



Welcome
MR. CHAIRMAN, SIR

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
2007

F.No.RS.14/1/2007-R&L

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<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>
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Published by Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and printed by the Manager,
Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi – 110002.

Preface

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari assumed the Office of the Vice-President of India on 11 August 2007. Under the provisions of the Constitution, the Vice-President is also the *ex officio* Chairman of Rajya Sabha – the Council of States. Shri Ansari became the twelfth Chairman of Rajya Sabha in succession to Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who resigned from the office of the Vice-President of India on 21 July 2007.

On 13 August 2007, when Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari came to Rajya Sabha to occupy the Chair of the Presiding Officer, he was accorded a warm and hearty welcome by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of various political parties in Rajya Sabha and some other Members of the House. They referred to the remarkable achievements of Shri Ansari as a distinguished diplomat, an eminent academician and an ardent advocate of the cause of the minorities. They also emphasised that the election of Shri Ansari as the Vice-President of India reflected the respect, faith and admiration earned by him over four decades of his distinguished service to the nation. It reaffirmed the abiding faith of the people in the democratic, secular and pluralistic traditions of the country. Members expressed the hope that Shri Ansari's rich experience in diverse fields would enable him to conduct the business of the House judiciously, impartially and properly.

Several members were deeply concerned over the frequent adjournments and disruptions of the proceedings of the House and expressed the fervent hope and confidence that under the able stewardship of Shri Ansari, the dignity and decorum of the august House would be further enhanced, which would go a long way in strengthening the healthy parliamentary traditions. Responding to the felicitations, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari urged the members to reiterate and reinvigorate the commitment to parliamentary democracy and democratic institutions and stated that in a democratic system both majority and minority play an equal part. Expressing his ardent hope for the cooperation of the members in the smooth conduct of the business of the House, hon'ble Chairman stated metaphorically: "The referee in a game of hockey or football does carry coloured cards in his shirt pocket. A good game, however, is one in which the need to use these cards does not arise." He assured the members that as the Presiding Officer, he would discharge his duties with fairness and impartiality and would make every effort to protect and defend the rights and privileges of the House. Reminding the members of their onerous responsibilities in this era of rising expectations, Shri Ansari underlined the need "to respond to changing perceptions and requirements of the people and particularly the weaker sections of our society

(who) constitute the overwhelming majority of our population.” He further stated, “The challenge lies in the need to ensure equitable distribution of the fruits of development.”

This publication is a compilation of the speeches delivered by the Members on the occasion and Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari’s response to the felicitations. The text of the speeches has been minimally edited.

