

noise. (*Interruptions*). But for your skilful management of the House, this would not have been possible. You have been very courteous to us and have from time to time been giving us opportunities to raise many important questions relating not only to this country but also questions of international importance. I must say that but for your guidance it would not have been possible for the Opposition to raise important matters in this House.

I am very thankful not only to you, Sir, but the Deputy Chairman and also the Secretary-General and the staff of this House as well for their excellent cooperation given to us in carrying out our duties. I also thank the Leader of the House and our friend, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Sitaram Kesari, for the help and cooperation they have given us.

Lastly, I would like to say that the leaders of the Opposition have worked in close cooperation in regard to important issues, and I am very much thankful to them for their help and cooperation in discharging our duties.

I must say that this is one of the most important institutions in the country and, therefore, it is very necessary that the highest traditions and conventions of this House are respected and protected.

Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: You must come back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the leaders of the Opposition have an important meeting with the Prime Minister and, therefore, I propose to adjourn the House, and we meet again at 2.30 p.m. and continue with the felicitations.

The House then adjourned at fifty-eight minutes past

twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS—(contd.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khushwant Singh.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a popular belief that a dying man, before his last moments, has a flash of all the events of his life. In some ways, this amounts to my demise from the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, I will only refer to some of the few flashy moments that have known in the last six years.

First I would like to refer to friends who are not only no longer the Members of this House, but who have departed from this world. The first name I can think of is that of Mr. Piloo Mody. Most Members who saw him perform would agree that with him went a lot of wit and laughter from this House. Sitting next to me was the lovely Nargis Dutt, at one time the sweet-heart of the country. With her went a lot of irrepressible charm from this House. Sitting on my other side was the poet Bhagwati Charan Varma, a man of great peace. He used to turn up only after the zero hour was over and spent the afternoon comfortably sleeping. I mention these names, particularly the last two, because, Mr. Chairman, you might have noticed that one sat on my right side and the other sat on my left. Now, most Members are reluctant to sit on either side of me because of what happened to them.

I would like to say a few words about the lady Members of this House. I have had the good fortune of travelling very widely. I have visited legislatures in many parts of the world. I can say with confidence

[Shri Khushwant Singh]

that I have not seen a fairer collection of lady Members in any legislature either in Europe or in the United States. My word should be accepted because I am supposed to be a connoisseur of sorts on the subject.

I have also heard, if I may record, very great orators in this House. I specially mention Shri Lal K. Advani, Shri Jaswant Singh and in the past, Shri Dinesh Goswami, Shri Ladli Mohan Nigam on this side, Dr. D'Souza, Mr. Bansal, Mr N. K. P. Salve and Chaudhary Sultan Singh on the other. About Mr. Salve, I would like to add that I wish when he begins his speech with the sentence "I will be brief", he would not go on for a hour or more.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this is something which has been uppermost in my mind which I think I should say, though it might upset certain people. I have felt all along in the six years the growing irrelevance of the parliamentary institution in the running of national affairs. I say this because it is not only my swan song in this House, but it is also in my life the time for evening prayer, what they call *Magrib ki namaz ka waqt*. I feel that all of us are responsible for this growing irrelevance. Members, and I include myself amongst them, don't take the business of the House as seriously as they should. Most of us depart after the Question or the Zero Hour. Most of us don't turn up when our questions are scheduled for answers. As a result, Ministers don't take us very seriously. We notice often that either they are talking to their cronies or looking through their files when the Members are speaking. What is even more distressing is that the press does not take us seriously either. As soon as the Question Hour or the Zero Hour is over, the press gallery up there also empties leaving only wire servicemen to report. Being an Editor, I know from experience that what

appears in the papers as "From our Parliamentary Correspondence" is nothing of the sort. They are wire agency reports touched up here and there with the first two sentences. This is a very serious state of affairs. It was this kind of irrelevance that compelled me one time to write in my own column an article quoting a British author describing MPs as useless dogs bodies. I was hauled up in a privilege motion brought against me by Mr. Mittal and signed by several Congress Members. I escaped very narrowly because your predecessor held that this did not amount to a contempt of the House and that the Members of the ruling party should cultivate a better sense of humour.

