

Parliament House Annexe,
New Delhi
July 30, 2016

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

A two-day Orientation Programme organised by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for the newly elected/ nominated Members of Rajya Sabha began today. The Programme was inaugurated by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

Making the constitutional point that the two Houses of Parliament are equal and only functional modalities are different, he underscored the importance of the Rajya Sabha as a Chamber to check haste, cool passion and control legislation and also to flag off the concerns of the individual States. Underlining the functions of Parliament in legislation, executive accountability and discussion and debate on issues of public interest, he exhorted the new Members to make effective use of parliamentary devices such as Questions, Zero Hour submissions and others to secure daily accountability of the Government. He called upon the Members to focus on the Committee work as the Parliamentary Committees function in bi-partisan style, and work as a team, not on party lines. At a time when Parliament sittings have declined significantly, he emphasised on brevity and time management and called upon the Members not to violate the allocated time while participating in the proceedings. On the frequent disruptions in the House by individual Members or a group of Members, he pointed out that such disruptions impinge on the privileges of other Members and also create a bad impression in the public. He urged the Members to conduct themselves in a way that is not unparliamentary.

While delivering the Welcome Address, Prof. P.J. Kurien, the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha outlined the aims and objectives of the orientation programme which was to familiarize the new Members with various aspects of rules and procedures and parliamentary practices. He suggested the new Members to take up parliamentary work seriously and for that they need to study and understand the rules and make effective speeches. Quoting the earlier views of the President of India that Parliament performs three 'D' – Discussion, Debate and Decision, he fervently appealed that we should not add the fourth 'D' – Disruption.

Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, gave the Vote of Thanks. He made a presentation on different aspects of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Shri Nilotpall Basu, Ex-M.P. apprised the Members about the Rajya Sabha: Its role and contribution to Indian polity, Shri P. Rajeev, Ex-MP focused on the importance of Question Hour. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy,

M.P. talked on the topic of raising matters of public importance. Members present evinced much interest in the subjects of discussions. The Orientation Programme will conclude tomorrow with the valedictory remarks by the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha.