

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, March 28, 2018/ Chaitra 07, 1940 (Saka)

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, our Rajya Sabha exemplifies the principle of change and continuity in our polity. As sixty Members from seventeen States, including four Nominated Members, are retiring during April to July 2018 on completion of their tenure.

In the Rajya Sabha, we have this change every two years and this change co-exists alongside continuity. The new Members come with a new outlook, a new orientation and a new insight and they will certainly have the benefit of learning from some of the veteran Members who have excelled in their parliamentary work. This principle of continuity is the hallmark of Rajya Sabha and we take pride in the strength of this fine blend of continuity with change.

This time, we are bidding farewell to many stalwarts of the House including Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien. I would like to place on record my deep sense of appreciation to Prof. Kurien for the valuable guidance and cooperation that I have received from him. His professional advice has helped me immensely in discharging my duties and responsibilities. I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that our former Hon'ble Deputy Chairman,

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

Shri K. Rahman Khan is also retiring. When he presided over the House, I used to be a Member of this House representing the State of Karnataka, the State which he also represented. I have had the pleasure of witnessing him conducting the proceedings with a measure of dignity and grace.

Those who are retiring include many of our veteran Members who have completed more than a decade in the House. Over these years, we have forged a common bond of friendship and purpose to take forward the cause of parliamentary democracy. On this occasion, let me place on record the contributions made by them which have always enriched and enlivened the debates in the House. Their initiative and participation in the committees have been invaluable.

I would like to mention that four of our Nominated Members, Ms. Rekha, Ms. Anu Aga, Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar and Shri K. Parasaran, are also retiring. These eminent Members, with their enormous accomplishments in their respective fields, have enhanced the stature and profile of the House.

Among those who are retiring, we also have more than a dozen Members from the legal profession. I would like to mention that the contribution of these Members to the debates of the Rajya Sabha have been of very high quality, reflecting their nuanced understanding of the legal and constitutional issues.

The participation of women Members in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha has been very significant. It is a matter of concern that despite the stellar contributions made by many women Members, they still constitute only 11.7 per cent of the total membership of the House. Six of our women Members are retiring this time and two of them are returning to the House. Besides, three new women Members would be entering the House. As against this, in the 2016 biennial elections, while ten women Members retired, only three women Members got elected. It is ironical that even though the Rajya Sabha is proud that it passed the Women's Reservation Bill way back in 2010 and has been pressing for better representation of women in legislative bodies, there is still a very low representation of women in this House.

While expressing my heartfelt appreciation for the valuable contribution and services rendered by our women Members, I hope that all political parties would appreciate that providing adequate representation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures has to be accorded priority.

Some of the Members who are retiring would be getting re-elected – of course, some of them got re-elected -- and would continue to work with us, I hope, with renewed vigour and zeal. I am glad that the hon. Leader of the House, Shri Arun Jaitley, is also back with us. We congratulate him as well as other Ministers and Members on their re-election. Shri Arunji, particularly as the Leader of the House has always guided us on critical occasions as and when they arose, from the side of the Government and also as a parliamentarian.

For those Members who would be leaving us, I would like to mention that this retirement from Rajya Sabha should be viewed as an opportunity to promote the welfare of the people and not as a retirement from public life. You are only getting retired, but not tired. People are aware of this. Once we enter public life, there is, in my view, no retirement at all. Our bond with the people would serve as a bond that endures. It continues and only gets strengthened with each passing year. I have had the honour of being the Chair for the last three Sessions. During this short span of time, I have had mixed emotions. On the one hand, I have witnessed very high quality of debates on several occasions and, on the other hand, I am filled with sadness at the disorderly, indisciplined and intemperate conduct of some of us. In this current Session, I had, on several occasions, appealed to the good sense of the political parties, their leaders and the Members to ensure the smooth functioning of the House. I must confess that I am deeply perturbed at the way we have been conducting ourselves.

Disruptions have unfortunately become a part of political tactic and the House has often become the theatre of protest politics. In democracy, there is agreement and there is disagreement. If you agree to disagree, there is nothing wrong in it. But there is a way. I would like to see a more constructive engagement with public issues

