

## **RAJYA SABHA**

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### **\*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Friday, August 11, 2017/ Shravana 20, 1939 (Saka)**

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### **FELICITATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN**

#### **THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI):**

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, many congratulations and best wishes on behalf of this House and the countrymen.

Today, 11 August is linked to an important date in the history. On this day itself, a young boy aged 18 years, named Khudiram Bose was hanged. This event reminds us about the struggle of freedom for the country how many persons scarified their lives and how bigger is our responsibility in that context. We will all notice that Hon'ble Shri Venkaiah Naidu is the first such a Vice-President of the country who was born in the independent India. Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji is the first Vice-President, and I think, the only person, who remained in this complex for years and grew up among all of us. Probably, he is the first Vice-President of the country who is well-versed with the nitty-gritty's of this House. He is first such a Vice-President of the country who was the member of the House, member of the committees, and from committees to proceeding of the House, he himself has experienced all these processes. He came to the limelight in the public life from J P's movement. When he was student, Jai Prakash Narayan made a call and he threw himself into

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\*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

this nationwide movement as a student leader in Andhra Pradesh for righteousness and good governance. Since then, he developed his personality as well as his scope of work from legislative assembly to Rajya Sabha, and on account of that we all liked him and entrusted him with this dignified responsibility for this post. Venkaiah Ji is a son of a farmer. I have had a privilege of working with him for many years. He provided his inputs about the subjects like villages, poor-persons and farmers while understanding all these matters minutely. In the Cabinet he was also the Urban development Minister; however in the discussions held in the Cabinet, it seemed to me that the time he devoted on urban issues, he gave much more time, taking interest in discussing the rural and farmers' issues. It is close to his heart and probably his childhood, his family background are the reason therefor.

Venkaiah Ji has been elected to the post of Vice-President and now it is the time that we must explain to the whole world, and I think that we have a responsibility beyond political boundaries to explain the same and that responsibility includes explaining how mature is the democracy in India. How strong are the minutest things in our Constitution. The greatest personalities who have provided this Constitution to us, and this constitution is holding such immense capabilities, that the persons who are holding the constitutional posts in India as of now, are having background of poverty, and rural background, they belong to common families, and they do not belong to any rich family. For the first time, the presence of persons belonging to this background on the highest posts in India, reflects that dignity of the Indian Constitution in itself, it shows the maturity of the Indian democracy and one hundred and twenty five crore Indians are proud of it. With this event, I observe the respect being given to our ancestors for the heritage they have given to us. Once again I would like to pay my tribute to the founding fathers of our Constitution.

Venkaiah Ji holds a great personality, he works hard and speaks eloquently. He has been richly bestowed with all these qualities and all of us are well-versed with his rhyming sense. Sometimes when he makes speech, that also when he speaks in

Telugu, it seems that he is running like a superfast train. It is only possible when clarity of thought is there, and you are connected with the audiences. It is not a manipulation with words. Those who are involved in world of personality, they know that with the manipulation of words one cannot touch the heart of an Individual, but when things are presented on the basis of thoughts emanating from the purity of heart and when things are presented with conviction and vision, then it touches the heart of masses, own its own, and it has been observed, and existing in the life of Venkaiah Ji.

It is also correct that all the Members of Parliament make repeated request to the Government with regard to one particular subject related to the rural development, and whether it was the Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh or the Government is under my leadership, Members of Parliament continuously make demand about the work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna in their constituencies. It is a matter of pride for all the Members of Parliament, that the concept, the scheme, or this gift of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna was introduced by our Vice President, Hon'ble Venkaiah ji. These things do come to the fore when you have affinity towards the village, poor masses, farmers, dalits, sufferers and the under-privileged, if a resolution of solving their problems is in the heart, it happens in that scenario only.

Now, Venkaiah Ji is here among us as Vice-President. We all will face a difficulty in this House for few moments, because when an advocate from bar becomes a Judge, then initially in his court, his colleagues, junior members of the bar talk to him, at that moment they feel awkward that the man, who was here a day before, is now making argument with me. How may I behave here today? Some of the moments are important for all of us, especially for the Members of this House, who worked with him as a friend and today he is sitting on this post. It is the characteristics of our democracy that we make our own style of working according to the system and I am confident that he will guide us, he will provide us the direction as Vice-President and Chairman of the House, who was the member of Rajya Sabha for so long period, he has already experienced all the nitty-

gritty's of the House and he is now mature enough and he will contribute a lot to raising the dignity of this post. I am confident about it. I am able to see the signs of major changes and these changes will be for good, for betterment.

