

499. Way to extract information

Once Shri Bhupesh Gupta told the House that by offering whisky one can get information. This secret, which Shri Gupta shared with the House, led to the following interesting exchange in the House :

The Deputy Chairman :** Do you keep whisky?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : No, no. I do not take; I am a teetotaler.

Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy : When you corrupt people?

Shri Bhupesh Gupta : But I know that my friends, some of them, not all, when they have little whisky, they talk truthfully, very much. I realize it. A good thing.

500. Weak battery

During question hour, when the issue of power supply to Delhi was discussed, the Deputy Chairman* commented that Power was a very important subject.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shrimati Violet Alva

Shri Pranab Mukherjee agreed and observed : "Because of this, your vocal power has broken up."

The Deputy Chairman was more precise : "My battery has weakened," she quipped.

501. Wed anything but

Concluding his speech on the Constitution (Fourteenth Amendment) Bill, Shri N.M. Anwar putting forth his point of view vehemently :

"...We are wedded to democracy, wedded to freedom and wedded to integration."

Arresting his statement from further expansion, Shri Bhupesh Gupta remarked :

"You may be wedded to anything but do not get excited."

502. Wedded to communism

Shri Lokanath Mishra : For your information, communists do not have families. They do not believe in family life.

Dr. Joseph Leon D'souza : ...Now apart from that, you have...

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy : I do not know but as far as Mr. Gupta* is concerned, I know he is wedded to communism.

503. Weighty person and small point

Members were seeking clarifications on the statement made by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao** regarding failure of constitutional machinery in Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh sought to raise a point of order. The Chairman*** remarked in a lighter vein :

Mr. Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh, what is your point of order? Now, come on. You are a very weighty person†.

Shri Singh parried the Chairman's remark in the following words :

* Shri Bhupesh Gupta was a bachelor and was a communist member of the House.

** Minister of Human Resource Development

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

† Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh was then perhaps is the heaviest member in the Rajya Sabha.

"I may be a very weighty person, Sir. But I have a very small thing to say."

But the Chairman quickly came up with the following reply :

"I thought you must have a very weighty point. That is why I said that."

504. Weighty question

While Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh* stood up to put his supplementary to a question regarding installation of 'Quinghao' anti malarial plant in India, the Chairman** after calling him, remarked as follows :

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

505. Well manned and womanned

Shri Kishan Chand : ...If we are going to create the impression that our Foreign Service is equally well manned, equally efficiently manned, it is very necessary***...

Shri G. Ranga : Well womanned also.

506. Well versed in English

During the question hour on a particular day, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, an RJD† member spoke in English on the subject of the drifting away of small investors in stock market. It prompted Shri Lalu Prasad# to remark rather proudly :

सभापति जी, हमारी आर.जे.डी. में अंग्रेजी के जानकार लोग भी हैं।

(Mr. Chairman, we also have people in our RJD who are well versed in English.)

507. What constitutes oppression

Shri S. Mahanty : Therefore, let us not make heavy weather about the oppression of Indian women and all that@. Earlier, I said that if there

* Shri Singh was a member with a heavy built.

** Shri R. Venkataraman

*** The House was discussing the Indian Foreign Service Branch 'B' Rules.

† Rashtriya Janata Dal

Leader, RJD

@ The House was discussing the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill.

is one species of oppressed human beings in India, it is the man, not the women. Women are forgetting their curtain lectures. Curtain lectures are much more oppressing.

Kazi Karimuddin : Effective, not oppressing.

Shri S. Mahanty : Curtain lectures are more oppressive than any oppressive action of man. Cold tea served deliberately in the morning is more oppressive than all the oppressions that the women can imagine.

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand : The hon'ble member seems to be greatly oppressed.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar* : Depressed perhaps.

508. What is beauty

Shri M. Manjuran : Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is said that beauty is half revealed and half concealed. Judged by this test, this amending piece of legislation** with parts of information concealed from the representatives of the people of India and parts revealed, seems to be a rare object of beauty.

509. What is an electrified village

During the course of a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Power, Prof. Naunihal Singh said that as a villager, he had seen the villages himself where there was only a pole and no wire and such villages were defined as electrified. Further narrating his experience the hon'ble member said that he had put the following question to one of the officials of the Rural Electrification Corporation :

"What is the definition of electrifying a village?"

The official replied :

"If there is a pole, it is deemed as electrified even if there is no wire."

