

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

FELICITATIONS TO NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is unanimously elected.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with immense pleasure and with great satisfaction that I extend my hearty congratulations to Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla for having been unanimously elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. It is a strange coincidence, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that her predecessor laid down the office for the purpose of party work and in 1986, similarly, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, had also laid down the office for the purpose of party work. In a way, it is a home-coming for her because she has already occupied this position and even before that, she was on the panel of the Vice-Chairmen. To the office that she has been unanimously elected, she brings to bear the very rich experience of having presided over the House in the capacity of a Vice-Chairman as also in the capacity of the Deputy Chairman. Therefore, nothing much can be said about her. Tremendous encomiums were paid to her at the time when she had occupied the position in 1985 and equally, at the time when she laid down her office. She has a multi-faceted personality. She has tremendous educational qualifications. She had been doing quite a bit of social service. She had been an author. Therefore, when she occupies this position, she brings to bear her multi-faceted qualities on this office. In recent times, she was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1987. She had been rendering yeoman service as the Chairman of the Indo-Arab Society and as the Editor-in-Chief of 'Hamari Goshti', she had been doing a tremendous service in the cultural field to establish better relations between the people of the Soviet Union and our own country. Sir, I would

not like to take much time. I would heartily congratulate her once again and I am sure that in the office that she occupies she would acquit her duties with great erudition and capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla will now be conducted to her seat by one from this side and one from the Opposition. Now, Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely happy that Shrimati Najma Heptulla was unanimously elected to the Chair as the Deputy Chairman. In a way, it is a return of Najma Heptulla to the Chair. She occupied the Chair and conducted the proceedings very ably as the Deputy Chairman in the past. We have not forgotten her charm, her sweetness and her versatility in conducting the proceedings of the House when she occupied the Chair. As the Leader of the House has put it, a lady was followed by a lady. Pratibha Patil was the Deputy Chairman till now. Now we have Najma. It is a good change. India is the largest democracy and it should also be an effective democracy. To ensure that the parliamentary institutions should function well, the key element, the kingpin, of the parliamentary institutions is the presiding officer. The presiding officers are the custodians of the rights and privileges of the House. The success of the deliberations largely depends upon them. With Najma as the Deputy Chairperson I am sure she will be as impartial, as fair and she will be as charming as she is beautiful in the Chair...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): You are inviting trouble from the other beauties.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I only wish to say on this occasion that the ruling party should have consulted us before choosing Najma for this august Chair. We would have gladly accepted the suggestion. I thought they would consult us. They did not do it. Anyway I am happy indeed that we have got a nice, charming, fairly experienced, person in the Chair. I hope and trust that she will not be re-

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

moved so soon. I would like her to be in the Chair for a long time unless she is promoted. Once again I congratulate her on her election. I wish her well and I wish her also godspeed. Thank you.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I congratulate Mrs. Heptulla on her being unanimously elected as Deputy Chairman. I would request her to keep in mind that now she is representing not only the ruling party, also the Opposition. This should always be kept in mind because she will have to tackle this House which sometimes becomes so turbulent, goes beyond control. That is why it requires maturity, it requires flexibility and a certain type of convention, tradition, has been created in this House at least; I realised it after coming into this House. I was for a long period in Lok Sabha. So able tackling and impartiality is the requirement of the present situation if really democracy is to be upheld. I hope she will prove herself to be worthy of the responsibility. I congratulate her once again on her unanimous election.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, I on behalf of my party and on behalf of myself congratulate Najmaji on her re-election to the post of Deputy Chairman. In addition to the irresistible charm she has, she is very tactful too. Yesterday, we had proposed a name from the Opposition side to be on the safe side. But the moment we came to know that she was the choice of the ruling party, we were quick to retrace our step. That shows she could charm the Opposition within twenty-four hours, even before her election.