in the future and a behavior that befits the dignity and stature that people of this great country have bestowed upon us. Let us not further erode the quality of our polity. Let us leave a legacy of powerful ideas. We are supposed to be models for others. We are the Upper House. The entire country, from schools to municipal bodies to local bodies to legislatures, is looking to us for guidance and we have enough merit here. There are legal giants; there are people with administrative experience; there are great economists; there are people with vast experience in agriculture, in education, in art and other fields. Their contribution in the House in a more meaningful and constructive manner will further enthuse the people of the country. That is the only hope I have. I am not trying to make anything against any person or any Party or any individual. Partly or mostly, many of the people have been part of that whatever happened. But make a new beginning and see to it that we conduct ourselves in a more dignified manner and then live up to the expectations of the framers of our Constitution and the people of this country. Each hon. Member who is retiring from this House is only retiring, but, as I told you, you will be engaged in public work. Some of you may come back to this House or to the other House. Otherwise, you will be engaged in local sabhas also with the people. That has been part of public life and I hope that you will spend the time in a more constructive manner in the cause of the nation. We must be progressive, and we must all make contribution as stakeholders in the system in order to make the system strong, to take the country forward, to make people more happy and then to make a stable and strong nation. This is my appeal on this occasion because almost forty plus Members are retiring. Of course, some are coming back. I can tell you we will be missing you. Some of you, at times, might have raised issues; perhaps the Chair felt unhappy at the same time. It is a Parliamentary System. I do appreciate it. There is no ill-will against any individual; there is nothing against anybody. Everybody has got his own speciality. Some hon. Members are known for Point of Order; some are known for interventions; some are known for making very good and valid points; some are known for taking the House to lighter moments; some persistently and forcefully -- of course, not without force -- used to get the attention of the Chair.

All these things are part of democracy. I want to repeat that again: All Parties are equal to me as the Chairman. I appeal to all of you let us conduct ourselves in a more dignified manner and then take the country forward and take this House also forward. I take this opportunity to wish you good health, happiness, fulfillment in life, and many more constructive years of service to the nation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you and the feelings you have shared with the House. I wish all the retiring members a very-very successful career and a happy life. This change in life is unchangeable. I am sure each one of you, who retires or who cannot come back, will take it easy. I extend a hearty warm welcome to those who are coming back. All those Members who retire, have given a meaningful contribution to the proceedings of the House. Parliamentary field is an area of competition. A large number of notices come every day and notice from each and every member cannot be accepted. It is not possible to give as much time as the Member wants. The Chair will have to restrict. That is not done with happiness. If I have hurt anybody I apologize for that. Mr. Chairman, I am aware of your moral indignation on the deterioration of the standard of Parliament. It is rightfully justifiable. Hitherto, the highest form of protest was a walk-out, but now instead of walking out of the House, they are walking into the Well. I have to say that that is a great change. I remember, how the Opposition used to grill the Ministers, but they are very happy now because only slogan shouting is there. By slogan shouting, ultimately, nothing is achieved. We should introspect ourselves and find out as to how we can improve the situation. The Government should also be responsive. My only appeal is, let us think about it find out a solution so that the level of Parliament, the level of the Rajya Sabha, is not degenerated to the extent we see today. The Government and the Opposition should be more responsive. I am not blaming either side. As a Deputy Chairman, I really enjoyed the support of every Member of the House. I got very good support and guidance from you. I got full support and guidance from the Leader of the House. I have to speak the same thing about the Leader of the

Opposition. I thank each one of you, including the Prime Minister is here, who is a role model for the Members of Parliament.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI):

Respected Chairman and the August House, I have full faith that some of our colleagues, with the experience they have gained here, will further strengthen their role in serving the society. Every retiring gentleman has made his/her contribution, and everyone has his/her own virtue, and everyone, to the extent possible, while being in this House, contributed for the bright future of the country. The country can never forget all these contributions. I congratulate you all for your excellent services and I wish you best for your future.

This House is worthy on account of senior Members, whose life experiences add value to the House. This Upper House is capable of judging what is and what is not useful for the future social order by way of their impartial assessment of the hopes and aspirations of the social life and this capability is there due to these senior Members. This is so because whatsoever is mentioned here, carries a specific value, a special importance and this importance plays a vital role in our policy-formulation.

We have, among us, a Member like Shri K. Parasarn, who being a professional, spent a life of devotee as well. Now we won't get benefits of such persons in this House. Two such players for whom India feels proud, are Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey and Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, who will not be there with us in times to come, we will miss them. Professor P.J. Kurien will always be remembered by us. His ever smiling face is always before us and we should learn from him, how to convey our message in pleasant manner. It was his speciality and it played an important role in running the House in times of crises.

It is correct that very few among us are here who are not having an affiliation with any party or the ideology of a party. There is small number of such persons and most of us carry such background, in one way or the other, and therefore it is natural, it

is quite natural for us for making all efforts to establish those view points.