510. What is there in a name

Shri Puttapaga Radhakrishna : Sir, day before yesterday Mr. Natwar Singh was making a statement on Fiji, I was to seek a clarification Mr. Jagesh Desai was in the Chair. He called me by the name 'Ramakrishna'

* Minister of Commerce

** The House was having a discussion on the Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill.

but afterwards he corrected it and called my name as 'Radhakrishna'. But Doordarshan has quoted me as 'Alagesan'. Alagesan has nothing to do with my name. Everytime Doordarshan quotes my name wrongly. Sometimes they quote me as 'Ramakishan', and sometimes by some other name. Ultimately, they have ended with quoting me as 'Alagesan'.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Lord Krishna has many names.

* * * * *

Shri Puttapaga Radhakrishna : Sir, I need your protection. I request the Chair to direct Doordarshan to quote my name correctly as 'Radhakrishna'.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto : There is a proverb : what is there in a name.

511. When two women are in duel

Dr. (Shrimati) Seeta Parmanand asked a question to the Health Minister* regarding the appointment of a male Principal in the Lady Harding Medical College. While the Health Minister was replying to her, Dr. P. C. Mitra wanted to know whether the Principal was taking any classes. This sudden question from Dr. Mitra prompted the following comment from the Chairman** :

"When two women are facing each other in duel, why do you intervene Dr. Mitra?"

512. Where one stands

Answering a supplementary on a question on Indo-Soviet Cultural Association, Shrimati Indira Gandhi*** said :

"I have already told you where we stand."

This led Shri Bhupesh Gupta to quip :

"You stand in your seat, that is all."

513. Where there is a will, there is a railway

Speaking on railway survey in the House during the discussion on the Budget (Railways) 1997-98, Shri Y. Lakshmi Prasad shared a well circulated joke in the Rail Bhavan :

* Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

*** Prime Minister

"If there is a will, there is a railway. If there is no will, there is a survey."

Shri V. Narayanasamy : ...this is only the Railway's survey Budget.

Shri Satpal Maharaj : Without survey, there cannot be a railway. So, where there is a will, there is a survey and there is a railway.

514. Which smile is this

During the course of a discussion on the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1997, Shri Dipankar Mukherjee made an appeal to the Labour Minister to give an assurance for statutory dues to be paid to the public sector workers. While he was about to take up the next point, he found the Minister smiling. This interesting exchange followed thereafter :

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee : You are giving a smile. Is it an assurance smile or is it a helpless smile?

The Vice-Chairman* : No, no. You address me. Don't interpret his smile.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, however, insisted : "But, I can have a look at him?"

515. Who are elders

A question was asked during the question hour by Shri Mirza Irshadbaig on the telecast of adult films** on television. While participating in the discussion Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav said :

It is purely incidental that some of these films may be in 'A' category. But as the Minister has said just now that one film was shown—'Marriage of Maria Brown'. May I ask the hon'ble Minister whether that film was for adults or whether it was artistic or whether it was more than for adults. This film which was shown on TV was something more than for adults and it has made a bad impact on the mind of the people. So, may I request the hon'ble Minister to have some close monitoring system while selecting such films which are shown on these two days.

* Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi

** Late night movies were shown on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Shri Ajit Kumar Panja* : We are doing so through the Selection Committees, but the definition more than adult might be meaning the elders.

516. Who build houses

When members were having a discussion on the resolution regarding national housing policy, the following interesting exchange took place in the House :

Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh : ...At the outset, I must say that the hon'ble Minister has not assigned the role to women in the housing policy at all anywhere, because according to Indian concept and conditions, in the houses in which we live, the primary role is that of the ladies. So, I say at no stage, special role has been assigned to women. It is only the men who are consulted...

Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai** : There are voluntary organizations of women.

Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh : I say this because houses are manned and managed by women.

Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav : But these are not built by women, they are only managed by them. Fools build houses and wise men live in them.

517. Who is this gentleman called God

Maj. General S. S. Sokhey : On a point of order, Sir, I heard the mover of the Bill saying that it is a religious Bill*** and the property is dedicated to a gentleman known as God Almighty. I have not met such gentleman. But anyhow I would like to know whether this House is expected to deal with this religious Bill.

The Chairman† : Many people have taken the oath in the name of God. And we have allowed them.

Maj. General S. S. Sokhey : I have not.

The Chairman : You may not have. But we have admitted them. Therefore this objection does not arise.