Sir, she conducted the proceedings of the House ably, with a large amount of fairness and objectivity, and that is the reason why we wanted to facilitate her unanimous election again. When she was moved from here for a party assignment, I had my own doubts whether such a sophisticated person would fit in the humdrum of the political office in No. 24-Akbar Road. I was hoping that she would come back definitely, at least as a Minister. But we are very happy that she is here to conduct the proceedings of the

House and if she has lost any objectivity during her small assignment in the party office, I am sure she would regain it very soon and be fair to all sections of the House. When some Members like me came new to the House, we had the privilege of being guided by her and she knew the art of moulding the ebullient and the irresponsible. And I think I can share a secret also. Whenever she found somebody was going to be troublesome, she used to call him for her for dinner in her house...

DR. BAPU KALDATE (Maharashtra): That we were not knowing!

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: ...and she used to feed us fully with biryani and firnis and the next day we almost felt sleepy. But we have graduated from that position now and no amount of biryani and firnis would do anything to us and we will not be influenced by that.

Sir, she could handle the proceedings of the House with great tact and objectivity and with a sense of fairness. Coming from an illustrious family, the family of the great Maulanaji, it is an added qualification for her, and I am very positive that she will be able to assist you in conducting the proceedings of this House ably and admirably.

Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, उस दिन हमने विदाई दी थी, आज हम बधाई दे रहे हैं। यह सुखद संयोग है कि विदाई लेने वाली भी महिला थीं और बधाई लेने वाली भी महिला है।

श्री सभापति : : हम आप को बधाई देना चाहते हैं।

श्री रऊफ बलीउल्लाह (गुजरात) वह दिन कब आयेंगा ?

श्री सभापति : वह समझ गये। हम सोचते थे अमेरिका से आयेंगे तो बधाई देंगे।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : महिला का स्थान महिला ने लिया है यह संतोष का विषय हो सकता है मगर बहुत आनन्द का विषय नहीं है। आनन्द तो तभी होगा जब कोई महिला पुरुष का स्थान लेगी। नाजमा जी की वापसी है। जब वह पहले उपसभापति थीं मैं इस सदन का सदस्य नहीं था। लेकिन दूसरे सदन में बैठ कर उनकी तारीफ सुना करता था। वाद में पता लगा कि संगठन के लिए उनकी सेवाओं की आवश्यकता है। लेकिन वह सेवाएं लम्बी नहीं चलीं, खुशी की बात है। लेकिन जहां तक प्रतिभा जी का सवाल है, मैं चाहता हूं उनकी सेवाएं लम्बी चलें। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि उनकी सेवाएं भी छोटी कर दी जायें।

उपसभापति के रूप में नाजमा जी ने अपने दायित्व का बड़ी सुन्दरता से पालन किया। जिस दल का सदन में बहुमत है और जिसके बल पर निर्वाचन होता है उसकी ओर थोड़ा झुकना तो हमारी समझ में आ सकता है। लेकिन अगर अध्यक्ष की पीठ की गरिमा का पालन न हो और पक्षपात ऐसा हो जाय तो चुभने लगे तो संसद की संस्था दुर्बल होती है, अध्यक्ष का पद भी अपना महत्व खोता है। जल्दी-जल्दी उपाध्यक्ष बदलना, मैंने उस दिन भी टिप्पणी की थी, यह भी ठीक नहीं है। उपाध्यक्ष का पद संसदीय संस्था का एक अंग है। उसको भी दृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता है। व्यक्ति को निखरने का, व्यक्ति को अपनी क्षमता की परिसीमा तक पहुंचने का अगर अवसर मिले तो संसद के संचालन में और सार्वजनिक जीवन में लाभदायक होगा।

नाजमा जी ऊँचे खानदान से हैं, पुराने खानदान से हैं। खानदान ऊँचा है, मगर परिधान आधुनिक है। ऐसा लगता है कि वे दो युगों का मेल करती हैं। उन्होंने जूलजी में एम.ए. किया है और काडियाथोरेसिक में उन्होंने डाक्टरेट किया है। वे वैज्ञानिक हैं। इतनी विद्या सम्पन्न महिला राजनीति में आ गई, कम आती है।