When Venkaiah Ji is joining this dignified post today, I would like to say that one should act in such a manner that everyone may show respect to him. Many Congratulations, and thanks!

**THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I and on behalf of my party would like to congratulate you on becoming the new Vice-President of India, especially I congratulate you for becoming the Chairman of this House.

You are not new to this House. You were here as Member of Parliament, as a Minister. I have seen your public life, beginning from student life to youth organization, and you worked in your parent party and you also became the National President of your party. However, you are among those few persons, who have progressed from bottom to the top and became the Vice-President. It is a matter of pride for all of us. It is the greatest success of our Democracy and no question of the rich and poor is there. There lies a strength behind all these things, and we must not forget that strength is our democracy, our Constitution. I salute millions of labourers, youths, poor persons who made it possible. Besides appreciating these persons, I also appreciate those who belonged to the rich and high strata of the society, but they scarified everything for the country, and those included Moti Lal Nehru, Gandhi Ji, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Moulana Azad and Tilak etc. They have given us a Constitution that anyone can reach the highest posts in the country.

An individual has to play different roles in his life. When you are in an organization, you continue to stick to the view point of that party. However, when the same person joins the Cabinet, his view point changes altogether. He looks after not only his party, but also the country as a whole which includes the opposition as well. However, a third post is there on which you are sitting today. A weighing machine

is embossed behind you, which repeatedly reminds us that one has to behave in a non-partisan manner and impartially. You got the chance to do this justice today. I pray for your long and healthy life. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had said a good thing that whenever a Chairman retires, he reminds the new incumbent that he has not only to tread along the established traditions but also improve them. We have a tradition in this House, that everyone is given liberty to express his/her thoughts in this House. Our Constitution has given us this forum where we can express ourselves. Here we represent both MLAs, who get elected by the common men and we also indirectly represent those who elected them. There is a tradition in the House that no bill be passed in the din, I hope you would continue this tradition. Again, I congratulate you.

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I welcome you not only from my side but also from my party, from the core of heart. You have a very long political career. It is the magic of the democracy that a common man can reach the highest post. I wish your popularity may rise further. Political life changes whenever someone reaches the post. When a political activist reaches such post, he says that he now belongs to whole of the country and not to a party. I think both political and non-political persons should joint this post. It is correct that no bill should be passed in din, but for this din, only the Chairman is not responsible, however, the individuals making noise should also learn the things on which din and bustle should be created. I wish a very successful career for you.

**SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN:** At the outset, I would like to thank Hon. Prime Minister for selecting the most competent gentleman for the post of Vice- President and Chairman of this House. Hon. Chairman was very close to the hon'ble Amma. He will definitely be a successful as Vice-President and Chairman of this House. You know Tamil Nadu better than me or anybody else. So, we are very happy. I have got immense faith, belief and trust that you would connect with each and every Member of this House effectively and each and every Member will get his due opportunity to make his speeches and express his views before this august House. Each and

every Indian must thank our hon. Prime Minister for providing this opportunity to a common man to become the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of this House.

**SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:** From Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool and me, our best wishes to you and your family. As you begin this new term, we are sure you will keep your sense of humour and yet remain firm. I have a simple proposition, may the Chair always listen to the voice of the Opposition. Even when the debates get overheated, we are absolutely confident you won't lose your cool, but please keep a special eye on my colleagues from Trinamool. We are all confident you will not commit that one sin of ever passing a Bill in the din. Short Duration Discussions and Calling Attentions we will seek, and I hope, you will allow, at least, two every week. And, when the hon. Ministers give sketchy answers in Question Hour, with your experience you will guide them and use your sage-like power.

**SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH:** I alongwith my party and from people of Bihar congratulate you for taking over as a Chairman of this House and also Vice President of India and also wish you all the best for an excellent success of your tenure in future. If we assess the period of your life then three terns emerge very important. First is beginning of struggle, second is organisation and third is to run the Government. You have emerged from such a stream which has been mentioned in political history of India as golden chapter i.e, J. P. Movement. If a person occupies many posts and gains glory and sets records, then that is only true meaning of the life which you have successfully carried out. You have great responsibility of focussing on your right, left and the centre. I believe you will succeed in co-ordinating and maintaining the harmony among all the three. I wish you for glory and prestige. May this tenure be excellent and Members of the House co-operate you.

**SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:** A very warm welcome to you from the bottom of my heart. I am very confident that your innings here will be very, very illustrious. You know this House better than most of the people here. From this seat, it is not only the truth, but whatever you do has to be just. The justice has to be given to

whatever is raised in this House. I am very happy and glad that you are in Constitutional position. The sovereignty of the country lies with the people. They exercise this sovereignty through the elected Members of Parliament or Legislatures. If Parliament does not function and discharge its responsibility, then people's sovereignty just dissolves. You have onerous responsibility to ensure that House functions with justice and dignity.

**SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:** I alongwith citizen of Odisha congratulate you. During your youth time, you had joined J. P. Movement, this gives us an impression as to how much guts you had. You have the experience of student life, public life and also political life. I am confident that I would be able to discharge my duties in Rajya Sabha in a good manner under your guidance. We alongwith our party will extend full possible support in the functioning of the House.

**SHRI C.M. RAMESH:** My entire family is here. I have two opportunities, one is that you are sitting in the Chair and the second is that the Prime Minister is also here. Also, I am speaking for the first time in front of the Prime Minister. Thank you very much, Sir.

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA:** I on behalf of BSP, its National President Ms. Mayawati ji welcome you for occupying this post. I have been your admirer because whenever there was any issue regarding poors, Dalits and exploited persons you used to advice us to speak up frankly and say that we should not be afraid of anybody. You used to say that this is not only our right but our duty too. Today, we and especially our party is hopeful that the day like 18th July will never come again in this House. On this day a National President of a National party was not allowed to speak about the issues related to Dalits and exploited persons. As soon as she started speaking, not only members of treasury bench but even ministers started shouting. I feel that you will definitely pay your attention towards the back benchers.

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** I alongwith my party NCP congratulate you. This is the power of democracy of India through which you could reach to this supreme post of the country. An

ordinary man can also like you can attain higher positions and I think that it would be a great example for the coming generations. You have attained this position and would prove through your work that dignity of this position can be maintained. We all expect co-ordination from every quarter to run the House smoothly. I request you to allot sufficient time to each party to put forth their views before the House. We pray for your long life and better tenure. I wish you all the best.

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:** Sir, on behalf of my party DMK, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to you. You had started as a grass-root worker in a village, transcended to this high Constitutional position. We have seen you in various positions. You have been a simple and humble man. Sir, we expect that you will maintain neutrality in this House while discharging your duties. We expect that such arrangements would be made in the House to facilitate Members to speak in their mother tongue. We welcome you heartily.

**SHRI SANJAY RAUT:** Respected Chairman Sir, I, on behalf of my party-Shiv Sena and Party Chief- Udhav Thakre welcome you. You are identified as 'Telugu Bidda' and have always championed the cause of the poor from your student life. You are the first Vice-President of India to be born in an independent India. Regional parties should also get sufficient time to put forth their views before the House. I hope that you would make such arrangements to help Members speak in their mother-tongue. I wish you all the best.

**SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, at the outset let me congratulate you on this occasion. I am happy that both the highest positions of the Constitution are occupied by sons hailing from the poor and farmer's family. As a student, you underwent imprisonment during the dark days of emergency. You joined the J.P. movement. I request you that sufficient time should be allotted to regional parties so that they also can put forth their views in the House. All parties should come together in maintaining discipline in the House. I wish you all the best and sound health.



**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, you are welcome in this House. I hope that you will, through this Constitutional post, utilise your rich experience gained during your college days through politics of the country, Constitutional dignity and diversity of the country. We are fortunate enough to have worked with you for a long time. The Opposition must have its say but the Treasury Bench should also have its say.

**DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I have known you for the last sixty years as a youth leader and fifty years in active politics. We were together in the Legislative Assembly in 1978. I hope that you would do justice not only to the Office of the Chairman but play a wider role as far as national and international affairs are concerned.

**SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY:** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I, along with the Chief Minister of J & K, Mehbooba Mufti ji and its people congratulate you on this occasion. Had I got a chance to speak in my mother tongue-Kashmiri, I would have expressed all my views. But that is not possible. I request you to give priority to our sister MPs to express their views in this House so that they can play a great role in raising the issues concerning the daughters and women of our country.