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

** Minister of Urban Development

*** Muslim Wakf Bill, 1952

† Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

518. Willing to go to Sri Lanka if provided with weapons

During a short duration discussion on racial riots in South Africa affecting the people of Indian origin, Shri V. Gopalsamy was called to speak by the Vice-Chairman*. However, it was preceded by a light-hearted exchange :

The Vice-Chairman : Last but not the least, Shri Gopalsamy.

Shri Khurshid Alam Khan : Firebrand Mr. Gopalsamy!

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

Shri S. W. Dhabe : Then you can fight better!

Shrimati Margaret Alva :** You will be the right person to fight.

The Vice-Chairman : He would prefer to go to Sri Lanka.

Shri V. Gopalsamy : Yes, definitely, if I am provided with weapons by the Minister.

519. Willing to take plenty of nonsense

After the Chairman*** declared that Shri M.M. Jacob had been elected Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, as is customary, the Leader of CPI(M), Shri Dipen Ghosh† and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh# escorted Shri Jacob to the Deputy Chairman's official@ seat. At that point an hon'ble member remarked :

"Sir, he has now crossed the floor."

* * * * *

The Leader of the House was the first to offer felicitations to the newly elected Deputy Chairman. His reference to the Deputy Chairman being the director of a film society prompted Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy to have light-hearted dig at the Deputy Chairman when he remarked :

...My hon'ble friend, Shri V.P. Singh, in his usual good humour said that Mr. Jacob was associated with directing films.

* Shri R. Ramakrishnan

** The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

† Opposition party having the largest numerical strength in the House.

Leader of the House.

@ First seat in the opposition benches.

This led to the following witty exchange :

Shri K. Mohanan : Not directing films. He is the director of a film.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : Sir, I wish the ruling party had made a generous gesture to us on this side of the House. Instead of a director, you could have had an actress*.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh : Gurupadaswamyji perhaps, that you can contribute to this side.

* * * * *

When Shri N. K. P. Salve's turn came to offer felicitations to the Deputy Chairman the following repartee took place :

Shri N. K. P. Salve : ...But, I think, Sir, he is possessed of one quality which is extremely necessary and which qualified him to occupy this position, and that quality is the quality of inexhaustible patience because one who sits there, you know more than anyone of us, must be willing to take plenty of nonsense.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : From your side.

Shri K. Mohanan : From your side.

The Chairman : Including the members.

Shri Dipen Ghosh : Thank you, Mr. Salve, for your self-criticism.

The Chairman : Your remark is not confined to any part of the House; it is to the whole House.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : In proportion to the strength, Sir.

Shri N. K. P. Salve : Sir, nonsense cannot be our prerogative.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : It is not your only prerogative.

520. Winding up the bachelorship

Once Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto described Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh as a spinster. Shri Singh objected to it and said :

"I am a bachelor. I am not a spinster."

Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh then described Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh as a chronic bachelor to which Shri Vishvjit Prithvijit Singh replied :

"I may spring a surprise on you. Bir Bhadrajji. You never know."

* This reference was apparently to Miss Jayalalitha, an AIADMK member and former film actress.

"When!" Shri Jagesh Desai wanted to know. But, not in a mood to answer him, Shri Vishvijit Prithvijit Singh said :

"Sir, now, I want to wind up the whole thing."

An hon'ble member, however, asked wittily :

"Including your bachelorship?"

521. Wishful thinking

Shri P. Upendra was putting supplementaries on a question relating to the Doordarshan coverage of *Mahanadu* held at Hyderabad. While making a reply, Shri V. N. Gadgil*, assured the member that when his party (Telugu Desam) celebrated its centenary**, it would be given the same amount of time on Doordarshan as Congress (I).

Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy interrupted him by remarking :

"By that time you will not be there, the Congress Government will not be there."

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra caustically remarked :

"Sir, the Minister is speaking as if he is just born. I can wish him hundred years of life if he is just born. But he has already passed his fifties or sixties."

Shri V.N. Gadgil quipped :

"Not sixties. I pray both of us will be there."

522. Wishing him happy times in the Chair

After Shri Shyam Lal Yadav was elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, members belonging to various political parties and groups in the House started extending their felicitations to him. The Chairman and Shri Piloo Mody indulged in a series of quick sallies. An excerpt :

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

The Chairman*** : You represent only 15. He represents so many more.

* Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting

** Formed in 1983

*** Shri M. Hidayatullah

Shri Piloo Mody : It does not go by number over here. I have been trying to tell you this for a very long time.

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

Shri Piloo Mody : I am very conscious of it. And if it went by brains also certainly the opposition will be first.

The Chairman : You would have lost on many fronts then.

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

The Chairman : I think something of you may get rubbed off.

Shri Piloo Mody : I hope a great deal will rub off, my regret is that there is no chair next to you...

The Chairman : I would not sit here then.

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

523. Woman cannot manhandle a woman

Shri V. Narayanasamy : During the election process the Telugu Desam party candidate tried to manhandle one lady Minister.

Shri G. Swaminathan : Who is that candidate? A lady candidate or man candidate?

Shri V. Narayanasamy : That everybody knows.

Shri G. Swaminathan : I want to know who that candidate is.

Shri Parvathaneni Upendra : How can a woman manhandle a woman?

* Refers to Kumari Saroj Khaparde

** Deputy Chairman, when not presiding, sits next to the Leader of the Opposition.

524. Wordy duel

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

"He is justifying the killing."

Shri Mohanaragam retorted :

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

The Deputy Chairman* then cryptically remarked :

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

525. Wordy pollution

During the question hour Shri S.W. Dhabe had put a supplementary to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests** regarding pollution caused by thermal power plants located in urban areas. Not satisfied with the reply of the Minister, the member stuck to his stand. This led to quick exchanges between the member, the Chairman and the Minister. Thereupon the member put a further supplementary to the Minister :

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

The Chairman*** then commented :

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

At that point, another member, Shri Jaswant Singh expressed his desire to ask a supplementary.

The Chairman replied : "Let us first dissolve this."

Shri Jaswant Singh : It would not be dissolved.

* Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla

** Shri Z.R. Ansari

*** Shri R. Venkataraman

The Chairman : This pollution has to be dissolved.

The Minister thereafter made some clarifications which prompted the Chairman to advise Shri Jaswant Singh as under :

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

y

Look, he's winding up the watch of his wit,
by and by it will strike

— William Shakespeare

526. 'Yes' means 'No'

During the question hour, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare* was answering a question on the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. The answer given by her was not clear to some members. Perhaps in a spirit of helping fellow members, Shri K.C. Pant clarified that when a lady said 'no' she meant 'yes' and her 'yes' meant 'no'.

The Chairman** thereupon reacted as follows :

"You are talking as the poet says : in the veil of yes there is always a no***."

527. Young again

A question was asked by Shri A.G. Kulkarni on the resource gap in the Plan. Pointing out to the resource gap Shri Kulkarni expressed his doubt about Government's capacity to tackle the situation. To this Shri Sukh Ram† replied :

"Sir, I do not know how the hon'ble member has inferred that I do not want to take the House into confidence. The hon'ble member is an old member. He knows about..."

An hon'ble member : A senior member.

Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh : Senior and old, both.

"I recently underwent a bypass surgery and I am quite young," protested Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

528. Young in spirit and heart

Shri A.G. Kulkarni was making his special mention in the House about the cultural *melas* organized by the Government in the country. He observed that he did not approve the idea of spending money on these *melas* while people had no water to drink and there was drought in many

* Miss Kumudben M. Joshi

** Shri M. Hidayatullah

*** *Ikrar ke parde main inkar ki batain hain*

† Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning

parts of the country. Talking about the culture of austerity, Shri Kulkarni addressed the Chairman thus :

“Sir, what I want to say is that we carried on, we men of the older generation like you, and we know what sort of culture was there when Mahatma Gandhi was there.”

The Chairman* : I am not old.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : You are 72.

The Chairman : I am only 27.

Shri A. G. Kulkarni : You are young in spirit and heart. That is what I take.

* Shri R. Venkataraman

Z

A witty remark or a repartee breaks the monotony providing scope for a new direction to the debates and discussions

— Shivraj V. Patil

529. Zero tolerance

During a discussion*, the noted academician, Dr. M.N. Das made this dry remark about the menacing spread of corruption in our society thus :

To win the elections, our hon'ble Prime Minister began with a famous slogan, "In our Government, there would be zero tolerance to corruption." Ask the common people today, and they will say, "No question of zero tolerance, but 100 per cent tolerance to corruption and 200 per cent encouragement to corruption."

* The Finance Bill, 2001

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