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (मध्य प्रदेश) : जैसे सभापति जी हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सभापति जी भी अपवादों में हैं। लेकिन मुझे इसलिए खुशी है कि वे भोपाल से संबंधित हैं। महाराष्ट्र वाले भले ही उन पर दावा करें, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश वाले उन पर दावा छोड़ने वाले नहीं हैं। भोपाल तालों की नगरी है और बम्बई में सागर है।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माडवराव जाखव (महाराष्ट्र) : ये लड़की को छोड़ना नहीं चाहते हैं, वह हमारी होती हुए भी।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सागरा में विस्तार है, मगर सागर में कमल पैद नहीं होता। कमल पैदा करने के लिए तो भोपाल में आना पड़ेगा। मैं नाजमा जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं। हम लोग उनके साथ पूरा सहयोग करेंगे, यह आश-वासन देना चाहते हैं। अगर हम पहले पता लग जाता कि नाजमा जी सत्ता पक्ष की उम्मीदवार होने वाली हैं तो शायद इस बात की मांग करते हुए भी कि हम से पूछो, हमारी राय लो, हम मान लेते। लेकिन उन्होंने सलाह भी नहीं दिखाई। जब मैंने अपने मित्रों से पूछा कि हमारी तरफ से किस का नाम था तो नाम था श्री लक्ष्मण जी का। महिलाओं के मामले में लक्ष्मण को लाना ठीक नहीं है। अगर जरूरी ही था तो हम महिषी जी को ल. सकते थे, फिर मुकाबला हो जाता लेकिन मुकाबले की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी। अध्यक्ष जी, आपको हमने सर्वसम्मति से चुना है और अब उपाध्यक्ष भी सर्वसम्मति से चुन रहे हैं। इस सदन के कूल माहौल पर इसका अच्छा असर होगा, ऐसा मुझे विश्वास है। इन शब्दों के साथ बहुत-बहुत बधाई।

श्री बीरेन्द्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय चेयरमैन माह्व, मैं अपनी ओर अपने दल की ओर से शिक्षाविद योग्यतम महिला श्रीमती नाजमा हेपतुल्ला साहिबा की निर्विरोध सर्वसम्मति से इस माननीय सदन का उपाध्यक्ष चुने जाने पर हृदय

[श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा]

से बधाई देता हूँ। लगभग एक वर्ष तक उन्होंने इसी पद को सुशोभित किया है। और अपनी योग्यता का परिचय सदन के संचालन में उन्होंने दिया था। अब पुनः उसी पद को वे सुशोभित करेंगी और अपने पक्ष का तो समर्थन उनको मिलेगा ही विपक्ष का भी हृदय से उनको समर्थन प्राप्त होगा, ऐसा मुझे विश्वास है। हम उनसे यह अपेक्षा करेंगे कि इस माननीय सदन की गरिमा को बनाये रखने के लिए लोकतंत्र के हित में और अपनी गरिमा को बनाये रखने के खातिर दयाशक्ति उनकी यह चेष्टा होगी कि वह निष्पक्षता से, जहाँ वे दृढ़ता से बस करेगी वहाँ निष्पक्षता और निष्ठा के साथ भी कार्य करती हुई अपने दायित्व के सफल निर्वहन में सफल होंगी। इस सद्भावना के साथ मैं उनको पुनः बधाई देता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I am much pleased to congratulate Mrs. Najma Heptulla for having been elected unanimously once again to the office of Deputy Chairman. We are aware of the fact that in political life many persons are quite competent to occupy higher offices. But some persons get the opportunity. Amongst some, a few persons establish their prudence, wisdom and knowledge. I frankly admit that Mrs. Najma Heptulla is one amongst them. When she was first elected to this office, I had the opportunity to take her to the Chair. When I came to know that Mrs. Najma Heptulla is the grand daughter of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, my regard and respect towards her became much more. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad wrote a book titled "India Wins Freedom". Our Najma has created a record by her deed and demeanour that Najma wins opposition.