New Delhi
December, 2007

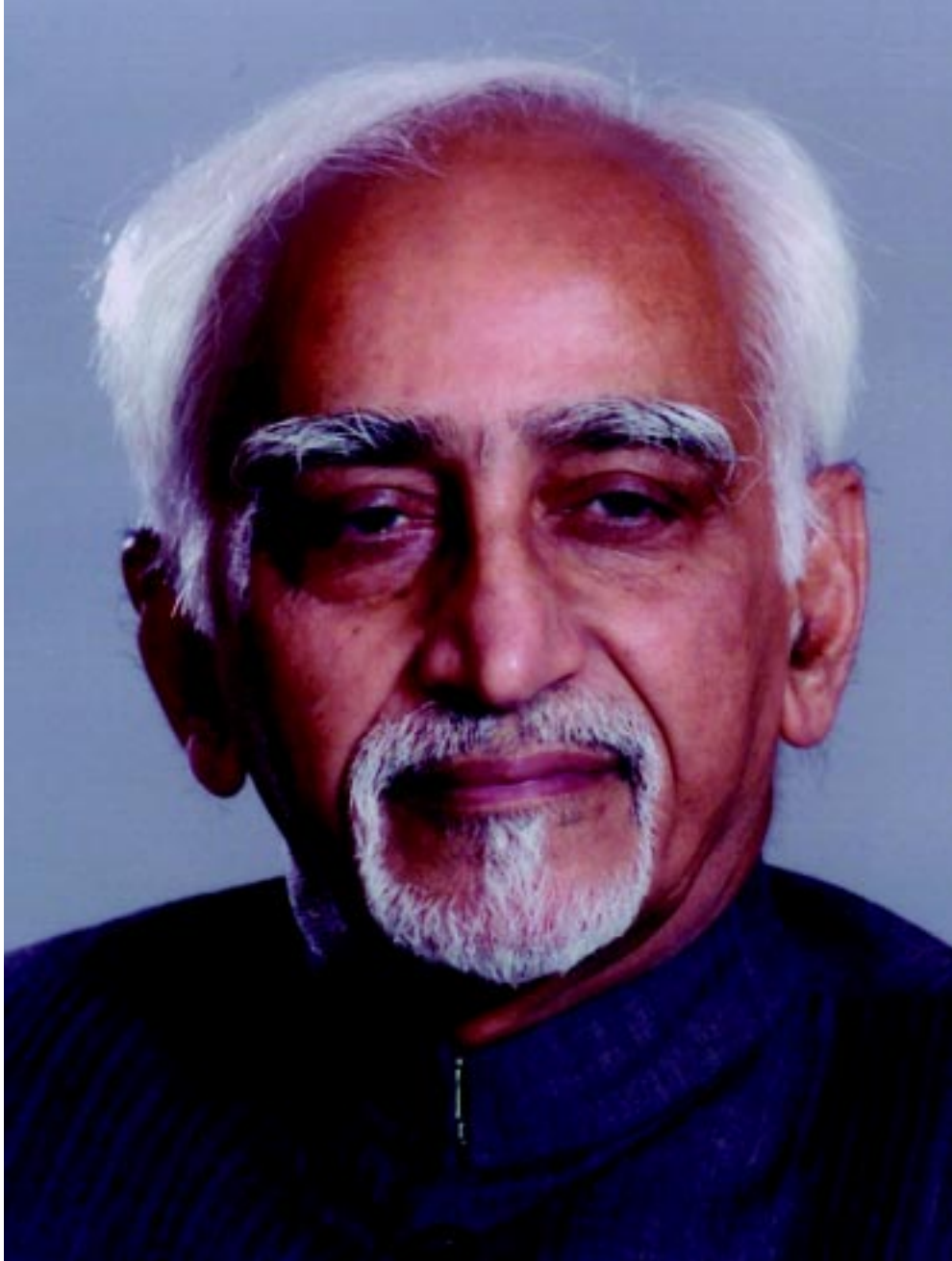
Dr. V.K. Agnihotri
Secretary-General
Rajya Sabha

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SHRI MOHAMMAD HAMID ANSARI
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari — A Profile

<i>Father's Name:</i>	Shri Mohammad Abdul Aziz Ansari
<i>Mother's Name:</i>	Smt. Aasiya Begum
<i>Date of Birth:</i>	1 April 1937
<i>Place of Birth:</i>	Calcutta
<i>Marital Status:</i>	Married
<i>Spouse's Name:</i>	Smt. Salma Ansari
<i>Children:</i>	Two sons and one daughter
<i>Educational Qualifications:</i>	BA (Hons.); MA (Political Science)
<i>Address:</i>	Vice-President's House 6, Maulana Azad Road New Delhi - 110 011 Telephone - 011-23016422, 23016344 E-mail: vpindia@nic.in
<i>Positions Held:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1961 and served in Indian missions in Baghdad, Rabat, Jeddah and Brussels;□ Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (1976-1979);□ Chief of Protocol to Govt. of India (1980-1985);□ High Commissioner to Australia (1985-1989);□ Ambassador to Afghanistan (1989-1990);□ Ambassador to Iran (1990-1992);□ Permanent Representative to the UN, New York (1993-1995);□ Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (1995-1999);□ Visiting Professor, Centre for West Asian and African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (December 1999-May 2000);□ Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (2000-2002);

- Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi (2002-2006);
- Visiting Professor, Academy for Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2003-2005);
- Co-Chairman, India-UK Round Table (2004-2006);
- Member, National Security Advisory Board (2004-2006);
- Chairman, Advisory Committee for Oil Diplomacy, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (2004-2005);
- Chairman, Working Group on 'Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State', established by the second Round Table Conference of the Prime Minister on Jammu and Kashmir, held at Srinagar, 24-25 May, 2006; the report of the Working Group was adopted by the 3rd Round Table held at New Delhi, 24 April 2007;
- Chairman, Fifth Statutory National Commission for Minorities (March 2006-July 2007); and
- Vice-President of India and *ex officio* Chairman, Rajya Sabha since 11th August 2007.