Before I end, Sir, I would like to pay compliments to you. Mr. Hidayatullah was very long suffering and patient. You have, Sir, imposed rigid discipline on this House. It is only people like you who could keep my friends like Kalmadi, J. K. Jain and Usha Malhotra under control. I would like to suggest to the Government that there should be an award called Akhil Bhartiya Anti-interruption Vashisht Seva Medal which could be given to you. However, I must add one caveat to this, Mr. Chairman. I noticed that while you were very anxious to ring the bell when it came to other Members, when it came to Jayalalitha, you were always looking somewhere else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Local patriotism.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I thought, perhaps, you had a soft spot for people coming from your part of the world. But when I noticed that the same latitude was not extended to my friend Mohanaragam or Gopalsamy, then I felt that at least there was one enthusiasm...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair should not be exposed. The Chair is above criticism.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH:

There is at least one enthusiasm that you and I share in common.

And finally, Sir, I would like to just add a kind of personal statement. I have said a lot of things on a lot of subjects, particularly Punjab, and have been constantly misunderstood by, amongst others, my friend, Mr. Sukul. Let me add, and finally for record, that I never have, nor do, nor ever, will ever compromise with anyone who in any way insults the Constitution of this country. I never have, nor do now, nor ever will have any truck with any one who fouls the Indian air by flying foreign flags, whether they be made here or made outside. I never have, nor do, nor will ever compromise with any one who talks about dismembering this country. Let that go on record.

And, finally, Sir, just one request because this is my last one to you. When comes the time for you to read my obituary, please do not keep your eye on the watch to see when the minute is over. You can reduce the silence to ten seconds, but do it with a sign or a tear.

श्री नन्द किशोर भट्ट (मध्य प्रदेश) :
सभापति महोदय, यह विदाई का समय है और विदाई के समय कई प्रकार के बातें स्पष्ट हो जाती हैं। जब हमने राज्य सभा में पहली बार काम रखा था तो मेरा दृष्टि बाहर लिखी एक संस्कृत की उक्ति पर पड़ गई थी जिसमें लिखा है कि यत्र विश्व भवतरेकनीडम् । संसार यहाँ आकर एक कुटुम्ब की तरह से बन जाता है जहाँ लोग अपने भेदभावों को भूल कर देश और राष्ट्र के कल्याण के लिए काम करते हैं । मैं उन सौभाग्यशाली व्यक्तियों में से हूँ जिन्हें 18 वर्ष तक राज्य सभा में रहने का मौका मिला और मेरी दृष्टि में संसार में सीखने के लिए इससे बड़ कर कोई स्थान नहीं हो सकता है । 70 करोड़ की जनसंख्या वाले इस देश में ऐसे लोग बहुत कम हैं जिन्हें इस प्रकार का सौभाग्य मिल सकता है और हमारे जैसे लोग जो आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े हुए हैं, पिछड़े क्षेत्रों से आते हैं उनका यहाँ पर

