

I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

FAREWELL TO RETIRING NOMINATED MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today we bid farewell to six of our nominated colleagues, namely, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Shri Dara Singh, Shrimati Hema Malini, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao and Shri Ram Jethmalani, who are retiring on the 26th August, 2009 on completion of their term of office.

I place on record my heartfelt appreciation of the valuable contributions made by the retiring nominated Members in the deliberations of the House and by making the debate of this House rich and lively. They would be missed by all of us in the House. I do hope that the retiring Members would carry with them happy memories of their association with this august House. I am confident that they would continue to serve the nation with the same vigour and earnestness as had been shown by them in the House. Wherever they may be, I wish them well and many more years of fruitful service to the nation.

DR. BIMAL JALAN (Nominated): Sir, with your permission, I would like to take a few minutes of this House to express my personal thanks to you, and through you, to Mr. Dy. Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen for the courtesy extended to us. I must say that for a non-political, non-Party, nominated Member, it has been a unique privilege to be a part of this House and I am most grateful for that.

Sir, as I look back over the last six years, which is a fairly long time, I must make a specific mention of the progress that has been made in making the proceedings in the House more orderly without disruption. I must express my personal appreciation, and, I am sure, I am speaking for our country, as a whole, when I say that the consensus that you have been able to bring about among the Members of this entire House in conducting a disruption-free House, mostly, is something about which we can all be very proud of.

Sir, while I speak, I must also say that the Secretariat of Rajya Sabha has performed a service which is unique in many ways. Among our outside colleagues, and I am sure — I have been a member of the Executive in my professional capacity for many years in different Ministries and the Reserve Bank — there is a lot of dissatisfaction with the working of, what you call, our bureaucracy or the Civil Service. But if you want to see exemplary behaviour, I would say it is that of the Secretariat. For example, I am surprised at the fact that the verbatim record of proceedings of the House can be recorded — we see Parliamentary Reporters coming in for

taking down the proceedings — and made available to us the very next morning. It is something that proves to me that you can really do what you want to do provided you have the will, provided you have the autonomy and provided you have the power. And I am saying this not only as a matter of formality but something that is really being done. And most of us who want to improve delivery of services, most of us who want to alleviate poverty, or do whatever we want to do, we can say that it is within our power, if we have the will.

Finally, Sir, I must also express my gratitude to the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister — the country is extremely fortunate to have a leader of that stature, of that quality and of that intellectual background — the present Leader of Opposition, the previous Leaders of the Opposition, who may have political differences, but who, when it comes to the crunch, are together, and other Members of the House who have given us unfailing courtesy all the time. This has particularly been because of our non-party status, and I must thank them for all their courtesy as I leave the House. I would be leaving the House, but I would continue to be a citizen of this House and I will be watching the proceedings of the House, and I would certainly be writing and speaking about it from outside. So, this is not the end of my association. In fact, I feel a freer person now although I am leaving. It is amazing to think that as Members of this House, all the 250 of us, represent India, all the castes, all the different languages, all the different States, of hundred crore people of India in this House. You look around; they may have different political views, but they are all Indians. And the only reason we are here is the great democracy that our Constitutional fathers have given us. I wish you well while you conduct this House, and I am grateful for having been given this privilege and opportunity to be here which I didn't really deserve as a non-political person. Thank you.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first and foremost, may I express my deep sense of gratitude to you, and through you, the Deputy Chairman, and all the Members of this House, especially the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of every political party from across the spectrum, for the enormous cooperation and support that I received during my six years in this House!

Sir, I came here from above, I mean, from the Press Gallery there. I used to be there, taking down notes of proceedings. Then, I was deeply honoured when the former President of India, on the advice of the former Prime Minister, nominated me to the House. That time, many people told me that it was very unusual that a person without grey hair was coming in the nominated category. Sir, my beard, has, of course, greyed over the time. This is not anything meant to all my colleagues and friends who have grey hair; some day I will also get it. But, I must thank, particularly the former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for having nominated me at a much younger age than my predecessors.

