

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I don't have the figure at the present moment but I will supply the figure to the honourable Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Now this discussion is over.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Honourable Members, the 154th Session of the Rajya Sabha comes to a close today. Before I adjourn the House, I would like to take the opportunity to thank honourable Members for the kind cooperation extended by them to me and my colleagues on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen in conducting the proceedings of the House.

We all must agree that this Session has not been a quiet or uneventful one. Whatever might have been a gain for some, was certainly a loss for many who were deprived of a meaningful discussion. I feel, if we develop tolerance for each other's viewpoints and discuss the issues in that spirit, the debates will become meaningful, useful and also interesting.

Anyway, I hope and trust that all the Members will realize that some positive action on the part of each Member is called for to retrieve the situation so that we are not caught in this situation frequently and continuously. When we come back for the Monsoon Session, I have no doubt that cooler atmosphere will prevail and the functioning of the House would improve so that all Members can be made to discharge their duties and responsibilities in a friendly and orderly atmosphere. We also

hope and pray that the country gets good monsoon so that the difficulties of the people are reduced, specially the price-rise is reduced somewhat, and a more conciliatory atmosphere prevails in this House.

I would fail in my duty if I do not thank the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in extending their co-operation in running this House.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs though he has spent more time in the other House and less in his, own House.

I would also fail in my duty if I do not thank the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the Table Office, the people who are in the House and all those who are working behind the scenes for making our parliamentary work easier and useful for the Members. I also take this opportunity to thank the Watch and Ward staff and all those people who help us in running this House.

With these words, I will only say about me that I know that there have been times when there was temper in the House, and perhaps the temper afflicted me also.

I would like only to recite one couplet of Urdu. I hope the Members will understand it;

चला जाता हूँ हसना खेलता
मौजे हवादिस से ।
अगर आसानियां हो जिंदगी
दुश्वार हो जाये ॥

It is the ways. The translation is that I try to fight the difficulties in life, and I am quite happy about it. If I think that my life should become easier, it will be difficult for me to live. Thank you.

I will request the Leader of the Opposition to say a few words.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI P. SHIV SHAN-KER) : Madam Deputy Chairman, in spite of the fact that I had been the Leader of the House for quite some time, perhaps, this is the first occasion that I am availing this opportunity to thank the hon. Members in the longest session of the year.

Madam, we have passed through difficult times. Still, at the end, perhaps, it would be in the fitness of things to say that we deserve the compliments for whatever work we have done.

Whether the Government had been able to complete its work according to schedule, whether the Government is satisfied with the work, is a matter which my hon. friend sitting on the other side may observe. But I consider the position of the membership of this House as a matter of trust, a sacred trust that we hold for the nation. To me it is a matter of introspection, introspection for each and every Member as to whether we have really discharged our duty as a trustee.

Madam, needless to say that this institution is one of the highest institutions of this country with a population of more than 800 million people. This is a country of tremendous diversity, a diversity the like of which we shall never find in any country on the surface of this globe. I have often felt that it is unique because people of all the religions of the world live here. In the majority community we have thousands and thousands of castes and sub-castes. They speak different languages. People have different dressing habits. Even the habits of food differ. They belong to different regions. And added to this is tremendous illiteracy and poverty. Therefore, the Members of this

243 RS—10.

House have undoubtedly a tremendous responsibility. Whether we have been able to keep ourselves up to this sacred trust and have been able to properly discharge our duties is a matter of introspection in which each Member of the House has to indulge in himself. And if we do not do it, I am sorry to say that we have not served the cause for which we have come here.

This position is transitory. In life every position is transitory. As I was trying to say the other day what will remain permanent with us is the label "ex-MP". Now, this transitory position, this position of trust and the discharge of our duties will go down in the history and would be judged by the posterity. It is this which makes our task more onerous, more responsible and naturally other behavioural pattern will have to articulate itself in order to achieve this objective.

