

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, August 09, 2024/ Sravana 18, 1946 (Saka)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am pleased to extend greetings to hon. Members of Parliament - **Shri Sandosh Kumar P** on his birthday today; to **Shri Golla Baburao**; and, **Shri Nabam Rebia** whose birthday are tomorrow, the 10th August.

Shri Sandosh Kumar P, a Member of this august House since April, 2022, hails from a family of freedom fighters in the northern Malabar region. Rising through the ranks of youth politics, he became All India Youth Federation (AIYF)'s General Secretary, which is topmost in that outfit. He currently serves as a National Executive Member of Communist Party of India.

He has widely travelled across the globe. His parliamentary contributions are marked by grace and decorum with exemplary preparedness of the issue being raised. Endowed with amiable temperament, he bears a pleasant personality. He is married to Shrimati Lalitha M. and the couple is blessed with a son, Hrithik, and a daughter, Hridya. Hon'ble Members, on behalf of this House and on my own behalf, I wish him a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to his family members.

Shri Golla Baburao a three-time Member of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh (2009-2012; 2012-2014 and 2019-24) -- is a Member of this august House since April 2024. Prior to entering politics, Shri Baburao had an extensive career in public service, holding various senior administrative positions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Governments. He is noted for his contributions in rural development and employment generation before his voluntary retirement from service in 2009. He is also a Law graduate from Osmania University. He is married to Shrimati Golla Vasantha Kumari; and, the couple is blessed with son, Golla Sai Karthikeya, and daughter, Golla Naga Sowmya. Hon. Members, on behalf of this House and on my own, I wish him a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to his family members.

Shri Nabam Rebia a prominent political personality from Arunachal Pradesh with a vast political experience is currently serving his third term in this august House since June, 2020. A Member of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly for two terms (2009-14 and 2014-19), Shri Rebia has also served as the Speaker of the Assembly (2014 - 2016) and as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Arunachal Pradesh (2017 - 2019). He had also been the Political and Legal Advisor to the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh (1992 - 95). He is married to Shrimati Nabam Dumsap and the couple is blessed with sons, Nabam Takar and

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Nabam Legia and daughters, Nabam Kasmin and Nabam Ninung. Hon. Members, on behalf of this House and on my own wish him a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to his family members.

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members today marks the 82nd anniversary of the historic day when Mahatma Gandhi launched the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942. His clarion call of 'Do or Die' ignited the nation, and, ultimately led Bharat gaining Independence from colonial rule. Eight decades later, the significance of the 'Quit India Movement' continues to resonate strongly among us. This Movement stands as a testament to the power of will of the people and their determination to overcome any challenge. As we enter the 75th year of adoption of our Constitution, its foundational principles remain fundamental in shaping the destiny of world's largest vibrantly functional democracy. Upholding these ideals stand as the greatest tribute to the martyrs of the Quit India Movement.

Hon'ble Members, on this solemn occasion, let us bow our heads in respectful homage to the courageous martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice in our fight and attainment of freedom.

(Hon'ble Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Demand to Establish the Narayani Infantry Regiment to Protect the Territorial Integrity

SHRI NAGENDRA RAY: NarayaniSena of the then Cooch Behar State has a glorious historical past for unique warfare techniques and courage. NarayaniSena participated in the Second World War in the year 1939 and heroically contributed to save and protect the land of our country. It is very sad that the glorious history of NarayaniSena accomplished with exemplary power is little known to the people of India as well as the whole world. This makes the people of the Cooch Behar State feel sorry for their ancestors. The Government is requested to consider formation of the Narayani Infantry Regiment to protect the territorial integrity from any hostile external misadventure in the country.

2. Demand for a Unified Counselling System for CUET-UG Admissions

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA: The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the CUET-UG examinations, where computer-based and pen-and-paper format was adopted, from May 15 to May 29, 2024. Unfortunately, technical issues impacted several students, prompting a re-examination on July 19, 2024. The centralized nature of exam, and its result, has not been beneficial for the students. Government should implement a unified counselling system for CUET-UG administration akin to the Anna University model. This would ensure a more streamlined process and prevent students from missing opportunities. I request the Government to consider compensation for the undue stress caused due to the delay in result publication.