Books Published:

Edited, Iran Today: Twenty Five Years After the Islamic Revolution, New Delhi, 2005; has written several academic papers and newspaper articles on West Asian Politics.

Awards:

Padma Shri (1984)

Sports:

Golf and Cricket

Institutes/Clubs:

India International Centre
 Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA)
 United Services Institution
 Delhi Golf Club
 Delhi Gymkhana Club
 Noida Golf Club

Countries Visited:

Visited many countries during the diplomatic and academic career.

**FELICITATIONS
TO
HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN**

Multifarious Personality

*Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India and
Leader of the House, Rajya Sabha*

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

बेशुमार तजुर्बेकार शख्सियत

श्री के. रहमान खान
उपसभापति, राज्य सभा

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maintaining the Dignity of the Chair

*Shri Jaswant Singh
Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha*

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

Sir, I also wish to state, with all humility and regard for the Chair and the office that you occupy, that this Chair is indifferent to political persuasion once the election is over; it is indifferent to caste, communities, sects. Here, of course, we don't see that. But in the other House we do see a balance, a scale in which the two pans are evenly balanced. There is a meaning in that. We just recently heard the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Deputy Chairman. The Prime Minister also informed us of the number of years that he has served in this Assembly. Yes, Sir, there are others, too, who have served. I have had the benefit of serving for seven terms in Parliament now, in both Houses of Parliament — three in that and now in this. I wish to share with you just two or three things. One is that in the State of our Republic this House, this particular House, is the Council of States, the *Rajya Sabha*. As originally intended the Council of States looked after the interests of the States. Over the years, a tendency and an unstated convention has evolved/ developed that we will not be discussing matters, in this assembly, relating to States. I think, somewhere there we have, perhaps, lost the direction and the purpose originally intended about the Council of States, the *Rajya Sabha*. This assembly does not expire. This assembly is a continuous body. It continuously and perpetually renews itself every two years. It is a mistake to consider it equivalent of either the US Senate or the British House of Lords. It is

the Indian Council of States. यह भारत की राज्य सभा है, यह अपनी ही एक पहचान रखने का आग्रह लेकर आई है।

Sir, this, too, I want to share. It is not an apocryphal story; it is a true account. Mr. Mavalankar was a very distinguished Speaker of the Lok Sabha. And, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a very eminent Indian and a very great Prime Minister, even though I might have differences of opinion with what he did in his premiership. On one of the afternoons in Parliament, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, sought urgently to consult the Speaker on certain issues as the Prime Minister, would often need to. He sent word, “मावलंकर जी, ज़रा आप तशरीफ़ ला सकते हैं मेरे दफ्तर में?” To which, Mr. Mavalankar had sent word back with a short note to say, “The Speaker does not visit the Prime Minister’s Office. The Prime Minister can visit the Speaker.” I cite this, Sir, as the distillate of the essence of the functioning of the Chair. दोनों साहेबान ने खुद इस बात का जिक्र किया, सदर साहब, हमारे वज़ीरे आज़म साहब ने और डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने, कि आजकल सदन में हल्ला बहुत होता है। यह विचारने की बात है। But I leave a thought again, here, Sir, both for the hon’ble Prime Minister, with his long and distinguished career in the Civil Service, as also of his experience as a Parliamentarian. Sir, that in a House, in an assembly of this nature; whether the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha or the State Assemblies, it is not a truism, it is axiomatic that the ‘Government must have its way’; sessions of Parliament or Assembly are essentially for conducting the Legislative Business. We, perhaps, did not understand this as clearly or as appropriately when we had the honour of holding office for some six years. The Government must have its way. But, the ‘Government can only have its way, if the Opposition has its say’. If the Opposition is prevented from having its say, there is no way that the Government will have its way. It is a vehicle, Sir, that moves on two wheels. And, if the hon’ble Prime Minister has, therefore, in felicitating you, found fit to find fault with the noise level of the Assembly, then, I think, it is a matter for the Treasury Benches too to reflect upon, very deeply how much noise they made when they sat where we are sitting, how much noise is contributed. It is a fact. I wish to, particularly, point this out because when the hon’ble Prime Minister found fit to lecture us on this subject, there was no dissenting voice from here. I am aware of this, otherwise, I would be in their assembly. This present noise and interruption is also a measure of the tolerance that the Treasury Benches have. I am simply expressing a view, you have a dissenting view. Your Prime Minister has said it. Please, when an opportunity arises, do express that dissenting note. But it demonstrates what I said, Sir, that for the ‘Government to have its way, the Opposition must have its say’. If you do not permit the Opposition its say, then, you will witness what we have witnessed just now. I won’t go on, Sir, in this manner.