आना इस बात का प्रतीक है कि यहाँ प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को काम करने का पूरा-पूरा अवसर मिलता है । और ऐसे अवसरों का अच्छा प्रयोग कर सकें, यही इनसे आशा की जाती है । श्रीमन्, हमने हाँ कई महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर वाद-विवाद देखा, श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी से लेकर और भी कई अन्य नेताओं को देखा । हमारे मन और मष्तिष्क पर इन सब नेताओं का, चाहे इस पक्ष के हों या उस पक्ष के हो प्रभाव है । लेकिन सभी लोगों ने जब राष्ट्र का प्रश्न आता है तो मकीर्णता से ऊपर उठकर देश को आगे ले जाने में मदद की है । कल हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि यह तो काम करने का एक मंच है । जैसे नाटक में अलग-अलग पात्र होते हैं इसी प्रकार से हम पालियामेंट के मेम्बर्स को काम करने का मौका मिला, हमने किया यहाँ, बाहर रहेंगे तो वहाँ भी करेंगे मगर हमारा लक्ष्य इस देश की एकता और अखंडता है । लोकतंत्र और समाजवाद की रक्षा करने के लिए हमको जो कुछ भी करना पड़ेगा चाहे जहाँ जिस स्थिति में हो हम वही करेंगे । श्रीमन्, मैं आपका विशेष रूप से आभारी हूँ कि आपने जिस उदारता से सदाशयता से हम लोगों को अपने साथ काम करने का मौका दिया, हमारी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करने का अवसर दिया। यह आपकी उदारता का परिचायक है । इसी प्रकार से मैं सत्ता पक्ष से और विरोध पक्ष से सभी नेताओं का हृदय से आभार करता हूँ कि उन लोगों ने अपनी व्यक्तिगत भावनाओं को न लाकर या जिस प्रकार का यहाँ वातावरण बनाया वह देश को मजबूत करने के लिए बनाया । हम बाहर जायेंगे और बराबर इन भावनाओं को मन में रखेंगे और हमने संविधान के प्रति जो शपथ ली थी उस शपथ के प्रति बराबर वफादार रहेंगे और कहीं भी जहाँ साम्प्रदायिकता हो या कोई हिंसात्मक प्रवृत्ति हो उसके लिए जो भी कुर्बानी देनी पड़ेगी या त्याग करना पड़ेगा हम उस समय अपने कर्तव्य से पीछे नहीं हटेंगे । मैं फिर से आपको इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि आपने मुझे दो शब्द कहने का अवसर दिया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shrimati Usha Malhotra.

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWAL (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, My name was there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not here.

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWAL: Sir, I am here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you please sit down. You may get your chance last.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to bid farewell to my hon. colleagues on both the sides of the floor. In retrospect I find that I have discharged my duties to the best of my abilities and during the course of my term I think I learnt a lot of things, certain angularities were rounded off and I found that I had formed a very good section of friends within the Treasury Benches and across. One thing is very clear that we are all here in the service of the nation though we might be speaking different languages and we might be following different ideologies but we have a common goal and that is to serve our nation and as such there is a sense of comradeship which I always felt was there as soon as we left the chamber which I shall value very much in future also. As has already been pointed out by one of my hon. colleagues, whenever we were having an interruption about within the House during the course of a debate, and we had interrupted each other, but as soon as we went out we thought that it was a bit too much, we were all there together outside, sinking our differences, over a cup of tea.

Sir, I would say that at this time I am very grateful to the leaders of my party within the House as well as outside who have been my guides and mentors and who have continuously tried to inspire me to give my very best wherever I was. I would also like to say that as soon as I was elected in 1980, I put before myself and resolved that I had to work with dedication and devotion within the realm of discipline. I persevered to do justice to the duty I was assigned as

a member of Rajya Sabha, within the Parliament as well as outside it.

I think I have tried my wee-bit. I would also like to say that for a woman it is not very easy to survive in politics. We have our triumphs and tribulations but yet these things do not deter us. It would be difficult for men to appreciate it; but, probably, my women colleagues would appreciate that.

I would also like to pay my tributes to late Shrimati Indira Gandhi who had inspired us and who had given us the courage to face any challenge that came before us. She illumines our path of service to the Nation, and to stand for what is right and just.

I would also like to thank the Chair who had disciplined me to that extent that I did not interrupt my hon. colleagues. I would say that we do part but the pleasant memories remain. I shall have the deepest respect for the leaders across the floor and also my other colleagues across the floor. Inadvertantly I might have hurt someone but I never had, at any point of time, done so intentionally. As soon as we were out, I felt, it was one family and we were treading the same path almost; but of course with the clear-cut party lanes, and that is, of course, for each one of us to observe, but with common goal of service with Nation, its unity and integrity to be preserved. I would also like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my colleague and Executive Committee Treasurer, Mr. P. N. Sukul, who gave us a wonderful and an excellent programme yesterday through the committee he had formed to organise the farewell for all of us who are retiring. Let me assure each one of you that I would always have the deepest respect wherever I am, for each one of you and I would be prepared...