3. Concern over Devastation Caused by Cloud Burst in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN: Climate change and unsustainable development has led to flash floods and landslides in the State of Himachal Pradesh which have caused damage worth thousands of crores to infrastructure. Several kilometres of roads have been severely

damaged and completely washed away. The Government provided Rs.1,800 crores under the NDRF and the SDRF to the State. After the devastation this year, there is an urgent need for continued relief and rehabilitation in the State. All the dams of Himachal must have strict regular safety checks. Historic and scientific solutions should be implemented to check muck dumping, dams and roads.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Demand for Government intervention to Bail-out Dedicated Ethanol Plants in India

SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY: I would like to draw the attention towards the burning issue pertaining to the 131 dedicated ethanol plants and the signing of the long-term agreement with the Government to set up plants for manufacture and supply of ethanol as a part of the National Policy on Bio-fuels. It has the investment of about 25,000 crores of rupees, which generated the employment potential to the extent of about 2 lakh people directly and indirectly. Government needs around 1,000 crore liters of ethanol to meet the E20 blending target by 2025. In the past four years, nearly about 131 new grain-based DEPs were set up across the country to meet the surging demand for the production of the ethanol. Though the Government has taken care of the price hike of maize and broken rice while fixing the ethanol price, it is not proportional to the actual price hike resulting in the industry as unviable. Shortage of the feedstock is not only threatening the entire DEP industry, but also adversely impacts the Government's ambitious E20 bio-fuel blending target.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand for Immediate Action to Close the Existing Gaps in the Curriculum at IITs and Other Reputed Institutions of the Country

***SHRI SAMIRUL ISLAM:** 14 years ago the admission fees in IIT Delhi were low and thus many students from poor and agricultural background like me could afford to study here. Since the Government came into power, they have repeatedly increased the fees of IITs and many such institutions. Many reports say that there has been an increase of 300% in the fees. We saw a decrease of 10000 Crore rupees for Higher Education in this year's budget as compared to the previous year. The management of institutions like IITs are being filled with people who are party loyalist. Institutions like IIT, IISc, IACS has created many great scientists who are now working around the globe. Indian scientists are being demeaned. If we keep reiterating the motto "Vikashit Bharat" and if we really want this to be realised, then we need to create IITs which are free of all prejudices.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Demand to Include Twins Under Two Children Policy for Garib Kalyan Yojana and Other Government Sponsored Schemes.

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE: Garib Kalyan Yojana is being implemented under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Crores of people are getting the benefits of free ration, house, toilet and Ayushman Bharat Yojana. It is expected to have a family of two children for population control in India. But it is unfortunate that some families give birth to more than two children. An exception of twins born for the second time in a family should be made for the eligibility for Garib Kalyan Yojana and many beneficial schemes. In schemes like free ration, 5 kg grain is given for each individual. If there are more than two children in a family, then it becomes an additional burden on the Government. This is injustice to the

*Spoke in Bengali.

common poor family who give birth to two children. The one who believes in the Constitution and gives birth to two children for the welfare of the country gets less benefit. For the eligibility of Garib Kalyan Yojana and other beneficial schemes, only families with two children should be made eligible, so that along with the welfare of the poor, the work of population control can also be possible in the interest of the country.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand to Create Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh and Announce Comprehensive Rehabilitation Package

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Himachal suffered heavy losses due to the disaster last year too, and this time the loss has been worth thousands of crores of rupees so far. Last time hundreds of people lost their lives, and this time too cloudburst has destroyed several homes and villages. This is a huge problem, but the State Government alone cannot provide a long-term solution to it. Himachal Pradesh is highly vulnerable to landslides. Therefore, a properly developed strategy of landslide management is required. It is also necessary to provide relief to the severely affected families. There is a need to build climate resilient infrastructure there, and this requires adequate funds. Therefore, I demand that the Himachal Government be given compensation for environmental protection.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Demand to Address the Problem of Pollution in Yamuna River