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

विद्वान और काबिल

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र
समाजवादी पार्टी

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

चेयरमैन साहब, आपके मार्फत मैं अपने वामपंथी मित्रों को भी मुबारकवाद देना चाहता हूं। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने माइनोंरिटी शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया। इत्तेफाक से सबसे पहले अमर सिंह जी और मुलायम सिंह जी ने एक माइनोंरिटी के आदमी का नाम इस पद के लिए रखा था। सत्ता पक्ष की तरफ से उनके मित्रों ने भी आपका नाम रख दिया और मुझे संतोष मिला कि भाजपा के मित्रों ने, हमारे नेता जसवंत सिंह जी ने भी एक अल्पसंख्यक का नाम रख दिया। बड़ा अच्छा लगा। लगता था कि हम लोगों ने कोई पहल की है और वह पहल दूसरों के घर में जाकर सुधार का काम कर रही है - बहुत अच्छा लगा। अगर ये लोग सुधर जाएं तो मुझे खुशी होगी। लेकिन क्रेडिट वामपंथी मित्रों को, कामरेड सीताराम येचुरी को जाएगा। कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोगों ने चाहे जिस किसी वजह से यह निर्णय किया हो। मैं समझता हूं कि जो अमेरिकी ट्रीटी हुई है, उसके सौदे पर आपको यहां नहीं बैठाया गया है। वामपंथी उस पर अड़ेंगे ही, ऐसा मेरा ख्याल है। अगर नहीं अड़ेंगे तो मुझे इन सबसे तकलीफ होगी। लेकिन तब भी येचुरी साहब से आज की बात से मुझे डर लगेगा। हैं तो वे उम्र में मुझसे छोटे, लेकिन मैं उनसे डरूंगा क्योंकि “सईया भए कोतवाल” तो कभी-कभी ये हम लोगों को धमका भी सकते हैं इसलिए इनसे मैं डरूंगा। आपको मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से यकीन दिलाता हूं कि हम

लोग — श्री पुरुषोत्तम दास टंडन उत्तर प्रदेश के स्पीकर थे और उन्होंने पहला वाक्य यही कहा था कि एक भी मँबर हमारी व्यवस्था के खिलाफ अगर खड़ा हो गया तो मैं इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। सभापति महोदय, लोकतंत्र के वे मूल्य तो मर चुके हैं, लेकिन जहां से हम आते हैं, कभी-कभी उसकी ध्वनि सुनने को मिलती है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आप उतनी ही सख्ती से काम करेंगे क्योंकि हम लोग कभी-कभी आपसे जाकर मिल लेते हैं। चैम्बर में यह भी सुलह हो जाती है कि आज सदन की कार्यवाही बंद रहेगी। हम लोग काम रोकेंगे और आप सदन स्थगित करके चले जाइएगा और दोनों पक्ष मान लेते हैं। यह सौदेबाजी यहां न हुआ करे। अगर वाकई कोई गंभीर बात आ गई है तो दोनों पक्षों को समझाना चाहिए कि इसका रास्ता क्या निकले। वैसे तो मुझ में सलाह देने की हैसियत और हिम्मत नहीं है कि मैं आपको सलाह दूँ, लेकिन इतना यकीन दिलाऊंगा कि जब कभी भी सदन की कार्यवाही में कोई बड़ी रुकावट दिखाई पड़ेगी तो हमारी पार्टी के लोग देश के हित में आपके साथ रहेंगे। मुझे अच्छा लगा कि एक अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय का आदमी इस आसन पर बैठा है। देश के अकलियत के जो लोग हैं, उनके दिल में यह तसल्ली जानी चाहिए कि सदन और सबसे बड़ा सदन उसकी सदारत करने वाला आपका ही आदमी है और आज के बाद से तुम लोगों पर कभी जुल्म नहीं होगा। हम फिर यकीन दिलाते हैं कि हम आपके साथ हैं और आपको एक बार फिर मुबारकवाद देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