श्री हरि सिंह नलवा (हरियाणा) :
मैंडम, हमारा भई शक्रिय, तो करो न।

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: I said, the committee through which he had organised.

I would also like to thank hon. Prime Minister who had guided me and had inspired me in the last few years when I came in contact with him after Shrimati Indira Gandhi was no more with us. I would also like to thank Shri V. P. Singh Ji and Shri Kesri Ji. I feel I would not be doing justice if I don't mention about the days when Shri Piloo Mody was with thus...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not ring the bell because it is the last speech; but you must also appreciate my difficulty.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, I cannot also forget Bhupeshda. He would always look at me when I interrupted him and the Chair would continuously call out and say: 'Please look at me and not the lady' and he said: 'I cannot resist it' as this is the only contact I have with ladies. Sir, I hope you will kindly excuse me. Of course, I will be missing all of you and, of course, you would be missing my interruptions; I am sure about it, although they were unintentional but because of something within me I would speak up. It was not out of habit but out of my conviction that I had for certain things, certain policies, certain programmes of my leaders I did. At this particular juncture, I would request my colleagues to take over the banner from the retiring Members and carry it aloft with all the highest ideals that we cherish in this august House. Farewell, are thee well. Thank you.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I thank you and the leaders of the opposition and others who expressed kind words in their farewell address to the retiring Members. Sir, I came in the year 1980 as a Member of Rajya Sabha and it was my first experience in the parliamentarians' world. Therefore, I had to learn a lot. As a matter of fact, I began my

career as a Member of Rajya Sabha as a learner and I learnt many things during this period. I had the privilege of meeting amongst us, during this period, stalwarts like late Piloo Mody who, with his wits and strong command over his language, could easily disarm the members of the Treasury Benches. I met Bhupesh Da who was always able to keep the Ministers and the Government on their toes. Shri Piloo Mody and Shri Bhupesh Gupta are no more in this world and I take this opportunity of paying my respectful homage to them. Besides them, A.G. Kulkarni was there. We also learnt from him many things. At that time I also learnt from Shri Shiv Chandra Jha and Shri Rameshwar Singh that anything under the sun could be raised under the garb of 'point of order'. There were points of orders throughout the day and today we miss very much Shri Shiv Chandra Jha and Shri Rameshwar Singh because points of order are very few.

I do not know what magic you have applied in doing away with the 'zero hour'. I feel that 'zero hour' used to be the most interesting part of the proceedings of the House. Although you said yesterday that you want to be a headmaster, we want you here in this House not as a headmaster but as a presiding officer of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A benevolent headmaster.

AN HON. MEMBER: Either head or master, but not both.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: I also had the privilege of witnessing very interesting incidents in this House. Particularly, I saw the lady Members rising from their seats simultaneously and in a chorus they protested to certain remarks of the opposition Members and then the Chairman used to call them the 'women brigade' of the House. Not only were the Opposition Members afraid but even the Chairman was scared of that 'brigade'.

Really, during the last fifty years we have learnt a lot and it is really a pleasant experience with which I am retiring from this House. I will carry with me these pleasant memories which will guide me in my future political activities. It is true that political worker never retires, it is only a change of activity. Today we are working in the Parliament, tomorrow we will be working outside the Parliament, which is a larger field. Nobody knows, we may again come back. We will be trying to come back to this august House, this Parliament. Parliament is the only institution in the country today where people from different corners of the country meet and discuss things. They have the privilege of meeting each other and a spirit of brotherliness developed which is very essential for maintenance of India's unity and integrity.

Sir, sometimes I am pained to read certain comments in the papers about the expensive nature of Parliament. It is true that democracy is expensive and considering the vastness of the country, this expense is worth incurring in the interest of unity and integrity of the country. The prestige of this august House must be maintained at all costs and we should all try for this.

With these words, I once again thank you and other Members who bid farewell to us and I will carry sweet memories after my retirement which will guide me in my future activities. Thank you.