MS. SWATI MALIWAL: Delhites are very fortunate that the Yamuna river flows from here. But sadly, this river has become a drain due to our failure. Many drains in Delhi fall into this river and every day millions of gallons of untreated sewerage is dumped in this river. Every day many industries and factories in Delhi illegally dump heavy metals and toxic chemicals in this river, due to which the lives of the people are being poisoned, on which no action is being taken. Despite spending thousands of crores of rupees, there has been no improvement in the situation. False promises and blame game will not change the condition of Delhi. The water of Yamuna cannot be cleaned until the intentions of the State Government are not clear. Sewage treatment plants will have to be built on war footing in Delhi, otherwise the condition of Yamuna river will remain the same and for this we need full support of the Central Government.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Request for Prioritization and Funding of the Itarsi-Tuticorin Railway Corridor Scheme

SHRI N. CHANDRASEGHARAN: There is a need for a separate railway corridor to transport manufacturing goods and raw materials from Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh to Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu via Vijayawada. The scheme was announced by the former Railway Minister on the floor of Parliament. Two other schemes were also announced and completed. However, the corridor from Itarsi to Vijayawada, which should extend up to Tuticorin, has not yet been started. Tamil Nadu is a major manufacturing State and including the scheme in the Budget would greatly benefit its industrial development. This scheme has been assured. I do not understand why it is being delayed. Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also consistently urged the Central Government to extend this scheme. Therefore, I request to line up this scheme, allocate sufficient funds, expedite its implementation and support the industrial development of Tamil Nadu.

(Dr. John Brittas, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Shri S. Selvaganabathy associated)

10. Demand to Design New Electrical Grids and Sufficient Charging Points for Electric Vehicles

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY: 40 per cent of pollution comes from road transportation. So, the Government has to think about pollution and ways to reduce it. With the increase in usage of electric vehicles, things will be better, pollution will be reduced, greenhouse gas emission will be less, and carbon dioxide emission will be less. There is a new word by the name 'range anxiety'. It means that if you have electric vehicle, you are always under anxiety as to when the charged battery will run down. There may be ten 10 charging points, but if electricity is not there, they are of no use. The production and distribution of electricity for the charging points for level-2 to reduce the range anxiety. For electrical vehicles, the heart is the battery. There should be a good Battery Management System, and there should be a cell of very good quality. Then only the batteries can work very well and efficiently. It will be a great idea to manufacture batteries here in India. That way better design battery can be produced and that will help us for the EV vehicles in the long way. Technician training should be provided. Without that, it will be really incomplete.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Concern over Violations of Contract Labour Regulation Act

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: There is need to take serious view of the violations of the provision of Contract Labour Regulation Act and to ensure all contract workmen are paid on par with the regular workman in the organization. Section 10 of the Act speaks about prohibition of employment of contract labour by considering relevant factors. These factors prohibit engagement of contract labour. If the contract workmen are to be engaged they should be paid the minimum wages of the concerned industrial worker. But this is not happening in the Government organizations. And the Act and Rules are violated in the Government organizations itself. So, it leads to private organisation also doing the same. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to view this violation seriously and take necessary action to ensure payment to all the contract workmen on par with the permanent workers similarly placed. For addressing all these issues, I request to convene the Indian Labour Conference as early as possible.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Demand for Provision of Stoppage for Ernakulam-Pune Express Train (No. 22149/22150) at Thivim Station in Goa

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue regarding the Ernakulam-Pune Express which currently halts only at Margaon in South Goa district. There has been a long-standing request to add an halt for this train at Thivim Station in North Goa district. Despite numerous appeals these requests remain unaddressed. There is no direct rail service connecting North Goa District to Pune due to which thousands of passengers are forced to travel to Madgaon in South Goa District to board this train. This situation leads to longer travel times and higher costs. Students, professionals, and even patients travelling between North Goa District and Pune face significant inconvenience. Adding a halt at Thivim station in North Goa District would greatly benefit the people travelling to Pune by providing a more accessible and cost-effective travel option. North Goa is a popular tourist district, and it will be very convenient for the tourists if they get the facility to catch the train at Thivim in North Goa district. I appeal to the Government to consider this request favourably and take action to address this crucial transportation need.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Demand to Address the Problem of Begging In the Country