Person of Vast Experience

*Shri Sitaram Yechury
Communist Party of India (Marxist)*

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

We have heard, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and an impeccable welcome that the Deputy Chairman had given you in chaste Urdu. It is a rare occasion to hear such good Urdu in the House which I hope will be continued in the days to come. But, Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and, personally, on my behalf, while we offer you all cooperation for running the House, we also would like to articulate our expectations that voices of dissent in this House are never to be subdued or suppressed. It is correct, as the Leader of the Opposition had said, that if the Government wants to have its way, the Opposition will have to have its say. But there are also people like us here who are supporting the Government as well as articulating their points of view, who traditionally will not fall in your slot of the Opposition and traditionally will not fall in that slot of the Treasury Benches but have a distinct point of view, which we think in the interest of the country we would like to articulate. And, in saying so, Sir, often much of the acrimony, sometimes, in this House also begins with the presumption that if we take a contesting point of view, we are challenging the integrity of that particular hon'ble Member or of that party. I wish to dispassionately convey in this House, Sir, and, I think, that is a tradition we expect you to maintain — that dissent, opposition and contrary points of view are not a charge or questioning the integrity of anybody but are definitely questioning the infallibility of every individual, and, infallibility is a common virtue or a vice with human race as long as we exist. So, contesting infallibility should not be construed as contesting the integrity and you, Sir, bring with you a vast experience to this Chair, and the experience is not merely diplomatic or administrative but also an intellectual experience that you bring to this Chair. Sir, as has been pointed out, the distinguished Members who have honoured this Chair and who the Chair had the honour to have them sit here, that legacy, Sir, you inherit, and, I expect, in the five years to come, that these standards and benchmarks would be only elevated to higher levels.

I would only like to assure you, Sir, once again and the House, since Janeshwarji was very eloquent in commenting on us – he has been a very senior leader – since my student days, we used to hear the shouts of *Janeshwar Mishra Zindabad* in that entire movement — that, as he said correctly, यही बात तो हम भी

उम्मीद कर रहे हैं कि चुनाव तो हो गया, कंटेस्ट जो होना था वह हो गया, अब इस कुर्सी पर जब हमिद अंसारी साहब आए हैं तो वे निष्पक्ष तरीके से इस सदन को चलाएंगे। सर, इसी उम्मीद के साथ हम आपको बधाई देते हैं। आपको पूरे कोआपरेशन का आश्वासन देते हुए फिर से हमारी पार्टी की तरफ से, वामपंथियों की तरफ से हम आपको हार्दिक बधाई देते हैं। धन्यवाद।

Guardian and Protector of the House

Dr. V. Maitreyan
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

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

Sir, as I look at you, on my left are the Treasury Benches and on my right are the principal Opposition. And between the two major giants we, the regional parties from the various corners of the country, find ourselves squeezed at the centre. But you would definitely agree that we, representing the various States, have come to occupy the centre stage, not only inside the House, but also outside in the country. On behalf of all of us we assure you our full and maximum cooperation in the smooth conduct of this House.

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

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

साझा संस्कृति के नुमाइंदे

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी
राष्ट्रीय जनता दल

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

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

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

महोदय, आपने बेहतर रैंकिंग के साथ आई.एफ.एस. की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की। आपने दुनिया के कई देशों में भारत के राजदूत के रूप में सफलतापूर्वक अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन किया। आपने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि के रूप में अपनी अमिट छाप छोड़ी है। देश की अमूल्य सेवा के लिए भारत सरकार ने आपको "पद्म श्री" से सम्मानित किया है। आपकी छवि धर्मनिरपेक्ष और उदारवादी रही है। आप मृदुभाषी, विनम्र स्वभाव के, संवेदनशील, व्यवहारकुशल, सूझबूझ वाले व्यक्तित्व के साथ बहुआयामी प्रतिभा के धनी रहे हैं। आप उपराष्ट्रपति के उम्मीदवार होने से पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग के अध्यक्ष थे।