Madam, as it is often said, all roads of life lead to the belly. Whatever may be the hue and colour of the party—we might belong to different parties—when once we come here and we become the hon. Members in this House, our duty is to participate in the debates, in the interaction, the discussion for the purposes of that high goal of achieving the egalitarianism in this country, the welfare society, which is our objective and aim. Unless every debate here proceeds in the background and the backdrops of the ideological conviction of the party and the thrust is on the discussion and the debate, I regret we would be doing a disservice to this nation and a great injustice for the cause for which we represent.

It often happens that in the cut and thrust of the debate many a time certain unsavoury happenings take place. But I am sure that immediately after that when we start looking back with a little bit of introspection all of us are bound to realise, if we have really

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker] served the cause for which we have come. This is the question which must be uppermost in our mind for the purposes of realising whether we are sitting here as Members for the narrow parochial outlooks, whether we are sitting here to subserve our own cause of earning a few chips, or whether we are really sitting here to serve that great cause for the needs and the necessities of 800 million people.

9 P.M.

In fact, I consider the end of the session as an occasion for introspection. I am sure all of us are committed to the betterment of this nation, that too through the democratic process. We know that teeming millions in this country are still suffering from hunger, poverty and squalor. So that commitment of ours how far we have been able to fulfil is a matter that we should introspect. If we have not really stood up to that cause, I regret that we will go down in history as person who have wasted the time, energy and also have unduly utilised the advantages that have been provided by this nation to us. I would not like to say beyond that. I must thank all the Members here. I would not like to discriminate anybody. Of course, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman have gone through tensions and I am sure that a person like me would never have been able to sit on this Chair. I have my own failings and shortcomings. If I could not sit as a Judge for more than 10 months where I should have sat for 18 years, I am sure I would not have been able to sit on this Chair. But I must in all earnestness compliment the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman and also thank them for the way in which they have tried to steer the proceedings of this House.

I would thank the Leader of the House. In spite of the fact that many a time there had been tre-

mendous provocations, he had been trying to keep his calm, trying to guide the House in the ablest of the traditions.

I should also thank the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He sits more, he enjoys more in the "House of the in-laws" as he has put it this mornings But none-the-less whenever the daughter-in-law comes back to the parental home, she is received with all the affection.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR
(Uttar Pradesh) : Without dowry.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : He ' has been able to push through quite a bit of work. I cannot say that he has been able to push through the work to his satisfaction but I would like to assure him that the Leader of the House has been more than a substitute for the work of the Government. I have had the very recent knowledge of Mr. Gurupadaswamy. In fact, when I used to sit there and he used to sit here, I did not have that high opinion. But once he has gone there, I am realising what a super person has become. I am sure he must be thinking what a mischievous person Shiv Shanker has become after moving to this side. I must thank the Secretariat and the staff for the way they have helped all of us to get through the business.

I would, in the end, only submit that in spite of the little commotions that have taken place in this House, we proceed on the premise of forget and forgive and look forward for the next Session where I hope when we meet after introspection, we shall carry out quite a good deal of business of the House in the larger interests of the country and the society. I would end up, Madam, with an Urdu couplet since you have also ended up with an Urdu couplet.

किरदार से बनाइये मयार जिंदगी,
माहील से हयात कः सोदा न कीजिये ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who rarely visits this House, might use this occasion to speak something.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.

UPENDRA) : Madam Deputy Chairman, it is indeed great relief to come to the end of such a long Session. After 1977, perhaps, this House is meeting till June and we have transacted quite a lot of business. The hon. Leader of the Opposition asked whether I am satisfied. I would have been satisfied if some of the important Bills also had been passed but I cannot blame the Members of this House and in fact, I also realise it was impossible to go through those Bills in the short time available at our disposal. One achievement was that all this heavy schedule of business was completed without hosting any dinner to the Members and I do not know whether I was miserly or unkind. I sincerely apologise to the hon. Members for the inconvenience caused not only on this account but on skipping the lunch hours and sitting long hours and I am very happy that the Members on both sides cooperated in completing the business. Madam, I thank the Chairman for his fatherly guidance and for landing dignity to the office of Chairman, in conducting the proceedings of this House. Madam, I know, what strain you had to go through and but for you, probably, all this business would not have been completed. Your deft handling of the House Was responsible for this achievement. I also thank the Vice-Chairman on the panel, who also contributed to this work. Madam, Mr. Shiv Shanker and you