SHRI MADAN RATHORE: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious issue. Many hon. Members must have noticed that when the signal is switched off at any crossing in a city, many beggars come and start begging. Among them, many women come with small children in their arms. It seems that the child has been given drugs. All these children are either kidnapped or have been hired from someone. We give them alms out of pity. Such gangs have flourished and the leader of the gang sits somewhere else and makes the beggars beg in this way. Many women are also kidnapped and made to do this kind of work. I request that this should be investigated and such gangs should be caught. Those women should be put to work and those children should be sent to child protection homes and protected through the social justice department. Many foreigners also come to our country and when they see these scenes, the image of our country also gets tarnished. For this, I request the Government to take adequate steps to check this process.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Demand to Include Fire Incidents in Himalayan States Occurring During Summer Season as Natural Disaster

SHRI MAHENDRA BHATT: Many disasters occur in Uttarakhand. A large number of fire incidents have taken place there in the recent past. When this topic is discussed in Uttarakhand, it is shown as man-made fire, but the fact is that in a state which holds the first place in tree plantation, where a large area is covered with trees, man-made incidents are not possible. In the mountains, major incidents occur due to pine leaves called Pirul. The State Government has set up Pirul collection centers. Pirul is being purchased at the rate of Rs. 50 per kg. Thousands of hectares of land have been burnt in the state of Uttarakhand and many people have died. I would demand from the Government that it should at least consider the area of forest fire in the category of natural disaster from the point of view of Himalayan states, especially Uttarakhand.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Demand to Grant Industry Status to the Real Estate Sector

SHRI SANJAY SETH: The real estate sector is a huge contributor to the GDP. After getting industry status for real estate, real estate developers will be able to get cheaper loans, and have partnerships with important investors and will get the benefit of equity investment, which will reduce the overall cost of projects and these benefits will reach the common man directly. I request the Government to take necessary steps to give industry status to real estate, so that our country's economy can be strengthened further.

(Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik and Shri Sanjeev Arora associated.)

16. Demand to Include Gauriganj-Chitrakoot Highway under Bharatmala Project

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: A route from Amethi, Gauriganj goes straight to Chitrakoot via Pratapgarh and Alapur. This route will be the easiest route between Ayodhya and Chitrakoot. Gauriganj is the district headquarters, a large part of Pratapgarh falls in it and along with that it is the easiest route connecting Chitrakoot and Ayodhya. Technically it has been approved, information about this has also been received, but despite this its formal approval has not come yet. I would like to request that this route from Gauriganj to Chitrakoot via Lalganj, Alapur and Saini should be declared a national highway because it will also connect three national highways.

(Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla associated.)

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: (i) Hon'ble Members, what a sad day! 9th August, 1942 – call of Mahatma Gandhi 'Quit India' and, this House paid tribute to the martyrs because we got freedom. They are quitting Parliament. They are quitting their duty. They are quitting the road to Constitution. They are showing back, not to the Chair or to the House, to the Constitution and their sense of duty and how can we suffer – leading lights of the ruling party; ultimate controls of the Opposition? Look at the difference. We are in the making of Bharat to a *Viksit Bharat*. The world is recognising us. Accolades are pouring in from all quarters – the World Bank, the IMF and the rise is incremental. People are witnessing the rise, infrastructure growth. We are on a way to a development journey. These people want to impede. I use this platform with all sense of responsibility, India is a peaceful country; India is a stable country; India has most functional and vibrant democracy; India has leadership continually in its third term. A history in making after six decades. India has leadership in Prime Minister that has global recognition. The nation is proud of it. And, some people, taking note of happenings in the neighbouring country, are engaging in inflammatory and condemnable narrative.