श्री संयद रहमत अली (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) :
जनार्दन बेयरमन साहब, 2 अप्रैल को पार्लिया-

मेंट के मेम्बर की हैसियत से 6 साल की मेरी मियाद पूरी होगी। ऐसे मौके पर जबकि हमें विदा करने के लिये इस हाऊस के मोहजिज मेम्बरान ने अपनी ने तबक्कोआत और तमनाएं बावस्ता की है, तो मुझे वह दिन याद आ रहा है, जब मैं पहली बार हलफ लेने के लिये इस हाऊस में आने से पहले सेण्ट्रल-हाल में बैठा हुआ था। सेण्ट्रल-हाल में मेरे पार्लियामेंट का मेम्बर बनने पर मुझको मुबारकबाद देते हुये एक दोस्त ने यह बात कही कि आप करोड़ों की आवादी वाले इस मुल्क में उन 800 खुशनाम या 809 हिन्दुस्तानियों में से हैं, जिन्हें इस मुल्क को पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर को हैसियत से काम करने का मौका मिला है। उस मुबारकबाद के अल्फाज सुनने के बाद मेरी आंखें सेण्ट्रल-हाल में अजोम मुजाहिदीने आजादी की लगी हुई ऐंण्टरस का तरफ पड़ीं, तो मैंने उनसे यह कहा कि इस हाल में, सेण्ट्रल-हाल में ये जो ऐंण्टिंग लगी हैं हमारे मुमताज मुजहिदे आजादी की, इनमें से आप कितनी सक्तियों से वाकिफ हैं? मुझे मायूसी हुयी, वे दोस्त ही बुजुर्ग साएदीन के नाम ले सके, फिर उनके बाद दीगरे उन तमाम के बारे में बताते हुये मैंने यह कहा कि मैं इस बात का जायजा लेने की कोशिश कर रहा हूं कि जब मादरे-बतन के गले में गुलामी की तौक पड़ी हुई थी, तो उस वक्त गुलामी का इन जंजीरों को तोड़ने के लिये मेरी अपनी कोई कंटीव्यूशन नहीं था। लेकिन इन्हीं गुजाहिदीने-आजादी के तप, त्याग, बलिदान, ईसरो कुर्बानी के बल पर जब लातादाद मुजाहिदीने आजादी हिन्दुस्तान की कसरे आलीशान की बुनियाद का पत्थर बन गयी तो उसके बाद उन कुर्बानियों के बल पर मुझे जैसे मामूली तर्कर को पार्लियामेंट में रुकन की हैसियत से काम करने का एजाज मिला है।

जनार्दन बेयरमन साहब, बीते हुये छह वर्ष इस पार्लियामेंट के रुकन की हैसियत से मेरी जिन्दगी को एक बेसबहार सरमाया खजाना है और मैंने इन बीते हुये छह वर्षों में बहुत कुछ सीखने की कोशिश की है। मैं पूरी सफाई के साथ यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं आज भी यह महसूस करता हूँ कि एक आवामी कारकून की हैसियत से मेरी हैसियत एक मुक्तदी की है, एक लखन की है। मैंने छह साल में जो कुछ भी हासिल किया है,

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, normally I have been told that I have a stentorian voice. I do not know what has happened to me today. This is a day of reckoning, and that comes along sometimes when we try to make an assessment.

At the very outset, may I say, Sir, primarily I owe an apology because there were times when I did jump out of my chair, out of my place, spoke a little longer than I should have. I was also over-ruled in a few Committee meetings which you referred to. But I was ready and quick to respond and say, "Sorry, Sir, I stand corrected."

Now, apart from that, you have trained me and I used to look at my watch, at the electric clock to see that I did not go beyond 60 seconds. And now at this stage I find it is difficult because I trained myself to 60 seconds, and you are giving me all the time in the world. Yes, this is what the Englishman calls "comedy of errors." These things happen.

Sir, I have 35 years of experience behind me. Elected in 1950, I saw the entire career in the Bombay Municipal Corporation. I was Mayor of Bombay. For 14 years I was in the Legislature, and in the evening of my life I was ushered into Parliament. The only comment that I could make after 35 years of my experience is, "None the wiser, still learning, groping my way around."