**SHRI D. RAJA:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the CPI and on my personal behalf, I welcome you. I give you good wishes for the success of being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Sir, I am also the son of a landless agricultural worker in Vellore district which has produced 20 freedom fighters who fought for Independence and who became martyrs. It is a remarkable rise for you from being a student activist to being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. So, being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, underlying the importance of multi-party democracy, you must give space for all dissenting voices, all different viewpoints. As the Chairman, you will appreciate this point and, accordingly, you move forward. I would like to say that you can be assured of cooperation from me and from all other colleagues. But, the

Constitutional values and Constitutional morality must be upheld. I hope, it will be done under your Chairmanship.

**SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:** I extend my heartedly congratulations and good wishes on becoming the Vice President of India and the Chairman of this House, on behalf of me and my Party - Indian National Lok Dal. I pray to the Almighty to give you enough strength for all success being at this post.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** First of all, a lot of congratulations to you. I take pride in saying that we both belong to the same constituency of Andhra Pradesh. The inspirational speeches delivered by you during your student days will always be memorable for me. The way you had fought for the country against the Emergency is really remarkable. Your performance in the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, as an MLA, was really historic. I wish to say that right from the beginning you continued to be in one party which very few people could do it. I am very confident, as the Vice-President of India, you would lead the nation with pride. Finally, on behalf of my party President, Shri Jaganmohan Reddy Garu, my party and on my own behalf, we wish you all the best.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE):** We are glad that a farmer's son has got the chance to achieve this exalted position. You have been always a young leader whether in Bhartiya Jansangh or Bhartiya Janta Party. I know you from 19 years. Your tenure as the Rural Development Minister in Vajpayee Government was outstanding. You have also a long experience of running this House as you have been here for 24 years. You will get co-operation in running the house from both sides. I extend my heartedly wishes on behalf of my Republican Party and also hope that you will achieve the next higher post also after five years.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):** I am really proud to welcome you as the Chairman of this august House on my own behalf, on behalf of my leader and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu Garu, and also on behalf of my party. Though you are born as a son of Andhra Pradesh, today is a great day that you could emerge as a national leader. I always admire you for your patient hearing. Whoever will be coming to you with whatever issues, you would always be a solution-provider. I have seen you working at various posts. Today, I am really very happy to see you as the Vice-President of this great nation and as the Chairman of this august House. Today, one secret whispers in the corridors is going on that our strict Principal has come from today. So, we will have to be extra careful. Thank you very much.

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** I extend my heartedly wishes and congratulations on becoming the Vice President of India and Chairman of this House. It is pleasant that today you are on this Chair and you have a vast experience of every side. We expect you will remain impartial in the same way as our country is secular. You will always get our full co-operation and honour and we will also accept whatever you decide. As a Member, I would like to say that this country is of we all and our heritage is composite. We all are sons and daughters of Mother India. I extend my good wishes with the hope that the real picture of democracy will reflect here under your leadership.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN):** I heartily congratulate you and extend my greetings and best wishes on becoming the Vice President of India and Chairman of this House. You have been in the Parliament for a long time, as a Member of Rajya Sabha-- not only in the Treasury Benches but in the Opposition side also -- and as a Minister. So, you have a vast experience. You are also thorough with the Constitution and the Rules. Therefore, I think there will be no problem. Under your leadership, the House will

function smoothly, giving justice to both the sides. As Deputy Chairman of the House, I will extend to you my fullest cooperation.

**THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** Yours has been a long journey, close to five decades, beginning from a grassroot-level political worker who literally has worked hard to reach this position. Since you have been a long Member, you obviously know the traditions and the functional style of this House itself. We need the full participation and the cooperation of all in order to effectively run this House, and, I am sure, your experience, as a Member of twenty-year standing, will come to a considerable aid. Parliament can't be the tyranny of the Government. Therefore, a balance will have to be struck between an adequate time to raise issues of public importance as also to discharge Government functions. Once, we, the Members, are able to have a consensus on how that balance is to be maintained, your job, as a Chair, would be very easy and ultimately we will all be bound by your directions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I once again feel sorry that I could not accommodate some of our Members of Parliament who had expressed the desire to speak. Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modiji, respected Leader of the House, Shri Arun Jaitleyji, respected Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azadji, hon. Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurienji, hon. Ministers, distinguished Members of this august House, when I first entered this august House as a Member in 1998, I never had even the faintest idea that one day I would have the honour of presiding over this House as its Chairperson. This is the beauty and majesty of our parliamentary democracy and its strength as well. It can lift a commoner like me to such an exalted position.