And, the ideology to which they subscribe is in silence. It has become a habit, ...the Leader of the Opposition, with some of them, --- that a segment will speak out against the nation; a segment will set afloat a narrative which tarnishes our institutions, demeans our democratic culture, weakens our progress, and they will expel the gentleman and take back. I make an appeal to all right-thinking people in the country, it is time for them not to observe silence. Such narratives have to be ambushed at the threshold. Can you see reason today? Last time, they walked out with one slogan – LOP, LOP, LOP. Today, what they walked out? One of the most experienced Members of this House, Ganshyam Tiwariji, four decades of experience. His only transgression was, he praised Mallikarjun Khargeji. The praise was in Sanskrit. Mallikarjun Khargeji was invited to my Chamber, along with Ghanshyam Tiwariji. Threadbare, matter was discussed. It was understood. There was quietus. But as a design, as a strategy, as a well-planned orchestration to find an *alibi* to walk out from the House, they staged it. I want leave of the House that if such misdemeanor takes place, even at the stage or of the Leader of the Opposition, I will try to avoid to an extreme degree taking a recourse which otherwise is unavoidable. I have been avoiding it virtually every day. I don't want to make it routine. And, today, the top brass was here. What I saw was failure of commitment to nationalism, failure of belief in our country, disregard of our Constitution, and that is why I say, two good things have happened in the last decade. One, we started having Constitution Day, because that Constitution was ravaged in 1975 emergency. Nowhere in the history of the world, you will find emergency was clamped because a Judge in Allahabad High Court, Shri J.M.L. Sinha, held the election of Shrimati Indira Nehru Gandhi, then Prime Minister, as void. Emergency was clamped that was the time when every misdeed of the emergency, every wrongdoing of the emergency, where lakhs of the people were put behind the bars; they were ill treated, tortured. Nine High Courts in the country upheld the right of the citizen to have recourse to law. Supreme Court, then, ADM Jabalpur, reversed the nine High Courts and held, during emergency there will be no fundamental rights, no right to access to justice system, and emergency can last as long as the Government wants. What a travesty!. Emergency clamped because a conscientious Judge had declared the election void, emergency wrongfully sanctified by another court. The present court has regretted the decision. The present Court has reversed the decision using very strong language and, that is why, 'SamvidhanHatyaDiwas' has a significance. It is very timely; 2025 will be the 50th anniversary of that. I want every young man in the country to know the dangers of these activities. These are not ordinary disruptions, let me tell you. These are not ordinary

disturbances. They are a mechanism to throttle debate, a mechanism to insult democratic values. And, I, therefore, appeal, through you, to everyone in the country, let the message go that what they have done is trivializing democracy, institutions for just petty gain at the cost of the nation. That will not be countenanced.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Not only the ruling party but the entire country stands with you on what you have said. The way they have behaved is very indecent and very irresponsible. I can see very clearly that they have stooped so low on the political level that while opposing the party and the individual, they have now started opposing the country. When we see the voice of the opposition directly or indirectly with those disruptive forces in the country who want to break the country, then I doubt whether the agenda of those national parties and regional parties is to weaken the country? I will only say that while I condemn this incident, I also ask for an apology from them.

(Some Hon'ble Ministers, Party Leaders and Members also made observations.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: (ii) I had the pain of going through each word of it yesterday. Everyone agreed to that. What about the conduct here? You do not have the benefit of seeing it from here. One Member has reacted to it. I saw every physical movement. It was as if they were in a battleground. It was a concerted movement. The physically charged movement was aimed at destroying an institution. A sacrilege was taking place before my own eyes. Only one hon'ble Member has spoken. Never spare any effort when you see before your own eyes how those who should be responsible are instigating irresponsibility. I go back to emergency days. We need to learn our lessons. If we don't do it well in time, this virus will destroy democracy. I know they are not targeting me. They find it indigestible that a Government is in place for a third time continually. Hon'ble Members, that is not emanating from me. It is emanating from the will of the people. And in democracy, if you do not honour the verdict of the people -- and that verdict has to be honoured primarily in this theatre -- would any child, any impressionable mind, any of their younger family members, approve of it? You cannot imagine it. Let me tell you, hon. Members, I screen everything. But when I reach home, I have a 360-degree view of it. I find what we have here. I must work more to get them for reconciliation. But beyond a limit, even Lord Krishna could not avoid it. I am not Lord Krishna. I am not a shade of His. I need support of the House. What has to be done is not for this section or that section. What has to be done is for the future of our country. Can you imagine the input which I get every day as a structured manner and the activities? I would appeal to the hon. members that please be informed. Things have started as a narrative. It is said, "Oh! Neighboring country; we are next." Then comes wiser counsel. The gentleman says, "What I say is not in private but in public." And he unfortunately belongs to a lineage and to a distinguished noble profession. The other one, with experience of external affairs, does it. The challenge I know is not to me at all. In the entire mechanism, the challenge is to the elected Government that they want to start here. And I share it with anguish, anxiety, pain and concern. Virtually, I avoided fist fight in the House by adjournments. I avoided fist fight here. I am so surprised, and yesterday I had the occasion in the meeting of the leaders, one of the seniormost Members of this House -- I don't want to name -- for whom I have the highest regard and who always claim that his party never came to the Well, gave his signature that my action was unprecedented and unilateral. In my Chamber, he was present; I could not hold my tears. A man only next to Devegowdaji in this House! If Devegowdaji writes a single sentence that your action is unbecoming of Chairman, my entire life is at stake. I put a question to him before all the leaders present there: How could you give your signature here? I was only a phone call away. I don't want to become party and, therefore, I was digesting this. But enough is enough. They want to put the democracy in peril. They want to sacrilege