Never in the wilderness of my dreams, Sir, did I ever dream that I would enter the portals of this august body. But one day it happened. And I recollect my first few days here. I came, I sat down, and probably my mouth was so wide open, listening to stalwarts speaking in this House that some of you might have thought that it was a fly-trap.

Yes, over the years I summoned the courage. Somebody gave me the idea that I should take a subject and

study it. I asked, "What do you think I should do?" He said, "Why don't you talk about drugs and pharmaceuticals?" May I make a confession in this House that when I did take up the subject of drugs and pharmaceuticals, I did not know even what a formulation was. Believe me, this is true. I knew nothing of what a bulk drug was. I knew nothing about your policy. But there were many people who guided me, and they were my professors. And I do believe, I was not a bad student. I caught on fast, and I was able to make contributions. During the last six years I have held that torch glowing. May I make myself clear from this side of the House? I did the best because there could not have been a better cause than to assist the suffering humanity. In my profession as a medical man, I have seen many people struggling to keep alive; I have seen others who had to go because drugs did not come within their reach. Well, I have vowed one thing that as far as I could make it possible, I would make all endeavours to see that all life-saving drugs came within the reach of the poorest man. What is the poor man asking, you Sir? He is only asking you to please give him a chance to live. Is it that too much to offer to that man? It is the humane approach that cannot be forgotten. What for all of us are here? We are the representatives of the people, not of the affluent class only. And in this Bharat of ours 98 per cent belong to the other side. This is what we should not forget.

Now, I would like to make one thing clear. In this House I do not know what people understand by right, centre or left. As far as I am concerned when I entered the portals of this House, I understood only one thing very clearly that each one of you was a colleague of mine. I did not know you by the brass button of yours or by your religious or political creed. I talked to you as a colleague and I consulted you as a colleague. That is what I was interested in as far as you are concerned.

[Shri Joseph Leon D'Souza],

Now, about the contributions. It is not that only D'Souza can make contributions. Everyone of you here has got to contribute. May I say here this English dictum? Rain falls from the sky. It drops in little dribs. It falls on your head and it falls on my head. Nobody gets hurt, but it makes the rivers and lakes. It is the contribution of all that counts. No one single individual can make it.

I think I have talked too much, but I would say this. Yes, it is true that the truth is never palatable. It is a fact. It takes a great man to say it. And what makes you say it? It is the dictates of your conscience. I remember what my father told me. He was also a Mayor of Bombay and he also happened to be a Member in the first ad-hoc Parliament. He told me 'son, knowing what you do is correct and if it does not happen, it is not a mistake, but knowing what you did was wrong and that it was a wilful act, that was a crime.' I understood that very clearly.

Before I finish, I must say we all are birds of a passage. We come and we will go. There is no problem about that. But what will remain is an institution, whether it is a school, college, hospital or the house of a legislature. Here we have to learn one small thing. Neither individuals nor groups of individuals can always be part of an institution. We will come and go.

With these few words may I say to one and all of you farewell, my brothers and sisters. May you always fare well.

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SH-AWL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly thank the Prime Minister, your good self and my friends on both sides of this House for the sentiments and good wishes they have expressed last night and today on the retirement of my colleagues and myself.

Sir, as the great poet Iqbal said
 सवाल इस तबाय्युर का है ज़माने में ।
 it is only change which gets permanency in this world. There is a change for my friends and myself whose term expires this year after completion of six years. But may I add in all seriousness that those who will be reelected to this august House, are sincerely welcome but those who will not find a berth here will be changing only the venue of their activities. The forum may be in their respective states or elsewhere, but they shall continue to serve the cause of this great nation in different categories to the best of their capabilities.