Sir, to administer an elected body, especially Rajya Sabha, is not an easy task because the Chair has to deal with equals. It requires patience, to-

lerance and eminence. No doubt, democracy is the rule of majority. The will of majority must prevail. As stated by Jefferson, that will to be rightful must be reasonable. It is more important that that will to be rightful must be reasonable. The Chair has to decide what is reasonable in the midst of controversy and various interpretations. Since Najma is a research scholar, I honestly believe that she will be very successful in her task. Once again, on behalf of Anna D.M.K. I congratulate her and felicitate her.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after brilliant speeches by many of the opposition leaders and especially Vajpayee Ji who has said all that should be said on behalf of all of us, I do not think that I have much more to say except a few points which I will touch.

One of the points that has been raised is that a Deputy Chairman, once elected, should continue in office for a longer period. That was the point which was taken up even yesterday. Today also the same point was taken up and it was said that she may continue in office for some more years and that she may not again be taken back for party work or for something else within a short time. Of course, the rider was given by another esteemed colleague of mine who said that if at all she is taken away from the position of Deputy Chairman, it should be only by means of a promotion. So, we want the Chairman also to continue for a long time because I do not know promotion means that the Deputy Chairman should occupy the Chair of the Chairman. And in a quick succession it may not also be good. I think, the Chairman should also continue, and the promotion may be elsewhere and not on the Chair of the Chairman. That is what I immediately thought.

Again, Sir, I had an opportunity of meeting her when I was one of the Presiding Officers of Tamil Nadu in one of the conferences which was held in Ooty. At that time we were informed that a lady Presiding Officer from Rajya Sabha will attend and will inaugurate the Conference. And when we all went there with the expectation that the lady Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha would be quite old, we were really surprised, many of my colleagues from Tamil Nadu Assembly and the Council were really surprised to see a young lady to be the Presiding Officer of the Rajya Sabha. And we were all very happy and we were all very much impressed not only by her erudition, by her cleverness and her parliamentary acumen, but also by her presence in the very august place where she gave the training. Sir, we had also another opportunity of meeting her at the Presiding Officers' Conference at Lucknow. There also we found that she acquitted herself extremely well. Then, Sir, out of real curiosity, at that time we wanted to take out her bio-data and we wanted to see what her qualifications were. It was my motivation to find that her basic qualification was not Sociology but Zoology, and she has done research not in economics but in anatomy. So, I was really surprised how this kind of qualification has stood her in good stead to be in politics.

Sir, another thing that has been mentioned which I may also like to touch upon is what Upendra ji told here that she has got away with the turbulence of the Members, she has kept the turbulent Members calm by giving them dinners. Sir, my temperament is never to be turbulent in any House. But after hearing Upendraji, I think, I am rather feeling that why should I also not become turbulent so that I may be invited for dinner at her place. But Upendraji said that he has passed that age and that even dinners will not quieten him. But, Sir,

I can definitely tell our hon. Deputy Chairman that I am still in a position that I may get quietened by her dinner. So, she may invite me for some more dinners hereafter whenever the House is turbulent.

Sir, I may add one more thing about which I dwelt yesterday. The post of Deputy Chairman is different from that of the Chairman. The Chairman has got one place to sit. But the Deputy Chairman has got two places, as a Member in the House he has got a seat, and also in the Chair. But it can be very well quite seen that the seat of the Deputy Chairman is not put along with the Treasury Benches but only with the Opposition benches and that too always it is near the Leader of the Opposition. That would only mean, Sir, as Deputy Chairman she should be more considerate to the Opposition rather to the Treasury Benches to which she belongs.

Sir, I hope she will remember these points, and during her period, I am sure, as in the case of her predecessor, we will have happy rulings, we will have no turbulence in this House as it has been happening during the last one year, and that she will be conducting the affairs of this august House in an exemplary manner. I congratulate her on behalf of my Party and wish her all the best in her life.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) :
सभापति महोदय, मेरे लिये यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि नाजमा जी फिर उप-सभापति के पद पर आ गई हैं। मैं अपने दिल की ओर से उनको बधाई दे रहा हूँ। वे एकमत से चुनी गई हैं यह और भी प्रसन्नता की बात है। शासक पार्टी के लिए यह और भी ज्यादा प्रसन्नता की बात है कि जब विपक्ष के नेता बिरयानी और व्यूटी पर मुग़्त हो रहे हैं तो आगे का काम और भी आसान हो जाएगा मैं अपनी तरफ से यह सोच रहा था कि उनके लिए यह काम कोई बठिन काम नहीं होगा क्योंकि पिछले वर्षों में

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

उन्होंने इस काम को अच्छे ढंग से अदा किया है। शासक पार्टी ने ही उनका सर्विस ब्रेक कर दिया था और अभी फिर रिटनस्टेट भी उन्होंने ही कर दिया है। दर्द भी उन्होंने ही दिया और दवा भी उन्होंने ही दी है। इसलिए मुझे उनसे कोई शिकायत नहीं कि आपने यह काम किया है। लेकिन मुझे एक बात की जरूर चिन्ता है। अपने देश में अभी राजनीतिक टकराव का वक्त चल रहा है जिससे हम विपक्ष के लोग और शासक पार्टी के लोग टकराएंगे ही। कम से कम आने वाले चुनाव तक और भी टकराव होंगे ही, उनमें नाजमा जी का काम आपन नहीं होगा और उस वक्त वे खयाल करेंगी तथा जिस पद पर हैं उसकी गरिमा को देखते हुए अच्छे ढंग से काम चलायेंगी, दोनों तरफ के पुलस एण्ड स्ट्रिंग्स को समझते हुए सदन का काम सुचारु रूप से चलायेंगी ऐसा मुझे पूरा विश्वास है। एक बार फिर मैं उनकी बधाई देता हूँ।

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI (West Bengal): Sir, I have nothing much to add except to say that I associate myself heartily with the sentiments of felicitation that have been expressed. I wish her all success in her second term as Deputy Chairman in the House. Thank you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference I extend to Dr. Najma Heptulla heartiest congratulations for her re-election as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I recall with nostalgia the remarks that she made when she was first elected as the Deputy Chairman. She said at that time that though she belonged to the Congress Party, but when she will be in the Chair, she will think that she is not a Congress-man but the custodian of the entire House. I hope that she will live up to those expectations.

Sir, I find from her degrees that she has done her Ph. D. in Cardiac Anatomy. Now,

Sir, for the last six years she has known every Member by name and even closely and she must have known the cardiac anatomy of each and every Member. On the basis of that knowledge that she has and on the basis of the Ph. D. application to the Members of this House, I hope that she will live up to the traditions that she had set forth here in the House during her previous term as also the genetic geneology she has inherited from that great Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

I extend to her my heartiest congratulations and wish her Godspeed in her new assignment.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir, on behalf of my Party and on behalf of myself I offer my hearty congratulations to Najmaji for her being elected to the seat of Deputy Chairman. Sir, in my two and a half years of Parliamentary life I came into contact with Najmaji on many occasions. Probably, I have hardly met such a scholarly lady with dignity and grace, who has commanded the confidence of the entire House. And, naturally, Sir, we women feel greatly flattered when we see one of us being elected to the high office of Deputy Chairman, and that too unanimously, in a House where women are in a negligible minority.

I do hope, Sir, that she will bear with all the weather that probably we will create in the House and I wish her all success.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जब मैं इस सदन में आया था तो श्री श्याम लाल यादव जी उपसभापति थे। ठीक उसके बाद जब लोकसभा के चुनाव हुए तो डा० नाजमा हेपतुल्ला का चुनाव उपसभापति के पद पर हुआ और यह बहुत ही प्रसन्नता की बात है कि आज दुबारा सर्व सम्मति से डा० हेपतुल्ला उपसभापति की कुर्सी पर विराजमान होने जा रही हैं।

माननीय सभापति जी, डा० हेपतुल्ला इस देश के महान देशभक्त और महान स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानी मौलाना अबुल कलाम आज़ाद की दोहवीं हैं जिन्होंने आजीवन भारत के बटवारे का विरोध किया था। मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि उनकी जो व्यवस्थाएँ थीं उससे इस सदन की गरिमा देश में न केवल बड़ी बल्कि लोकतंत्र भी सुदृढ़ हुआ।

मान्यवर, अभी स्वामीनाथन जी ने इस बात की चर्चा की कि उपसभापति जी जब सभापति की कुर्सी पर विराजमान की जाती हैं तो उनका स्थान वहाँ से बायीं तरफ होता है और इस सदन में जब उपसभापति जी बैठती हैं तो वे दायीं तरफ बैठती हैं। मैं इस सदन से आश्वासित हूँ कि उपसभापति जी जब सभापति की कुर्सी पर विराजमान होंगी तो विपक्ष की ओर जो बायीं तरफ बैठता है, ज्यादा ध्यान देंगी और केवल उसलिए कि विपक्ष की संख्या इस सदन में अल्पमत में होती है और लोकतंत्र में बहुमत चलना चाहिए लेकिन अल्पमत की राय का भी अंदाज लगाना चाहिए और अल्पमत की राय को मानना चाहिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ एक बार पुनः मैं उन्हें बधाई देता हूँ इस आशा और विश्वास के साथ कि सदन की जो गरिमा है उनमें आपसे और चार चांद सँगेगे।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके द्वारा मैं नाजमा जी को हृदय से बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और साथ में नेता विरोधी दलों का भी हृदय से धन्यवाद करता हूँ और बधाई देना चाहता हूँ इसलिए कि इस पद का चुनाव सर्वसम्मति से कराने में उनकी बहुत बड़ी भूमिका है। मैं नाजमा जी से एक बात जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि विपक्ष की एक कमजोरी है जो आज हमें मालूम हो गई कि वह नाराज भी होते हैं और दावत भी लेते हैं। वह डबल काम करते हैं। इसलिए हम कहीं महरूम न रह जाएँ क्योंकि नाराजगी तो हम कर नहीं सकते हम तो बंधे हुए हैं, लेकिन नाराजगी में समय भी न पाएँ और

दावत भी न खाएँ तो यह ज़रा हम मुश्किल में पड़ गए। मैं जरूर मानता हूँ यह पद ऐसा है जिस पर बड़ी भारी सहनशक्ति की नहीं बल्कि तपस्या की जरूरत है। कठोर शब्द भी कभी-कभी सुनने पड़ जाते हैं और साथ ही कठोर दृश्य भी देखने पड़ जाते हैं, इसलिए उस वक्त नाराज लोगों को मनाने की क्षमता भी तो होनी चाहिए, पर दावत दे कर नहीं होनी चाहिए, इतना मेरा जरूर कहना है।