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

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

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

Need for Ensuring Equal Opportunities to Members

*Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy
Telugu Desam Party*

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

संविधान की गरिमा के संवर्धक

*श्री गांधी आज़ाद
बहुजन समाज पार्टी*

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

गरिमामय व्यक्तित्व

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह
जनता दल (यूनाइटेड)

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

काबिले तारीफ़

श्री अली अनवर
जनता दल (यूनाइटेड)

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

मार्गदर्शक

श्री तारिक अनवर
राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी

सभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतांत्रिक राष्ट्र के उपराष्ट्रपति और राज्य सभा के सभापति के रूप में अपनी राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी की ओर से आपका अभिनन्दन, स्वागत और इस्तक़बाल करता हूँ। सभापति महोदय, जैसाकि सभी लोगों ने आपकी तारीफ़ में कहा है और यह सच्चाई भी है कि आपका जो करियर रहा है, आपका जो अतीत रहा है, उसे देखते हुए इस सदन के सभी लोगों को इस बात का विश्वास है कि सदन की जो परंपरा रही है, उस परंपरा को बनाए रखते हुए आप उसकी गरिमा को और बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे। आप उसकी इज्जत को और बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे। सभापति जी, यह बात सही है कि यह सदन इस देश के सौ करोड़ लोगों की आकांक्षाओं, उनकी उम्मीद और उनकी आशाओं का एक प्रतीक है। यकीनन हम सब लोग, जो यहां बैठे हैं, वे देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। हमारी यह कोशिश होती है कि देश की जो भी समस्या है, उसका मिल-जुलकर समाधान हो। इसमें सभापति का जो रोल होता है, जो भूमिका होती है, वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण होती है। हमें विश्वास है कि जहां एक तरफ सत्ता पक्ष, विपक्ष और जो यहां तमाम बहुत सारे दल हैं, यही इस राज्य सभा या हमारे सदन की खूबसूरती हैं। हर तरह के लोग यहां मौजूद हैं। हर दल, हर विचारधारा के लोग यहां मौजूद हैं। इसके बावजूद भी हमारी जो कोशिश होती है, जो प्रयास होता है, वह यही होता है कि हम कैसे देश की समस्या के समाधान के लिए कार्य करेंगे।

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

Versatile Personality

*Shri D. Raja
Communist Party of India*

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

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

Sir, this august House should reflect the voice of the weaker sections, the voice of the marginalized sections and exploited sections. There are references to the ongoing process of liberalisation in the world, the globalisation in the world, but in this process, the most politically marginalized, economically exploited, socially oppressed people should not be neglected and their voice must be heard. I hope, this House will provide them an opportunity to be heard, and, listen to their voice and address their concerns.

Sir, having said this, I must say that our country is a country which has tremendous diversities. In fact, this great nation progresses through these diversities and this country remains united through these diversities. And, here there is a

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

Assuring Full Cooperation

*Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla
Bharatiya Janata Party*

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

Unfortunately, the Left are on the right or in the middle and we are on the real left. So, I hope that you would look at the left more than you would look at the right. I have heard a lot, but whatever experience I have in this House, Mr. Chairman, as I told you, when I rang you up after filing my nomination paper, before and after your election, whatever cooperation you need from me, from my experience, it will always be available to you. I will only say one thing, यहाँ पर सबने आपकी बड़ी तारीफ की, वे सब तो ऐंडोर्स कर रहे हैं। सबने आपसे बड़े-बड़े वादे किए, डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने आपकी शायरी का जिक्र किया, मैं सिर्फ एक ही शेर पढ़ूंगी, जो शायद उन सभी बातों का जवाब होगा—

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

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

राष्ट्र सेवा में उत्कृष्ट योगदान

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा
शिरोमणि अकाली दल

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

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

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

Person of Infinite Variety

Dr. K. Malaisamy

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

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

After seeing your background, I really admire and adore you that this kind of person has come to occupy a coveted position like the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Sir, with your background, with your experience, and with your personality, it may not be very difficult for you. Many friends have quoted various couplets. After seeing your personality in totality, I am reminded of two famous lines of William Shakespeare when he was picturing the most beautiful woman, Cleopatra, on earth. He said, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." Sir, I would put it in the masculine gender. Age cannot wither you, nor custom stale your infinite variety. You are a person of infinite variety.