I am from a small village, the son of a farmer, even now fond of agriculture, I feel proud that I am an agriculturist. From there, I had a long journey. You are all aware of it. I lost my father and mother at a very young age. But keeping in view the responsibilities that have been cast upon me at various levels, I have always tried to do my best. Ultimately, you, Members of Parliament of both the Houses, have

been kind enough to elect me as the Vice-President of India. I feel really humbled by the honour given to me.

I have also been given the responsibility of presiding over this House, as Vice-President, assisting the President, performing the constitutional responsibilities. I am grateful to all concerned for reposing faith and confidence in me and entrusting such responsibility to me. Now, I am an all-party man, above party politics. I will be a person above politics. The only thing is that if everybody must follow the rules, regulations and the procedures, then everybody would surely get an opportunity.

Before I elaborate on my thoughts as the Chairman of this august House, I would like to briefly reflect on the origin and role of this federal Chamber of the Parliament of India. With its roots in the Montague- Chelmsford Report of 1918, the Council of States first came into being in 1921, further to the Government of India Act, 1919, as a second Chamber of the then Legislature with a restricted franchise. Subsequently, there were extensive debates on the need for this House in the Constituent Assembly. It was considered that a single, directly-elected House would be inadequate to meet the challenges before free India. Accordingly, the Council of States was created as a federal Chamber, that is, a House elected by the elected Members. An element of dignity and prestige was accorded to this Chamber by making the Vice-President of India the ex-officio Chairman of this House. The learned Members of the Constituent Assembly envisaged this Chamber as a House of reflective and evaluative reasoning. Late Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar termed it as a House which can reign in passions of the moment.

Late Shri Loknath Mishraji described it as a sobering and reviewing House which maintains the quality and where members are scholars. This House maintains federal equilibrium and equanimity in legislation. There is a provision to nominate a good number of knowledgeable persons from different fields. This House is also expected to protect the interests of the States in the federal structure. This is the choice in the hands of the hon. Members. Our country, as the world's largest democracy and the fastest growing economy,

requires effective legislations to facilitate its processes, resource management, build partnerships, to ensure socio-economic equality. India is moving forward whereas entire world economy is slowing down. We have a bright future. Even after seventy years of Independence we are facing basic issues like poverty, illiteracy, inequality, agrarian and rural development challenges, abuse of power, regional inequalities and economic disparities. There were some other countries, when we attained freedom, they are moving fast today. Keeping these challenges in mind we must come together, work together and try to take the country forward. For the success of an individual, institution or a nation, time management is very crucial. We don't have the luxury of time. Although our country had a huge stock of human and natural resources, we need to make up the lost opportunities over the last seven decades.

Our forefathers gave us rich culture and heritage apart from our great human resource and intellect. This august House meets for much less than a hundred days per year. We take pride in our diversity and unity. Adversarial politics should be avoided as it affects functioning of Parliament and progress of our nation. Even if we are from different parties our common goal is to make India stable, strong and prosperous. We need to ensure that every person get the benefit of development. We call it "Antyodaya" that means uplifting the poorest of the poor. We are all political rivals but we are not enemies. One most senior politicians said the Parliament should discuss, debate and decide. Every election gives the winner a mandate and the Opposition the responsibility of ensuring accountability of the Executive. I had been in Opposition for a long time. The Ruling Party has the power. The democracy says that the Opposition must have its say, and the Government must have its way. Democracy is not only about numbers but also about trying to understand and appreciate each other's point of view. The number game should stop with the formation of Governments. We discuss in length and we debate better than others. We discuss the matters in Committees beyond party lines. I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for five years. We used to come to common understanding on important issues. There was no media and people used to speak out of their

heart. That is why we found after thorough discussion in both the Houses, historic Land Boundary Agreement, GST Bill and other important legislations. That was done after a meaningful debate. People expect from the Parliament that their concerns should be discussed and solved. There is a growing concern and resentment among the people about our functioning. It is only a question of management of time. If you spend time in procedural wrangles and other things, then the time that will be lost, will be a loss to the smaller parties and ordinary Members. So, keeping that in mind, I will try to do my best to see that all the Members get their right and also their due while debates take place. There should be cooperation from both the sides. This is possible through strategizing for effective functioning of the House rather than for its disruptions. I always say that let the Government propose, let the Opposition oppose, let the House dispose either way, this way or that way. Unfortunately, obstruction and disruption of the proceedings is a growing phenomena. People get disillusioned sometimes. We must understand their feelings. Now, we are in an aspirational India, India that is going forward. The younger generation is taking more and more interest in the public affairs of the country. We must live up to their expectations. We are in the focus as we are the finest Parliamentary democracy in the world. It is a good thing that the government is willing to extend the time of the sittings of the House. I hope, in the coming days, we will be able to put our best efforts together. The Opposition can oppose through an informed debate. I have experience in legislature. I used to be a very bitter critic but, at the same time, I never used to cross the line. We enjoyed it also as an Opposition. The best part of my legislative life was the time when I was in the Opposition rather than in position. As the Chairman and the custodian of this House, I want to advise the media that it should report the constructive debates rather than sensationalism. When I came to the House I was asked to speak on agriculture and I prepared myself and came to the House. I took 52 minutes. All complimented me for my speech but next day there was no mention of it in the media. So, members are not happy. We as the Upper House should work in an exemplary manner. I spent more than 19 year here mostly as an