Sir, at this point of time, I can only say with the feelings and very deep emotions that are running through me of having been a Member of this House and participated in so many debates

and discussions. Sir, I can only refer to a song by Sahir Ludhianvi, which, I think, sums up my sentiments and, I think, the sentiments of many Members in this House. With your permission, Sir, if I may quote Sahir Ludhianvi:

मुझसे पहले कितने शायर आए और आकर चले गए,
कुछ आहें भरकर चले गए, कुछ नगमे गाकर चले गए,
वो भी एक पल का किस्सा था, मैं भी एक पल का किस्सा हूँ,
कल तुमसे जुदा हो जाऊंगा, जो आज तुम्हारा हिस्सा हूँ।
कल और आएंगे नगमों की खिलती कलियां चुनने वाले,
मुझसे बेहतर कहने वाले, तुमसे बेहतर सुनने वाले,
कल कोई मुझको याद करे, क्यों कोई मुझको याद करे,
मसरूफ जमाना मेरे लिए, क्यों वक्त अपना बर्बाद करे,
मैं पल दो पल का शायर हूँ, पल दो पल मेरी कहानी है,
पल दो पल की हस्ती है, पल दो पल की रवानी है।”

धन्यवाद।

डा. नारायण सिंह मानकलाव (नाम-निर्देशित) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, सर्वप्रथम में आज इस विदाई के अवसर पर आपका धन्यवाद और आभार प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे सदन के नेता और प्रतिपक्ष के नेता और सभी दलों के नेताओं का तथा सदन के समस्त सदस्यगण का हृदय से आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। छह साल तक इस सदन में एक सदस्य के रूप में मेरे जैसे एक सोशल वर्कर, ग्रॉस रूट पर सामाजिक कार्य करने वाले व्यक्ति का चयन एक अरब लोगों में से 12 लोगों में चुनना, मेरे लिए सौभाग्य की बात थी और उसके लिए मैं तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति जी, तत्कालीन उपराष्ट्रपति जी, तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री जी और तत्कालीन उपप्रधान मंत्री जी तथा तत्कालीन वित्त मंत्री जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने मुझे यह अवसर दिया। यह सदन एक ऐसा कल्पतरु वृक्ष है, जिसके पत्ते पतझड़ में झड़ते नहीं हैं। दूसरे सदन के पत्ते पतझड़ में एक साथ झड़ते हैं और एक साथ ही उगते हैं। यह ऐसा वृक्ष है जिसमें कभी पतझड़ नहीं आती, सदा बसन्त रहती है, पत्ते झड़ते रहते हैं और उगते रहते हैं। यह एक निरन्तर प्रोसेस है और उसी प्रोसेस के तहत आज हम, जैसा कि अभी भाई साहब ने कहा कि नई कलियों के प्रस्फुटित होने के लिए पत्ते झड़ते हैं और नई कलियां उगती हैं। उसी के तहत आज हम इस विदाई के अवसर पर पहुंचे हैं। यह सदन और इसके अंदर जो कार्य हुआ, जिसको हमने देखा, आज इस घड़ी में मुझे किसी प्रकार की कोई चिंता नहीं है, मैं अपने आपको गौरवान्वित और प्रसन्न महसूस करता हूँ।

मैं जिस सामाजिक क्षेत्र से उठकर आया हूँ, यहां के अनुभव और प्रेरणा लेकर, पुनः उसी सामाजिक क्षेत्र में उसी दमखम के साथ कार्य करने की प्रेरणा लेकर जा रहा हूँ। मैं इस अवसर पर एक बात अवश्य कहना चाहूंगा कि आपके साथ 6 साल तक साथ रहने वाला यह साथी, एक छोटा सा सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता है। मैं राजस्थान के जोधपुर शहर में काम करता हूँ। जब कभी आप उधर से निकलें या कभी आपको जोधपुर जाना पड़े या आप किसी सामाजिक काम को देखना चाहें, तो मुझे एक अवसर अवश्य दें। मुझे आपको देखकर एक सम्बल मिलेगा और उस ताकत के बल पर मैं निश्चित तौर पर मानवीय सेवा का और अच्छा काम कर सकूंगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आप सभी का पुनः एक बार धन्यवाद, आभार प्रकट करता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आपकी अनुकम्पा बनी रहे, आपका सहयोग और सम्बल बना रहे। धन्यवाद।