Sir, any present term expires and I deem it a great privilege and a unique opportunity of having associated with some people of eminence whose sweet memories I shall ever cherish. I have done my duty in spite of great constraints and numerous difficulties to the entire satisfaction of my conscience. I have the privilege of having the satisfaction that in the discharge of my onerous job, I have not compromised on fundamental issues so vital to the cause of democracy, secularism and for the larger interests of my motherland. However, if I have not been able to plead for the cause of my backward, underdeveloped and much exploited State of Jammu and Kashmir more effectively the fault perhaps lay in the perception of the powers that be, rather than the cause itself. The cause is so dear to me that I repeated my endeavours to seek justice for it, no matter how inclement the weather and how surcharged the atmosphere were. Meanwhile, I learnt a lot, much more than I contributed and this knowledge, experience and association shall stand in good stead in the course of my future service.

to this nation. The accommodating spirit, companionship and camaraderie we have had the privilege of developing on the floor of this House and outside are worthy of cherishing for ever.

Sir, I have no regrets and no remorse. Sir, I repeat it at times I found that my pleading did not get an immediate and desired response from the concerned quarters and I rightly felt somewhat annoyed, I do not blame them because they are good at heart though hesitant at times to fulfil their obligations or discharge their duties.

Sir, there is a sense of sorrow for the loss of some distinguished personalities during my tenure. We remember Dada Bupesh Gupta, Piloo Mody, Kalyan Roy, Nargis Dutt and others who have left indelible marks in the annals of Parliamentary democracies.

I thank the Parliament Secretariat and the staff for the valuable assistance in the discharge of their duties to keep the wheels of Parliament running smoothly.

Sir, I am leaving with a feeling of contentment and I shall always cherish the sweet memories of my association and companionship of all the Members of this august House.

Sir, while parting is always painful let us not forget the basic cause of service to our motherland. As the great poet Iqbal who was a Kashmiri by his ancestors said:

पत्थर की मूर्ती में समझा है तो खदा है
खाके बदन का मुझको हर जर्ग देवता है ।

He said that you think you are finding God in the stone statues worthy of worship. But to me every particle

of this sacred soil of my motherland is a deity which is worthy of worship.

While I again thank all, let us rededicate ourselves to the great cause of service to this nation above personal ends. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. V. P. Singh.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I share the feelings that have been expressed by the

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI. Mr. Jaswant Singh has not spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His name is not here. All right, Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. Possibly this occasion has a slight degree of unreality, because there is still a session to go and I was informed that we had this formality to fulfil during this session itself as we cannot continue to be having goodbye sessions in Parliament. I think that is a good idea. However, this has to be very brief. This, I think is an apt occasion to along with a number of my colleagues, remember certainly the doyen of this House late Bhaupesh Gupta, with whom one has had the distinction of having belonged to the same institution, his most distinctive club of this country; as also my friend, late Piloo Mody, about whom Mr. Khushwant Singh has spoken glowingly which I cannot improve upon; late Nargis Dutt, who charmed us by her presence when she was here and late Kalvan Roy who was lifted from our midst at a very young age and at the height of his Parliamentary career. I do believe that I shall be remiss in my functions if I do not speak of the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi. I consider—I have had occasion to mention it here—that she dominated the political life of this

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

country in office and out of office. I was her political adversary, and it was exhilarating to combat politically with her inside this chamber and out side this chamber. I think she was a very great Indian and I consider it a privilege to have been a parliamentarian at the same time as she was. She became the Prime Minister of India, but first she was Indira Gandhi, Member of Parliament. After that she was Prime Minister. I think that distinction is somewhat like the distinction which late Winston Churchill once mentioned when he was asked what he valued most in his life. He said, "Two simple letters which come as a suffix to my name—Winston Churchill M. P." In like manner, I think the greatest distinction which my party and which my colleagues in the party could possibly confer upon me was to make me a Member of this House, so that I, too, could become Jaswant Singh, M. P.

Sir, a word for the Treasury Benches. The numerical strength of the Opposition is not really an index of our true strength. Do by all means barrack us, do block us but not by voice alone. We will be more easily and more readily convinced if you approach us by the strength of your ideas. We know it is very difficult to find strength in your ideas, but do try. Sir, I do not say this because