डा० श्रीमती नाजमा हेपतुल्ला : बिरयानी तो आप खाते ही हैं, विकल जी।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : बिरयानी नहीं, हम खीर खायेंगे। यहां खीर भी मिलती है। खीर तो है यहां सैन्ट्रल हाल में, ऐसी बात नहीं है। मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस पद पर रह करके वह निष्पक्ष रहेंगी यह तो हमें उम्मीद है और निष्पक्ष हो कर वह सदन के संचालन में और सदन में रूचि कैसे हो यह चेयर की, इस पद की खास जिम्मेदारी है। जो लोग ज्यादा देर तक बैठते हैं उनको कम समय मिले और जो समय-समय पर आयें और ज्यादा समय लेकर चले जायें तो सदन में रूचि नहीं रहती। सदन में ज्यादा रूचि लिवाने की परम्परा आप डालें। दूसरा सदन में सदस्यों को दिल खोल कर विचार व्यक्त करने का मौका भी दें भले ही सदन का समय बढ़ाना पड़े। कभी-कभी यह होता है कि बिज़नेस एडवाइज़री कमेटी की बात तो नहीं कहना चाहता कि समय कम मिलता है लेकिन डेमोक्रेसी को जीवित रहना है तो सदन की उसमें एक भूमिका है और सदन के द्वारा जन-भावनाओं का जाहिर होना बहुत आवश्यक है, चाहे पक्ष के हों या विपक्ष के उन में वह सक्षम है। मैं उनको फिर बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि वह सदन के संचालन में सफल होंगी।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that Najmaji has become the Deputy Chairman

[Shri Jagesh Desai]

of this House, I know her since the last twenty-five years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fifty-five years?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I said that I know her for the last twenty-five years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you said 'fifty-five'.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPSUDRA: Don't increase her age.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, we have worked together in Bombay. I have seen her quality. She has a very intelligent and a very tactful attitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Attitude? I thought you said 'husband'.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: She has the ability to solve every problem.

I am also happy for the reason that she is my sister. On every rakhi day, she ties rakhi on my hand. I am very happy, therefore, that my sister has become the Deputy Chairman of this House.

Sir, on many occasions, tempers run high in the House. I am sure, with her smiling face, tempers will cool down and tension will disappear. I wish her success and on behalf of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, I assure her that we shall give full co-operation to her in conducting the Business of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I join the Leader of the House and Leaders of the various groups and others in offering my warm felicitations to Dr. Najma Heptulla on her election as the Deputy Chairman of this House.

Dr. Najma Heptulla has come back to this seat after nearly three years and is bringing with her rich experience. I have no doubt that she will be able to preside over the deliberations of this House as ably and competently as she did in her last stint. During the period she was not occupying the Chair, she has been an active Member of this House and has been taking keen interest in its functioning. There is, therefore, a sort of conti-

nuty. Since she has been in touch with the methods and moods of this House, I am quite sure that she will be able to soften the ruffled tempers by her tact and charm. I once again congratulate her and wish her success in office of Deputy Chairman.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think perhaps this is the last time—I hope so—that I this is the last time—I hope so—that I thank you, the Leader of the House and Members of different political parties and groups and other Members who have spoken such complimentary words for me on this occasion which is given to me by our leader, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whom I also thank.

Sir, I have had the privilege of having your guidance since I was in college while I was doing my Phd degree and also when I started my career as a lecturer you were the Minister for Education, Madhya Pradesh. I hope I will have the same support and guidance from you in performing my duties.

Sir, today our Prime Minister is not with us here because he is performing a more pleasant duty of receiving President Gorbachev, Madam Raisa Gorbacheva, the great friends of India and crusaders of peace. Sir, in this House we have discussed disarmament and peace on many an occasion and I was fortunate enough to be presiding in this House in 1985 when we congratulated and passed a resolution on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's efforts for the 6-nation Nuclear Disarmament Conference. The 1986 Summit of President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi led to signing of INF treaty. I hope that 1988 meeting will lead to total disarmament and peace and survival for the mankind.

Sir, when I was elected last time it was barely three months after the martyrdom of our most beloved leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and what I had said I would like to quote that the one person I admired, respected and adored was not with us and my happiness was mingled with a touch of sadness. Today again it is the

wish of providence that I have been given this responsibility on the eve of her birthday tomorrow.