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

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

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

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

Need for Upholding the Sanctity of the Code of Conduct for Members

*Dr. Karan Singh
Indian National Congress*

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

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

Enhancing Opportunities to Independent and Nominated Members

Dr. P.C. Alexander
Independent

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

One last thing I wish to say here. Many people in this House or outside the House may see you or speak of you or write of you as a Muslim Vice-President. This is unfortunately a wrong tendency in our country. We have elected a President of the country, and still, people refer to her as *Mahila* President. She may be a *Mahila*, but she is the President of the country. You are a very good Muslim in your individual life. I know that. But, you are the Vice-President of the country, and we

don't see you as a Muslim, not as a minority, but as a great citizen of this country, elevated to the second highest position. I congratulate you. I can't speak on behalf of a party. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on your elevation to this high office. Thank you.

कुशल संचालक

श्री तरलोचन सिंह
निर्दलीय

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

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

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

मैत्री और सद्भाव का विकास

श्री मनोहर जोशी
शिव सेना

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

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

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

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

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

Maintaining the Sanctity of the House

*Dr. Bimal Jalan
Nominated*

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

Sir, I do not want to say much because all your qualifications, everything that you bring to this House is well-known. But with your permission, I would just like to add a word on one of the issues that has been discussed, which is the role of Rajya Sabha, and this I do from a perspective somewhat different from the one that we have heard from some of the distinguished speakers before me. I am a non-party person; I am a non-elected Member, a nominated Member. It also distinguishes us from the independent elected Members, that we are non-elected, non-partisan Members. Now, the Constitution did provide this. We are here because the Constitution provides that the ordinary citizen of India should be represented in some way, in his own capacity, as it were, non-elected, *i.e.* non-political and non-leader. I mean we may have some achievements to our credit in some different spheres of our life, but the whole point is that we are here. I am here for a very short term unlike all of the distinguished Members that you heard, who have been here for 15 years, 20 years, 30 years, for seven terms, eight terms. I am here for one term. Therefore, I should say one or two words about the role of Rajya Sabha from the perspective of an average citizen, who is here for a short time. I share the view of Dr. Alexander that this House has a very distinguished body of persons from all walks of life, on all sides of the House, irrespective of party affiliations. So, it is not a point about the individuals or about the quality of the talents that we have in this House, but what we have done to the House. That is what I want to tell you.

This House has two or three different characteristics than the Lok Sabha. First, it does not dissolve itself. It is supposed to be the House of States, the Council of States. It is supposed to represent the States rather than the parties. It is also supposed to have indirect elections. The whole point is that the legislators of the State Assemblies would elect the representatives who can represent that State. Now, what have we done over a period of time? It has nothing to do with the individuals; it has nothing to do with the parties, but it has something to do with the way in which you handle this House of Elders. You have the anti-defection law.

You have the Whip. The parties decide who will be here. The State legislators nominally vote. But they have no choice. It is open voting. You can't defect. There is the Whip. So, depending on your party's strength, depending on your bargaining power, you can elect anyone.

This House is also dominated by parties, which was not the original policy. It was supposed to be dominated by the representatives of the States, which were elected indirectly. It is not happening. I am mentioning this not as a complaint because we are very privileged to be here. We don't have the electoral backing for us. All of you are leaders, we are individuals. But if you are worried about the separate role of Rajya Sabha, then you have to give some thought to the kind of rules that we have framed, over a period of time, through legislation. It is that which is giving a kind of undissolving role to this House, which was not envisaged in our Constitution. Maybe, it is not necessary. Then, let us say it is not necessary. It is a duplicate of the Lok Sabha dominated by parties and that is it. There is no harm in it. You can go through the same legislative agenda on which you have neither the "yes" nor the "no" power. You can always pass whatever legislation you want, once it has been passed by the Lok Sabha. You can do whatever you want. The executive is supreme. You can dissolve the House and reconvene after a week. That doesn't matter. But what I am saying is that let us accept that it is the same thing as the other House. The only advantage is that we don't have to dissolve ourselves. The only advantage is that we can nominate and elect the Members as we wish, and some of us have the great privilege of being here and also have the advantage of being here without elections. So, the House has its advantages. But it is not a different role. Thank you very much.