this temple of democracy and they want to do it in a vengeful manner in the presence of the top leadership. When I looked for sanity, what I found? Outrageous shredding of sanctity! I have seen much more than all of you have seen. And, therefore, this is an occasion. History will remember what everyone has spoken here. It is not just for the sake of it. Therefore, we had the very wise counsel from very senior most people including former Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Devegowda. I need guidance from the Leader of the House that on an occasion like this, we need to take steps. If not taken, we will regret.

(iii) Hon'ble Members, after the lunch recess, the House was adjourned thrice, with the hope and expectation that the Opposition Members who walked out on an issue had been cordially resolved in my chamber in the presence of Leader of the Opposition, Mallikarjun Khargeji and hon. Member, Ghanshyam Tiwariji. Both the Members in my presence, in my chamber, had the occasion with their experience of decades in Parliamentary theatres, parted company as friends. I obviously entertained the idea that the issue had been amicably brought to a quietus and no longer required further reflection. Nothing happened the following day or thereafter. After a gap, suddenly today, just before the Question Hour was to be taken up, the issue came to be raised by Shri Jairam Ramesh, without being so allowed. I then indicated if there be an issue still, I would have the matter further taken up in my chamber. This led to a scenario to which the entire House has been a witness. And very senior members, including the former Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Devegowda, had the occasion to express feelings, anguish. I adjourned the House with this in mind, that this House functions optimally when all segments of the House are present. Every Member of the House has taken an oath under the Constitution and is ordained to serve the people at large. The three adjournments, unfortunately, did not evoke expected response. I would continue to work towards securing participation of the Members so that they get an opportunity, perform their Constitutional duty, use their energy, expertise and exposure to serve people at large for welfare of Bharat, home to one sixth of humanity. I appeal to the Members, who are not present here, out of a decision taken and reflected in the House by their walkout, to deeply introspect and deliberate within themselves, taking into consideration, the glorious tradition the Upper House, the House of Elders has had all throughout and the expectation the people have for the imprint Members of this House how to live for the development trajectory of the nation. While the House was being adjourned, I had the occasion to see the reaction of the Members outside on various TV channels. I wish to inform the people, at large, that, out of respect for this institution, out of respect for the dignity of every Member of this House, I have taken due care and caution to ensure that our behaviour, our conduct that is not becoming of a Member of Parliament does not get traction beyond the Temple of Democracy. And, therefore, the Sansad TV, which has with it, all that happens in this House, was being subjected by me to the self-regulation. Finding that narratives are sought to be set afloat and something which cannot be sanctified, something which cannot be based on fact is spoken by Members who have some experience, I would be taking recourse to ensure people of the country come to know of the reality. While I hold every Member in high regard and have no personal issue with anyone, I am deeply hurt at the intemperate language without any premise and going to media getting traction. And, I am sure, everyone in the country will focus on what will be made available. My Chamber, Chamber of Chairman of the Council of States, the House of Elders, the Upper House, has been labelled where something that happens there is 'close door.' Disinformation that what I discussed with Mr. Tiwari was only with him; if truth take wings, nation blossoms. If it is untruth, something which is far distant from truth, distraction, it is bothersome. Our resolve is to ensure that the sacred precincts of Rajya Sabha be not allowed to be a ground for destabilising democracy. This has been expressed by all the Members and is welcome. I have, therefore, no doubt that my appeal to the Members, who are not present today, will persuade them to soul-search, engage in introspection, think about