also commented upon my absence in this House and Mr. Shiv Shanker already had given the answer for that. I was never afraid or sceptical about anything about this House. I know with three of you cooperating here—the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and yourself—nothing could go wrong here. But "once beaten twice shy" is my experience in Lok Sabha. One, I thought it prudent to be always alert and get to the business there and I must thank in- this connection, the Leader of the House, who has done most of my work here though he is not supposed to do it. Mr. Shiv Sharker pointed out several times that it was unfair on my part to ask the Leader of the House to perform the work of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister but we worked as a family and Mr. Gurupadaswamy, with his brotherly affection for me, shouldered most of the burden. I must particularly thank the Leader of the Opposition. I find a great change in him after he switched over sides. He has established such an excellent tradition and he showed how responsibly the Opposition and the Opposition Leader should behave. We cannot claim to have done the same when we were there. With his theoretical knowledge and fair manner, sometimes he gave us advice and guidance and sometimes be incurred the wrath of his: own partymen also. We noticed that; But really, he was very fair on all occasions. When he. was on this side, probably, he had to defend a number of indefensible things and that is why, perhaps, he was not in his elements at that time.- But today, I must admire his impartiality and fairness as the Leader of 'the Opposition.

I also thank the whips and the leaders of the various parties in this House who collectively. shared the burden here. The Secretary General, his colleagues, the staff

[Shri P.Upendra] the reporters, the various officials of the ministries, the Watch and Ward staff and the press and other media also deserve our thanks.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the contribution made by many vocal Members on both sides. Sometimes, they might have caused irritation to you and to us also, Madam. But today, if you see in this House, it is only those Members who are conscientiously sitting and transacting the business at this late hour, 9 o'clock. Not only today, that is the case every day. That itself shows how conscientious they are towards their duties as Members of Parliament. The heated debates and shoutings are part of the game. Of course, in that also, they could not excel us; we went much beyond. I sincerely thank them, the whole brigade sitting there on our side also, there are many Members like them, including Shri Ram Awadhesh. In fact, we should admire not only their sincerity but their stamina, vocal and physical stamina, also.

Once again, I thank all the Members and we should congratulate ourselves, all of us, on the good work we have done in this Session. And I hope that the same spirit of cooperation will continue in future also. Thank you.

श्री शंकर बसन्त सिंह (बिहार) :
बहुदया, नये सदस्यों के बारे में किसी ने कुछ नहीं कहा, न तो लीडर आफ द हाउस ने कहा, न मिनिस्टर ने।

श्री श्री० उपेन्द्र : लीडर आफ द हाउस बोलेंगे।

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE
(SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY):
Madam Deputy Chairman, you talked of coopera-

tion and tolerance. My friend and colleague, Shri Shiv Shankerji, talked about history and introspection. This is an occasion when we have to say a few things coming from our heart and mind. Both of you and my colleague here, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs have done that. Madam, Parliament is a temple of democracy and we are all working in that temple. But even temples degenerate sometimes. But it should be our effort, it should be our endeavour, to see that this noble edifice is maintained in its pristine glory. We should not allow the noble to become ignoble, the sublime to become the ridiculous. We should not descend from the transcendental heights to abysmal depths.

We have seen in the last few days how this House has worked. It is not for me to comment on those things here and this is not the right occasion either. But I think we should at least remind ourselves of our noble task. We represent the whole nation and this is the supreme instrument of the country. This is a unique place where we interact with each other. The whole nation watches us. Why the whole nation? The entire world watches our proceedings here. We have to remember that we are performing not just ordinary tasks entrusted to us by the constituencies which we represent. We are not mere delegates; we are the real representatives of the nation.