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you say like this, it would be misunderstood. "You" means me.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL (Punjab): Sir, how do you think he does not mean that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When I make this suggestion, appeal or what you will to the Treasury Benches, it is not with a view to asking them for any quarter. We ask them for no quarter. We expect no quarter. We will not when it comes to issues and

matters of principle give any quarter. But do please remember: We are your political adversaries; we are not your foes. Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not conclude by saying that perhaps the most remarkable, remarkably satisfying, remarkably enjoyable, the most remarkably encouraging part of being a Member of Parliament is to be helped in one's functioning by a secretariat that is part of this organisation. I think, and in this there is no exaggeration, from the Secretary-General downwards, every member of the Secretariat, is imbued with a spirit of totally, fully, impartial service to the cause to parliamentary life which, I think, is an example to the rest of the country, and if you could only extend it further in the functioning of the country, I do believe, even the Government would function better.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the leaders of the parties and I have been very touched by the words of Members who are retiring. Khushwant Singhji mentioned about demise from this House. But I think there is one thing that survives all demises and that is the common experience and common endeavour that we share. In this respect I think there shall be no demises. Coming from the other House—my basic experience started from there—though I wanted to come here seeing it so cosy here—it took me three Assembly elections and three Parliamentary elections to reach here; fourteen years in all—this ceremony, to me, seems a little out of place. We are in politics, in a profession where there are no entry examinations, there is no seniority list, there are no promotion rules and there is no retirement age. So, there is no point of retirement in this. That is the beauty of the profession we are in. I have seen Chief Ministers retire. I have seen Ministers retire and I have seen Members of Lok Sabha and Members of the Assembly being retired by the voters and

when they retire there is no such ceremony. And it is the privilege of this House alone, of Rajya Sabha alone, that retirement is really something which we celebrate. Yesterday when I saw that P. N. Sukulji had organised, I felt if this were continued, some of us would be tempted to retire voluntarily; so he should not make it such a tempting and attractive retirement procedure which it is. But, however, I think we should continue the same thing, because, after two years, those of us who are standing here bidding farewell, we will then be at the receiving end of the farewell. I think, therefore, it is a good practice and it must continue.

But there is one thing in political life. Why is the word 'retire' used in political life? Napoleon in his dictionary had no word as 'defeat'. But we do have the word 'defeat' in our dictionary in politics, in political life. But to become 'tired' is not there in our dictionary. So what it means is be retired and then after you are retired, you start again working. That is the challenge that we have.

One other beauty of this House is every two years one-third of the Members retire and fresh blood comes into the House I think it is a very sound practice. I come from a village and there when a farmer buys a new bullock, he puts it with the old bullock. And then he trains it to plough the field. This is very sound common-sense. When new Members come—I am also a new Member because I am in the first round here—they, along with the old veterans here, learn. What I mean to say is that we learn, we imbibe, we absorb and then mature and are perhaps able to contribute.

Sir, a point was raised; I will say, a 'point of order' was raised. I am reminded of a story. I had gone to Moscow. There, about the Finance Minister who had retired there, a story was told. Mr. Gorbachov told that there was a very good Finance Minister and when he retired from office, he was quite old and he would doze

and, after dozing, he would wake up and say, "There is no money."! Sir, what may be true of the Finance Minister there may be true of some Members here who, when they wake up, may say, "Point of order, Sir."! But here, Sir, while the debates have gone on, I know that in the lobbies, in the Central Hall and elsewhere, we have shared the problems of the country as citizens, as people who are concerned with the problems of the country as such, and this friendship which we have shared is something that is of the greatest value and that we shall always remember and cherish and, Sir, beyond our life here, beyond our tenure here in Parliament, there is a much larger house, that is, the country and public life. I am sure, Sir, that those who are parting with us in this House will rejoin us in this much larger arena of public life and public service and I am sure many of them will achieve shining heights and most of them, I wish, come again. But wherever one lives or one stays, one leaves an air. Those who have been here are not here. Though they are not here, they have left an atmosphere which we have inherited. Similarly, those friends who are retiring and are leaving also leave with us an atmosphere which we shall imbibe and those who will come will inherit that and there would be our guiding light.

With these words, Sir, I express my best wishes to my friends who are retiring. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I. Report and Accounts (1984-85) of the Food Corporation of India New Delhi and related papers.
- II. Report and Audited Accounts (1984-85) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies, New Delhi and related papers.