Sir, it is also a very significant occasion that our country is celebrating the centenary of our great leader and son of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the supporter of democracy, socialism and secularism. I hope, as he upheld the lofty ideals of democracy in our country all his life we would do so in his memory. Sir, we are also celebrating the centenaries of a galaxy of great freedom fighters, like Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, my grand-uncle, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and many others.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
Also of Acharya Narendra Dev and Acharya Kriplani.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTUL-
LA: Yes, Sir, all those freedom fighters whom we know and also those whose names we do not know, who fought under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to free this country, who believed in secularism and democracy. I hope we will remember that we have got this freedom after a great struggle and we will protect it to the best of our ability.

Sir, I had crossed this floor before the enactment of the Anti-Defection Bill. Then I was in the Chair when the Bill was enacted. Now I again cross the floor without being affected by this. I think I am perhaps the only privileged person to have been doing this.

Sir, yesterday Mr. Gurupadaswamy said that I should be on his side. Sir, as a Presiding Officer, I certainly cannot take sides, but I assure him that I will be beside him.

Sir, last time the Prime Minister was here when I was elected. He said in his speech that I should spill over the charms that I have to the Members with whom you have brought me to sit. It is a long time — almost four years. I do not know how much charm is left in me...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
Still a lot is there.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTUL-
LA: ...but whatever is left, I would definitely spill it all over the House.

Sir, Mr. Upendra disclosed a closely guarded secret which happened behind the scenes in the chambers and he said that the 'Biryani' and 'Pheerni' made them go to sleep. But now that he has grown out of it, I will have to think of some other measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To make him sleep.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTUL-
LA: Perhaps if I am not being quoted later on, I would not use the drugs, but may be I will have to use some other methods to keep him quiet.

अटल बिहारी जी ने बड़े सुन्दर शब्दों में स्वागत किया है। मैं उनको आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने इस बात को याद रखा कि मेरा कुछ ताल्लुक मध्यप्रदेश और भोपाल से है। सर, भोपाल का तो यह परंपरा रहा है कि उस स्टेट में तीन जनरेशंस तक महिलाओं का राज रहा है। तो राज तो नहीं करेंगे, परंतु प्रिसाइड जरूर करेंगे।

Mr. Swaminathan asked how my qualifications as a Zoologist would help. I think as a Zoologist I learn the animal behaviour and human beings are also a part of the animal kingdom. Once I had told one of our Members over here when he was elected to the House and he asked me the same question, that after qualifying as a Zoologist what better place would here be than to come to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Sir, I thank, once again, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, all the other Members, especially the Panel Members and Jagesh Desai Ji, Sir, Mr. Shiv Shanker has a very mysterious way of appearing, disappearing and again appearing over here! A few moments ago, when I started, he was there, but I was presenting him compliments *in absentia*. I thank all of you and hope the sentiments that you have expressed and the confidence that you have reposed in me will make me run the House as efficient-

ly or, perhaps, more efficiently, because we do not run this House only with the help of the Rule Book. I have noticed it and have said it once from the Chair that we run this House with the help and co-operation of all the Members—on the right—on the left and at the centre.

I thank you, Sir, once again, for giving me this opportunity of serving with you.

Thank you.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, on behalf of Shri M. L. Fotedar I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1987-88 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6718/88 for (i) and (ii)]

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

I. Tamil Nadu Municipal Corporation Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 (No. 2 of 1988)

II. Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Amendment Rules, 1988

III. Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 1988

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Tamil Nadu Municipal Corporation Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 (No. 2 of 1988) enacted by the President, under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Tamil Nadu State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6707/88.]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Urban Development, Notification G.S.R. No. 717, dated the 3rd September, 1988, publishing the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Amendment Rules, 1988, under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6708/88.]

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Urban Development, Notification G.S.R. No. 757, dated the 24th September, 1988, publishing the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 46 of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976, together with an explanatory memorandum on the Notification [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6709/88]

Report (1985-86) of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighth Annual Report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1985-86 together with the Memorandum of action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6733/88.]