But it is also expected that whatever transpires in lower House should happen in upper House also but this is not necessary as upper house has its own identity and each has performed its own role. I believe that perhaps many of you must have thought that in the last session, you will give a historical speech by raising various issues and hence give your contribution in the important issues of the country but perhaps you are not fortunate enough to get this opportunity. But this is collective responsibility of all of us and we are all equally responsible for not providing you this opportunity. It would have been better had you got the opportunity to play best role in the important decision making of the country before retiring from this House and it would have given you a great sense of satisfaction. But perhaps because of this House only you did not get the opportunity. Yesterday it appeared that probably you will not get this opportunity even today but Mr. Chairman tried very hard to convince and bring everyone together. Shri Vijay also tried his best and ultimately it became possible that all the retiring members will be able to express their feelings but still you have been deprived of the opportunity to contribute in an important decision which could get registered in the history forever. You certainly got many chances in between which you utilised as well. Important decisions like Triple talaq which are going to play an important role in the history but you have been deprived of participating in the process of deciding on this issue. Those members who have got re-elected will get this opportunity but those who are retiring may not get this opportunity to participate in this historically important decision. But the regret will remain there if not today but definitely after ten years, twenty years or twenty five years. This is my opinion but I wish we could have done all these things. I once again give my best wishes to all those honourable members who are retiring. As a colleague I appeal to you not to consider that with the closing of the doors of this House, the doors of this whole complex have been closed for you. The office of Prime Minister is also open for you. Whenever the thoughts in the interest of our country arise in your mind, you please come to me. I

will be happy to hear your thoughts and understand them. You will give your contribution wherever you will be. I will endeavour to present them further. I once again thank you and give you my best wishes.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): After every two years one-third members of this House retire and the retiring members are given farewell. But this farewell is also temporary as politicians never retire. I thank those leaders who conceived of constructing the Central Hall between the two Houses so that members could meet one another. In the Central Hall you can meet the ex-MPs in greater number than the sitting MPs of both the Houses. Therefore, this is mere farewell and not separation as we will get to see the retiring members daily in the Central Hall. Through this House, I want to tell the country on behalf of all Parliamentarians that only Parliamentarians and legislators have kept alive democracy in this country. Only the doors of politicians, whether from ruling party or opposition, are open 24 hours for the poor, sick and unemployed people. Whenever the voices are raised, whether from this side or that side, they are raised in favour of poor. I want to clarify that I had said that we will sit on dharna against our those colleagues who did not let the house function yesterday and give us opportunity to bid farewell to retiring members but not dharna against the Chairman. But today I want to thank those colleagues as they are not fighting for their pay but for important issues like water, special status, fraud in banks etc. Today, I want to congratulate those colleagues who have got re-elected. Many of our colleagues, particularly from the opposition are not coming back. I am hopeful that they will continue to give their contribution continuously. Some senior persons and many other colleagues from our side are also retiring. I have got great support from them and that's why I express my gratitude towards them. From opposition also our other colleagues are also retiring. I also congratulate Leader of the House, Shri Jaitley for getting re-elected to the House and also to other members who have been re-elected.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Today, honourable members from this House are retiring on a large scale. I congratulate those who have got re-elected. I am happy that this time the Leader of the House have got elected from Uttar Pradesh. At personal level our party has suffered the most in this election. Those who are retiring have definitely made good contribution in their respective fields in this House also. Many big names are also retiring who are not coming back now. I wish happy and healthy life for them and welcome those who have been re-elected.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: I thank the hon. Members who are retiring and who may not be coming back. I pray to the God for their good life.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Our heartiest congratulations to those Members who have retired and have been re-elected and those who are retiring in the next few days, we wish them good health and we wish them happiness. I think it would be very appropriate to say that we may be political rivals but we are not political enemies. Shri Tapan Sen have been a wonderful colleague to us and we will miss him. I join the Leader of the Opposition, we are not so pessimistic about Parliament. This is a happy place to be for a parliamentary democracy.

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: We totally agree with the sentiments expressed by other leaders that they have made a great contribution. Personally, for me, it has been a great learning. I really wanted to experience the Parliament once in my life and this was an opportunity given. I learnt a lot from Mr. Biju Patnaik. In politics, nobody wins and nobody loses. Politics is only a process that goes on and on and once you understand this principle, the wins and losses will not matter. Each year 60,000 armed forces personnel retire but their resettlement is not proper. I am grateful for all that I have learnt from all the Hon. Members in this particular House.

SHRI HARIVANSH: Best wishes to all those who are retiring today. I wish happy and healthy life for them. I welcome those who have got re-elected. Today, many problems like Kaveri

issue, granting special status to states and ballooning bad loan situation in India's banking industry are proving a major hindrance in stalling the proceedings of this August House. So, let us reach to a consensus and fulfil the role of elders in this House. Lastly, I would say that all the Members of this House are very important who would reach to a consensus for smooth functioning of this House.

***SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: (Spoke in Tamil.)**

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: I would like to say that the retiring Members would have much time to serve the people of this great nation. I pray to the Almighty to bless them with a healthy, active as well as quality life to serve the people of this nation. Particularly, the Members exiting today or tomorrow have witnessed the struggle of Andhra Pradesh while passing the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Bill. They have really cooperated with all of us, whom I specially thank. While we say that this is a temple of democracy, I request every Member to keep in mind the sanctity and importance of this House, join us and support the cause of Andhra Pradesh. Please help us in seeing to it that the Government immediately implements the Act and fulfils the assurances given by the then Leader of the House, Dr. Manmohan Singh, four years before.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: I would definitely say that the Members who are retiring or who are rejoining this House, must remember that this is an important House as we represent states here. With this I welcome those Members who have been re-elected to this House and extend my best wishes to retiring Members for their bright future and would pray for their sound health so that they give their best for the welfare of society.

* Synopsis of speech delivered by hon'ble Member in Tamil will be published separately as supplement.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I, along with all other colleagues bid farewell to our retiring colleagues and also extend warm welcome to our colleagues who have come back to this House again. No body retires in politics. We all have our moments and opportunities when we find many our past colleagues in State Legislatures, in Governments in respective States. All the retiring Members will have active participation in public life. So, I wish everybody all the very best and I would like to specially mention my colleague, Prof. D.P. Tripathi, whose intellect and wisdom has not only enlightened us and our party, as well as the entire Parliament of India. We have learnt a lot from Shri Sharad Pawarji. We have never indulged in sloganeering and have been very responsible in the conduct of parliamentary proceedings. Despite of having differences with the Government we will keep on contributing for the better running of this House. I would definitely say that we have been very happy to be associated and enlightened by our retiring Members and pray for their good future and good health so that they continue to contribute for the welfare of this nation.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Today many of our colleagues are retiring. We have worked together and shared our views. It is true that no one retires from active politics. I extend my best wishes to the retiring Members and welcome those who have been re-elected to this House. It is not a parting. When Members enter the Well of the House, then for a few moments we have jittery feelings but this is a characteristic of our democracy where we can put forth our views. But I am grateful to you also Sir for smooth running of this House despite all odds.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: I should thank all the retiring Members and the Chairman for being able to run the House. It is not that we really want to disrupt the House, but there are certain issues which are very important to the States and when that becomes unresolved and when we don't get answers, sometimes we have no choice but to go to the Well and ask for justice. Cauvery is a big issue in Tamil Nadu. I would like to congratulate all the Members who are going to be re-elected and would like to wish all the Members who

are retiring. I am sure we will be able to see them in public life in different roles, as activists, as Members of Legislative Assemblies or maybe they will come back after another term. Shri Parasaran has been a great inspiration, by his knowledge and learning, to many of us here and Tapan da has always fought for what he believed in. I have learnt a lot from him. We will be missing such people. I have learnt from our Deputy Chairman on how to remain calm in the midst of all the turmoil and confusion. I would like to thank everybody who has been here because it has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with everybody here.

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I, along with my party, extend my best wishes to all retiring Members as well as to those who have been re-elected to this House.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: At the outset, I share your views and also the feelings as far as conduct of this House is concerned. I join you and all other hon. Members and colleagues in bidding a very hearty farewell to all retiring Members. My recent experience shows that we have a better time outside than inside the House. We are carved out for social and public service. I am sure, retiring Members will have the best of the time.

MS. ANU AGA: During my six years in this House, I have learnt a lot about working of Parliament and many other issues and I thank each of you for investing in me and supporting me. I have been through many highs and lows during my tenure. We can debate, differ and disagree. But, we don't have the right to behave in a manner that forces the Chair to adjourn the House. The nation has suffered a lot due to repeated disruptions in the House. One should not oppose everything the ruling party proposes, no matter who represents the opposition and the ruling party. We all work towards what is best for our country. I would urge each one of us to think about the long-term well being of the nation, as against any short-term gains. I thank the entire Secretariat staff for their support. And, once again, I express my thanks and gratitude to each one of you for your warmth and guidance.

SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: I am thankful to all the retiring Members. I have been in this House for the last three years and learnt a lot especially from Shri Tapan Sen. I am thankful to all those Members who have worked in this Parliament, worked for the progress of this country. At last, I would like to extend an invitation to all the retiring Members to come to Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI K. PARASARAN: This period of six years was a period of learning. I have learnt a lot from every Member. I thank the Leader of the House for his guidance and affection. I would also offer my special thanks to the hon. Deputy Chairman for extending a lot of indulgence. It is a privilege to be a Member of this House, to participate in the company of so many eminent people. I am very grateful to all the Members who have extended so much of love and affection to me. I offer my respectful pranam to you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, and the House, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh and each Member of this House.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: I began my career at the age of 12, working as Vanar Sena under Mahatma Gandhi's 1942 Movement. I chose Vinoba Bhaveji's Bhoodan Movement as my future course of action throughout the life. I don't belong to any party. As I am a Chemical Engineer, Shri Biju Patnaik wanted that I should continuously work for technological development. During my tenure of last six years, I have been observing here that much importance was not given to rural development in the true sense. Biju Patnaik's concept of rural development is unparalleled. The rural industries that we are thinking of were started by him. He first started Panchayat Industries but not by bringing in technology from outside. I think it was Biju Patnaik who found out a right path to inculcate Gandhian ideals in rural development. I don't know why that concept of Biju Patnaik is being forgotten. What we are developing is perhaps not India but a little bit of America, China and other things. India will lose its originality.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: I have been struggling in my life. I never accepted defeat. I am confident that people will carry on

supporting me as in the past. I would like to apologize from all the colleagues who have been hurt by me in any way. Here I have learnt a lot and taught too. I extend my respect to Chairman, Deputy Chairman, former Chairman Shri Hamid Ansari, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and Shri Anand Ji. I am thankful to our Prime Minister and Amit Shah Ji because sometimes I uttered bitter words to them which I would not have uttered and despite that they accepted me. Though I struggled in my life but never accepted the humiliation. I do not belong to any big political family but I am happy today that my fourth generation is continuously in the politics. I have been very much affectionate towards media persons but I am pained that media has twisted my statements. I am pained that if media carry on using us for increasing its TRP, it would not be good. It must be stopped at some stage. I assure you that I will carry on serving the people wherever I go.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had the opportunity to work in Legislative Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha many times. I think I have tried my best to contribute, under my limited capacity, for my area, development, party and colleagues. I had the opportunity to work alongwith many leaders. I extend my honour to all of them. First of all I would like to mention about my late parents who have been the freedom fighters and they inculcated not only human values but also manners in me. I am grateful to Sonia Gandhi Ji. She will remain my leader forever irrespective of the post she holds. I am grateful to the people who have elected and sent me to various houses many times. I am also grateful to the party workers who have given honour, fame and position. I am grateful to all Hon'ble Members of the House. We may be from different parties but our hearts have remained together. I have experienced that during some of the last decades, there has been reduction in the habit of working of political parties clearly, selflessly and fearlessly. It is a matter of great concern. If the clarity among persons in conversation will be reduced, the political culture will become poisonous. Lastly, I would like to request that the procurement related to the security of the country should not be politicized.

SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: When I joined Rajya Sabha, I lacked experience. But I have learnt a lot during these 6 years with the cooperation, guidance and affection of all the Members of the House. I am grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Bhartiya Janata Party for electing me as a Member of this upper House of the country. I have been witness and part of many incidents that took place in this House. It is a matter of pleasure for me that I too could contribute in the biggest economic reform after independence i.e. GST. As per the thoughts of BJP, the power is means not the target and through this means we may bring happiness to Dalits, OBCs, EBC and other backward people of the society and uplift their standard of living. I am grateful to all my colleagues and apologize to them if I have hurt any of the Member in anyway. I would like to say that India is not a piece of land, it is full-fledged country. Every river of the India is Ganga for us. We will live for the country and die for the country.

SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: I am proud to be here in this august House. Really, this House is a mini India. When I came here, I found that all my colleagues were more experienced and talented. Anyway, I thank the former Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Hamid Ansariji, our present Chairman, Venkaiah Naiduji, our Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Leader of the House, Jaitleyji, the Leader of the Opposition, Ghulam Nabi Azadji, former and present Secretary-Generals, the officers and staff of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, including the Marshals, the security staff and all others. And, I thank all my learned colleagues in this House. Our Deputy Chairman is also from Kerala . I express my special thanks to the hon. Deputy Chairman Thank you very much

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I enjoyed the love and affection from all the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen. I express my gratitude to them. I also express my gratitude to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, successive Secretary-Generals and the staff who have also assisted all of us in a very big way in performing our work. During the last twelve years, I have seen two Governments in operation. We should collectively try to come out of negativity in the political

system. During my tenure, I tried to base my opinion and critique on the policy and philosophical architecture of governance and I tried my best not to make it personalized even while expressing my critic. I will be active in public life. I learnt a lot from this House, from all my colleagues and I also enjoyed their love and affection. Thank you.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: I was elected for Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly for the first time in 1980. I had an opportunity to be a member of legislative assembly constantly for 9 times. I want to express my gratitude to my party who gave me such opportunity. I treat the Parliament as a temple of constitution. There are a number of genius members in the House and I have learned a lot from them. We were in the power too but we never avoided discussions. We faced criticism but nowadays no discussions are taking place. I have been trying to speak on the bank scam, but I am not getting the chance. I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretary General and staff, security staff and media, who did their job marvellously. Discussion, on the matters of national interest should necessarily take place. There should not be an atmosphere where opposition can not express its feelings. Thank you very much.

SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: I am thankful to my Party, my leadership who provided me an opportunity to come to this House. There are a number of learned members in this House and I shall always keep their way to present the matter, in my mind. I shall always remind our leader Shri Arun Jaitley ji, Leader of the Opposition Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and others in mind. I am satisfied that I have lead my life with noble ideas, with a good party and good people.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I believe that I have a 30 year relationship with this House. I have learned a lot here. No one stays here permanently but who so ever contributes here, people remember them. I had an opportunity to work with four Chairmen. When I came in this House Shri Krishan Kant ji was the Chaiman. Thereafter Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was the Chairman who was replace by Shri Md. Hamid Ansari ji and now you are the Chairman. I have learned a lot from all of you. I, as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs too,

experienced the functioning of the Rajya Sabha. I had an opportunity to contact with all. There can be differences of opinion but there is no place for personal enmity in politics. I am thankful to my leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and others. I am thankful to the Leader of the House, Shri Arun Jaitley too for his cooperation

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: First of all I am thankful to the God and thereafter I am thankful to my leader Ms. Mamta Banerjee who sent me in this House. I am also thankful to you and former Chairman Shri Hamid Ansari ji. I would also like to give my thanks to the Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien. Apart from this I am thankful to the staff of secretariat, security personnel, canteen staff and media. I do hope that my colleagues, who will remain here will try to fulfil the expectations of the people. My humble request is to avoid personal attack and character assassination. You are requested to maintain your sympathy towards back-benchers. I want my colleagues to respectfully listen to us.

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: I have 41 year experience in politics. I was an MLA for 34 years in West Bengal. I was a Minister there. I am thankful to the patron of Samajwadi Party hon'ble Mulayam ji, who sent me to the parliament. My political life was started with a struggle. I was sent to jail for a movement when I was 20 years old. We formed West Bengal Socialist Party. I do hope that in this House where a number of learned people and lawyers are members, discussions will take place in the future. This will give a good message to the people. Thank you very much.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: I am thankful to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and I convey my regards and respects to my leader, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azadji. I have learnt a lot here. This is the place from where we can give the idea of India. Now, the idea of India is becoming the United States of India. South-South and North-North dialogue is different. Economic inequality is widening; social divergence is deepening. Please do not create such an environment that the Secretariat and the Chairman are constrained to make out a barricade to protect themselves from the agitating Members. Let this

House be the House of debate. I pay my respects and I commit myself towards the issues of mother India. I dedicate and rededicate myself to my Telangana; I dedicate and rededicate myself to my weaving community and the whole of the weakened and weaker sections. Thank you very much.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: I have kept the respect of my party and maintained the dignity of the House in my 6 year tenure. The world, today is at the unique verge. Whether the world should be a market or a family. If it is to be a family, then we should that much extend the dignity of this House that it may be a centre to give guidance to the world. Thank you very much.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: I have dedicated my life for public. I am known as an organisation person. So, my leadership thought that I should also have the experience of Parliament. So, on this day, I thank the hon. Prime Minister and my leadership of the Party for choosing me to have the experience in this Parliament. When I came I was upset in the beginning. Disturbance was there. I have seen seven Sessions in my Parliament life. The first Session and the last Session was one or the same. I raise my voice either supporting my Government, my Party or sometimes criticizing the Opposition. It requires an art of speech. Many people are good orators. They wanted to put forth their point even while opposing the Government and at the same time without hurting anybody. I have learnt many things from many leaders from my side and from other side also. I have two suggestions. First one is, I want that everybody should speak here. For getting water in the rivers, you should not go to the 'Well'. This is not good. Secondly, visitors should too stand while National Anthem or Vande Matram are played. They are also Indians.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: I came to this House 9 years ago and I have learned a lot here. I have been a member of Lok Sabha for three times, I was a member of Rajasthan Lagislative Assembly and I was a member of this august House too. I am happy that I had participated in many discussions here. I want to request that today the farmer is looking up to you. You should think something towards helping the farmers. I have raised the voice of the youth as

well. I am happy that the 18 years old youths got the right to vote when I had become a member of the Lok Sabha. Today, while we are here we should think that what we can do for the country is that our meetings should not be reduced. I want to thank my leader who gave me a chance to enter this House. I want to thank all the honourable members of the House from my heart that I always got their cooperation.

SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: I got a chance to work in many Committees during my stint in the Rajya Sabha and to observe many things from close proximity. I also got a chance to work with Manmohan Singh ji. I experienced how a person can explain to new people without uttering anything. I am thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the BJP leadership. Two persons stand beside you; people outside don't know who they are, but it was a new experience in itself how they provide the information about the rules of Parliament and about small things. I congratulate all the new colleagues who are coming here and I convey my good wishes to all those who are going to bid goodbye to this place.

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: I am deeply indebted to my party; Hon'ble Prime Minister Modiji, Shri Amit Shahji, Shri Advaniji, Shri Arun Jaitleyji and above all, you, yourself. I am one of the very rare persons in this august House who have seen Mahatmaji in flesh and blood and not only met him, I interacted with him. I joined the Civil Service and I waited for 36 years and then these opportunities came. We have rendered a great service; for instance, the stent prices have been reduced by the Petitions Committee of which I was a member. In my days in the official gallery, there used to be greater sense of humour. But now there is a growing lack of sense of humour. There is a need for such sense of humour and bonhomie in the House as in the Central Hall.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: When I came here I was the youngest parliamentarian. I was a witness to history of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for 32 years. When I entered politics I was a housewife. When I entered politics, I was thrown into Municipal Corporation elections. Three months later, I came to Rajya

Sabha. I had the great satisfaction of learning from both ends because I saw what people really need and what we plan for them. I was also fortunate that I was the united candidate to contest against Mrs. Najma Heptulla for the post of Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha. I saw so many Presidents, Prime Ministers, Deputy Chairpersons and so on. One of the most charismatic of them was Rajiv Gandhi. I met Chandrashekharji when he was the Prime Minister. I rang him up, as the junior-most Member, and said that there were riots happening in my State and he actually answered phone. I learnt from Manmohan Singhji how much silence speaks more than loud noise on any front. Sonia Gandhiji is a leader for all. She would always be remembered by all because she did not want to become the Prime Minister. Let me talk about my journey as a woman here. Firstly, there is no creche here in Parliament. I really think we need more women here. I must compliment Jaitleyji as being one of the few gentlemen who has always upheld the dignity of women. When we come, we take an oath; when we leave, we do not abdicate that responsibility. We will go with the enrichment, the empowerment and the wealth of experience that we have, to continue to serve the nation wherever we are.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Rajya Sabha is considered to be the highest House of democracy in this country. It is a matter of coincidence that I did not get a complete term either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Just as iron also become gold on being refined, after coming here I got a chance to see a different world. I am thankful to my leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji for this experience that I got. It was my fortune that I have spent some time with Shrimati Indira Gandhiji in politics. After that, I got a chance to work with Rajiv Gandhiji, Sonia Gandhiji and now Rahul Gandhiji. I come from a farmer family and there have been freedom fighters in my family. My father Shri Atmaram Babu Patil, who was a farmer participated in the freedom struggle and had to go to jail several times. I had the fortune of being a member from Zilla Parishad to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. I have been observing for 30-35 years that discrimination has been taking place against the women. We have passed the Bill that gives reservation to women in 2010. Therefore, I would request all the Members to pass this Bill as soon as possible because unless women

are empowered economically, they will not be able to become self-reliant.

SHRI ALOK TIWARI: The time of separation is definitely sorrowful, but I am happy and satisfied that I got a chance to become a member of this august House. I am thankful to my honourable leaders Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav ji and Shri Akhilesh Yadavji for sending me to this House. I have been a member of this House for 6 years and have been a witness to all the important Bills that were passed here. I also participated in some of the discussions that took place in this House. I tried to learn continuously as a student in this House and whatever I have learnt here will definitely guide me in my future political life. I am thankful to the Officers and staff of our Secretariat also who helped us in our task.

SHRI KUNAL KUMAR GHOSH: Unfortunately, I am on the mike after more than four years. I used to come here since 1996 as working journalist. I thank my Leader, Ms. Mamata Banerjee for sending me to the Upper House. I also want to thank Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi because he has sanctioned huge funds for the medical treatment for needy people which was recommended by me. I was compelled to stay away from the House for a long period as a victim of deep-rooted conspiracy. I have full faith in judicial system, but the reality is that it is not for common people. Judiciary is the main pillar of democracy, but people are losing their faith. If any rare person does get justice, half of his life is wasted and his family becomes ruined. I am confident that as a social worker and as a journalist, God will give me another opportunity to play new inning.

DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: I was not interested in politics. When the emergency was declared in the country, I thought that this is gross injustice to the nation. I was given many responsibilities which I had discharged honestly. I did not aspire for any office. But, a person who does not know diplomacy can not do politics. However, when you think of serving your nation then one has to give his heart and soul. The party, I belong to has many loyal

persons and I have been learning from them and till today this is my feeling that I shall continue to serve my country.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: It was in the 1968, when I did my first demonstration. I remember that day even today when after four months of underground struggle, I was taken to Red Fort for investigation and sent to Tihar Jail. What I have to speak today, after learning quite a lot from this august House, is to make a critical examination of our role. In the last six years, roughly 48 per cent of the time of the House during all these sessions was wasted in disruption. The women's issues have not been discussed seriously. Why can't we give more time to them, when they are speaking? Why are we so shy of discussing Judiciary and Media. Parliament has never discussed sex in a dignified and decent way. According to my study, in the next five years, about one million young Indians are going to die of sexual diseases and the Parliament is scared of discussing this. When I think of these fifty years of my life, I got to learn many things in this House. I had the privilege of being cell-mate of Nanaji Deshmukh for a few days. I got so much affection from Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Jyoti Basu, Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet and Shri Chandrashekharji. Democracy runs on the basis of human relationship. In a democracy the Government should have its way, but the Opposition must have its say. The 23rd of August, 2013 was my best day in Rajya Sabha when this House unanimously moved a condolence resolution for Shri Narendra Dabholkar. Editorials were written in National Press about my role as coordinating all this. The saddest day was when there was a debate about beauty in this House. The beauty of Rajya Sabha is that it acquires newness every two years. We had one seat in Maharashtra. We collectively decided that we will give it to a woman this time. So, every political party should follow this and give chance to women and follow the principle of "Women First".

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: It was 24 years before, when I entered this House. I had experienced and learnt lot of things in this House. First of all, I would like to thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the UPA Chairperson who had been kind enough to send me to this House

for such a long time. I am also thankful to Shri Rahul Gandhi, the Congress President, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Ahmed Patel, Shri Antony Ji and all other senior leaders. I am fortunate that I have the opportunity of meeting many leaders during these 24 years. I also had the opportunity of hearing good debates, which gave me the lot of knowledge about the dignity and importance of this House. The Upper House was conceptualised to prevent hasty legislations. In the last 24 years, whichever bills were sent to Select Committees of this House after they have been passed by Lok Sabha, the amendments suggested by them were adopted by this House. I want to emphasise one thing that the Committee System should be further strengthened because it is the soul of Parliament. I had the opportunity of serving this House in different capacities. During my stint in this House, there have been five Chairmen and I had the privilege of working with two. With my experience, I want to suggest that the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha need to be changed as they were drafted long back. During my tenure as Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha the support and love that I received from entire House will always remain the sweet memories of my life.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: I am not partying from public service but from the membership. When I joined Rajya Sabha I lacked experience as I had been the Member of Legislative Assembly. I had the blessings of Hon'ble Sonia Gandhi ji and Bhupender Singh Hooda ji and they elected me for this House. I thank both of them. I belong to rural areas of India. I have experienced the way any Member from rural India is extended with the cooperation. I was a junior member and when the time was allotted, it used to be 2-3 minutes and I used to conclude whenever asked by the Chairman to do so. Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha discharge their duties through Committees. One can contribute to Committees. I too have learnt to contribute to Committees and move forward. Hon'ble Chairman can stop the Members going to well and they could be told whether their demand is justified or not? But the House should run. I do not come from any political family. I am from farmers' community. Today I am not retiring but returning to my community and will contribute to it to the best of my capacity. Everybody should get equal opportunity. After

coming here we think from our heart and soul both. But, those who think from their mind alone are many. That day is yet to come when we will speak from our mind and soul and would say that whatever we are speaking that would be truth and realistic. We have to abide by the truth.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): The retirement of Members is a very nostalgic occasion because the privilege which has been conferred on many of us to be a Member of this House comes to an end by virtue of the retirement itself. And during our tenure, we all have made efforts, to make in our own way, contribution to our party and to the House and, through this House, to the democratic system of this country itself. Some of the Members have been re-nominated. During our Membership, we have developed great relationships with each other and one of the great strengths of this House is that we learnt to respect each other's opinion. The greatness of this House is that the work still goes on despite all the disturbances. We will miss many of the Members who are retiring, each is having his/her own strengths and capabilities in different spheres of life. There are many who have made a large amount of political contributions to their parties; the parties have nominated them and I am sure that they will continue to serve the cause of their ideologies and the country, to the best of their abilities. My best wishes to each one of the retiring Members today.

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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