Upholder of the Dignity of the House

*Shri Tiruchi Siva
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam*

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

Expecting Justice

*Dr. Farooq Abdullah
Jammu and Kashmir National Conference*

Mr. Chairman, I represent the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir. I congratulate you on becoming the Chairman of this House and the Vice-President of this great nation. I am very grateful to those friends who wanted to nominate me, and I am glad that you are the one who has been elected. Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla would say that there are many more friends on whom you can rely, and I am sure that you will be successful one day. To the Treasury Benches, I would like to say that I have been the Chief Minister of a very difficult State. How did I win the opposition? I did it by trying to accommodate them as best as I could. Even in zero hour, Mr. Prime Minister, when the Minister is not supposed to reply to some of the important points that are raised, if the Government had a report, I would rise up and try and speak so that the Opposition could get the benefit of the knowledge that the Government had. Sir, as I have said and I am sure all of you must know it, this House is a very difficult House. Dr. Alexander did say that there are wise men here. But, unfortunately, the wise man's voice never gets up. There are people who shout and shout so severely that nothing is heard. I pity those children who look at those television programmes and see us fighting as if we are in a fish market. One of the things which I would like to tell the hon'ble Members is that we are unable to accommodate each other. The Communist Party of India threatens the Government on the nuclear issue. I wonder whether they will stand by that when it comes to it. We are trying to really score points for elections. Are we really building a strong India? Do we really think of the poor who are suffering today, who are in the middle of floods, whether in Bihar or in Bengal or in other parts of the nation? I wonder whether we really do think of that. If we vow to think of that, then I don't think the disruptions in the House should be so severe that we collect our Rs. 1000/- and walk out without being bothered about what is happening to the nation. Dr. Karan Singh did bring the rules before you. How many of us have really read those rules or will ever obey those rules? This is a difficult House. You are sitting on a Chair which is full of thorns. May God give you courage to run it. The only way you run it is, Sir, I will tell you frankly, if you will be just, not because of the party that has elected you, but trust in the Almighty that he alone is the one who is the giver and he alone does take. If you are just to all sides, whether this side or that side or the middle, there will be no trouble in this House. You will hear us. I hope they will patiently hear you. If they speak, we should hear them patiently. We should not feel that we are going to score points because it is finally the people of India who will elect whichever Government has to come in two years.

They are not the people that were there in 1952 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stood for elections. They have changed. They are educated. They know what is right and what is wrong. I congratulate you on behalf of my party and on behalf of my people who suffer everyday irrespective of their religion. I agree with Dr. Alexander that you are a born Muslim. But above all when you are sitting on the Chair, you are an Indian and you are a just Indian and we expect justice from you as Indian. May God give you that courage. May God give courage to all of us who sit on this side or that side or in the middle that we will defend India's integrity and Indian's honour at all times to come, irrespective of anything. Thank you.

Man of Myriad Virtues

*Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
Swatantra Bharat Paksh*

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

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

Protecting the Rights of Members

*Shri Dinesh Trivedi
All India Trinamool Congress*

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

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

उदार एवं संयमित निर्णय की अपेक्षा

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह
समता पार्टी

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

Repository of Knowledge and Experience

*Dr. Barun Mukherjee
All India Forward Bloc*

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

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

A Rare Pearl of Wisdom

*Shri K. Natwar Singh
Indian National Congress*

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

Successor of Rich Legacy

*Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan
Nominated*

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

Need to Ensure Equitable Distribution of the Fruits of Development

*Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha*

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

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

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

Hon'ble Members, even though I am a new comer to this august body, as a citizen I am not unaware of its deliberations. Much has been done, continues to be done and would be done here to promote the national agenda. In an era of rising

expectations, however, our work has to respond to changing perceptions and requirements of the people and particularly of the weaker sections of our society. They, after all, constitute the overwhelming majority of our population.

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

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

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

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

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