Madam, it was Burke who drew a distinction between a delegate and a representative. He defined what a representative should be. A representative should imbibe in himself the best and the highest and the noblest of the things in the nation. I remember the words of Thomas Hobbes, a great writer, who was the father of the democratic system, democratic theory and thought. While describing the

state of nature, he said that man, in the state of nature, is poor, nasty, brutish and short, and to overcome this, man created democratic institutions, institutions by active consent by the general will. Here, while we are functioning as Members of Parliament, we really have to exercise our general will, if I may say so, the will to general will. In other words, by interaction, by debate, by discussion, we forge a common will. Out of the heat, thrust and the exchanges we create consent. That represents the general will of the nation and we represent that general will. Thin thing has to guide us. Madam, I know the heat in which we are sitting. It is very hot indeed and you have tolerated the heat of the House. You have done very well, guided the deliberations of the House, and I must compliment you, I must give you rich tributes, for having borne with us. In spite of the fact that there were heavy stresses and strains, you have done very well, remarkably well. I convey my sense of appreciation for you. My friend, Shiv Shankerji, has really done well. We have exchanged seats. Perhaps the seats where we sit also have their influence over us. It makes us somewhat good, bad or indifferent, naughty sometimes. Sometimes when Shiv Shankerji walked out from the House, I felt he was walking out rather awkwardly, not like me; I was walking out quite naturally. He was walking out the same as he was used to. I was amused, he had no spirit inside, no compulsion or impulsion or whatever you like to call; he had to walk out..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

It is not his habit.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is not his habit. It was rather amusing to see him walking out. He did very well. He brought Sobriety to the proceedings of the House not only sobriety,

nobility. Sometimes I felt he was not functioning as Leader of the Opposition but as an alternate Leader of the House. In fact, he was doing my work also. That is why sometimes I used to be silent. He has done well. Sometimes I have also felt that both of us have perhaps somewhat isolated ourselves from other Members of the House by our behaviour. I did not carry the entire people with me; he did not carry the entire people with him. That also happened. Anyway, this Session has many interesting lessons to tell us. One thing we should all bear in mind. We are brothers, comrades in arms. We should share the same common spirit, *esprit de corps*. But we should remember by straining the vocal cords, the lungs, it will not create a right atmosphere. Mr. Ahluwalia is a youngster. I like him. He is boisterous. His boisterousness amuses me. But he has to control himself. Mr. Narayanasamy too; he has to restrain himself. Ratnakar Pandeyji, I don't say he is bad at heart; he is a good man. But he attacks everybody. Even today he has attacked me. He likes me outside very much. I like him, too. But he attacks me also. *(Interruptions)* Anyway, I take it all well. The session has ended well, on the whole. We have done good work, in spite of some disturbances, heat and little exchanges now and then.

I must thank also the Secretariat. They have borne the brunt of the work of the House. They are bound to do it, and they will do it. They are competent.

May I, in the end, once again thank all the hon. Members belonging to every party, and every Member individually, for having contributed to the deliberations of the House. I hope and trust that in future sessions there will be less heat and more deliberation, less acrimony and more wisdom

[Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy]

forthcoming. I wish to see more of symphony and less of acrimony. Let not the people think of us that we are irresponsible. We are all responsible. Sometimes we lose ourselves in the heat. Nevertheless, may I hope and trust again that in the next session we would behave like comrades in arms. We may belong to various political parties but we belong to the nation, we belong to each other. With this spirit we should function in future.

Thank you once again, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

Before I adjourn the HOUSE, I wish Members a good holiday in the intercession. I wish all the best and good health to everyone. As I adjourn the House I remember a few lines which I read some time ago. "If death lives so beautifully, if death is the end of life, God may himself feel sorry for having ended thy career."

With these words I adjourn the House *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at twenty-eight minutes past nine of the Clock.