the duty to the nation, take into consideration their oath under the Constitution, and prepare for vigorous participation in a constructive manner in the forthcoming session. During off Session, I would continue working, trying to reach out every Member, ignoring the deep hurt I have suffered, as call of duty is above any personal injury or feelings. I would urge each one of you also to please reach out the Members of this House you can so that we all, in this House, on some issues, issues of national importance, get bipartisan, rise above party interests, and send a message to the country and the world at large that this country, having the most vibrant functional democracy, a country that is mother of democracy, a country that is the oldest and the largest democracy will continue to be hope for the entire world. With these words of expectation, request, pleading and urging, I will take up the essential agenda.

MOTION

Nomination to Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment), Bill, 2024

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): I rise to move the Motion that this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that this House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:-

1. Shri Brij lal
2. Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni
3. Shri Gulam Ali
4. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal
5. Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain
6. Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque
7. Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy
8. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla
9. Shri Sanjay Singh
10. Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade.

The motion was adopted.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the House had the rare distinction in its 265th Session of Rajya Sabha to have seventh Budget in a row from the first full-fledged woman Finance Minister of the country, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for a Government that is continually in its third term after six decades. There was insightful discussion on the Union Budget, 2024-25, that lasted for 21 hours and 48 minutes. There was effective participatory discussion as regards three important Ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri S. Jaishankar, made a Statement in the House on the situation in our neighbouring country, Bangladesh. Overall, the House functioned for 90 hours and 35 minutes. It is, I am reiterating, it is with deep concern, I urge Members of the House to engage in introspection so that we use this platform for furthering public cause and

are able to contribute optimally for national welfare. I am sure the Members of the House, with their huge experience, exposure, talent and intellect, will expend their energies in the upcoming sessions for larger public good, exemplifying discipline worth emulation by people at large. To earn admiration of the people for our contributions in the House should be our sole objective rising above partisan interests. My efforts to reach out to each one of you so that every Member is enabled to fully contribute in the sacred temple of democracy would continue. My efforts have borne fruits but not on the expected lines so far. I would continue to strive in this direction notwithstanding the setback or hurtful comments to seek co-operation of Members and secure their participation in the House constructively and meaningfully in the service of the nation to which all are committed and committed by Oath under the Constitution.

I extend my appreciation to the hon. Deputy Chairman, Harivanshji, who has always been around with his real counsel, advice, suggestions and impactful contributions. He has majorly devoted his time, even while not sitting on the Chair, to ensure qualitative, greater productivity, both in the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons and the Secretariat. A sense of gratitude for panel of Vice Chairpersons that continues to have gender-equity for assisting the Chair in conducting the proceedings of the House, thereby enabling many new Members to get a novel experience. I also thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the leaders of various parties and groups, and the hon. Members for the cooperation extended by them. I wish to dispel the perception. The House proceedings being contrary, our interaction in my Chamber was one of cooperation, involvement and effective exchange where I had the occasion to take into consideration the varied requests, they made on various issues enabling Members for wider participation to their great satisfaction. I acknowledge the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General, who, while the Session is there, works virtually 24x7, giving me no occasion to remind him even once what I have told him to perform. His team of dedicated officers and staff has ensured that the Session runs smoothly, and a word of appreciation from the Chair for all of them. I thank the Media for covering the proceedings of the House and keeping the people informed. I would like to extend my good wishes to all the Members of the House, present and not present, for the upcoming festivals. I look forward with hope, expectation and confidence that the next Session would be rewarding for every Member of the House and for the benefit of the entire nation.

(The National Song, “VandeMataram” was played.)

The House adjourned *sine die*.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

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