Opposition Member. I understand the things. I am also conscious that eminent and learned persons had presided over the proceedings of this august House with distinction. We have also seen Shri Hamid Ansari who conducted this House. I will try to uphold the traditions and standards set by these worthy people. I am also happy to have Shri P.J. Kurien who is an able and experienced colleague. He took the burden without losing patience.

The poorest of the poor of the country need to be recognised. Their voice has to be heard. Their aspirations have to be understood and they have to be met. That should be uppermost in our mind and they should not be deprived of their rightful opportunity which is guaranteed under the Constitution. Let us work according to the principles of our Constitution and the thoughts of our leaders. I, as a legislator used to study a lot. I read what our great leaders said. I have attained this stage due to my hard work and study. We will miss Sitaram Yechuryji. Let us be guided by the right of the people for a better future. Union and the State Governments are working together. The Prime Minister has said that the Centre and the States must work as Team India. Three Fs (Funds, Functions and Functionaries) should be transferred to the local bodies. I will uphold the dignity of the office of the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and live up to the trust you have reposed in me. I would like to remind that on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of our Independence the Members resolved to preserve and enhance the prestige of the Parliament. I hope there won't be any scope for disruption and we will work together smoothly.

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**Motion for Reference of The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 to Joint Committee**

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** I move 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 Bill to provide for the resolution of



certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:—

1. Shri Ajay Sancheti
2. Shri Bhupender Yadav
3. Shri Naresh Gujral
4. Shri Anand Sharma
5. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
6. Shri Praful Patel
7. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
8. Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh
9. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
10. Shri Satish Chandra Misra.

*The motion was adopted.*

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### VALEDICTORY REMARKS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The House welcomed two Members from the States of Goa and Madhya Pradesh and bid a warm and touching farewell to 10 Members from the States of Goa, Gujarat and West Bengal. The House also bid an emotional farewell to Shri M. Hamid Ansari, former Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Obituary References were made to the passing away of two sitting Members, including a Union Minister and 11 former Members of this august House.

A Reference was made on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement, followed by a discussion and unanimous adoption of a Resolution. The Question Hour functioned on 11 out of 19 scheduled days. Out of the 285 Starred Questions listed, 46 were orally answered and 187 Supplementaries were raised. Individual Members got opportunity to make 77 submissions on urgent public issues during Zero Hour. Members also expressed their concern on matters of public importance through 87 Special Mentions.

Substantial Legislative Business transacted by the House was indicative of the co-operation extended by all sections of the House and also speaks their commitment to fulfill the objective and purpose of this august House. Nine Government Bills were passed and four were withdrawn. Private Members introduced 13 Bills and 2 of their Bills were taken up for consideration, and were withdrawn by the leave of the House.

The propensity of Members to utilize instruments of parliamentary procedures with skill and determination is reflected in the three Short Duration Discussions, in which 69 Members participated. In addition, two Calling Attentions were also taken up. The eager demand for more such opportunities from Members underlines the need for making more time available for these devices for which a collective effort needs to be made to properly utilize the time available and to ensure smooth functioning of the House without disruptions and an inclination to work longer hours whenever required. I don't think there is any dearth of that in Rajya Sabha because I have the experience of sitting till late night in this side or that side.

I have asked the Secretary-General to make available the statistical information relating to this Session to the hon. Members.

I take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, both, the senior- Shri Ananthkumar as well as Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Leaders of various parties and groups and the hon. Members for the co-operation extended by them in the overall functioning of the House.

I also thank the Deputy Chairman, the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen and the officers and staff of the Secretariat for the help and co-operation they have rendered.

**(The National Song, “Vande Mataram” was played.)**

*The House adjourned sine die.*

**SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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