

[Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee] delay. Only later we came to learn that a stone had somehow entered the engine. We do not know exactly what happened, and this air-bus was substituted by another air-bus and in the process, we were delayed by two and a half hours. On earlier occasion also, owing to fog, the plane started at 2.30 P.M. from Delhi. I do not exactly remember the date now, but only snacks were served at the airport and on board the plane also, when it took off at 2.30 and reached Calcutta at 4.30, only snacks were served. I made a complaint in the Suggestion Chart and uptil now more than a month has elapsed, no reply has been received from the Commercial Manager to whom the suggestion was addressed.

The main point in this connection is, that although these points have come up though they are not strictly relevant to the issue under discussion, the Indian Airlines is completely unmindful of the difficulties of the passengers. They do not care to inform the reason for any delay, and the rate of unpunctuality in the Indian Airlines is really alarming if we consider the time of the flight involved and the delay of 5 hours or 7 hours or 10 hours or even 12 hours. These things should be attended to promptly.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I would not be able to say at this point of time as to whether the OK tickets of the passengers could be cancelled under the circumstances in which they could be cancelled; but in this particular case, my friend knows, overbooking was due to the fact that seats allotted to Ranchi were overtaken by Calcutta and still the Ranchi staff of Indian Airlines booked passengers in excess to what they should have done. That is why, this happened.

He mentioned about two instances; one of the 26th and the other he has not given the date. I have already explained that when the plane is delayed beyond a certain time, then if it is breakfast time, breakfast is serv-

ed; if it is lunch time, then lunch is served. In this particular case if Prof. Bhattacharjee gives me the date when the plane was delayed till lunch time and lunch was not served to passengers...

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I want to know whether 2.30 is lunch time.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: You know better; everybody knows it, and I feel if the plane left at 2.30, meals should have been served.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Only snacks were served, and till now no reply has come.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I will find out. Now the only thing I want to say is that the same thing should not be repeated and I would appeal to the hon. Members to see that in respect of punctuality, in respect of safety, in respect of efficiency of service, Indian Airlines maintains the highest standard today, and if some mistake takes place here and there, they should not overblow it out of proportion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention is over now.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS (Assam): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I take this opportunity because today is my last day in this House and I am very sorry I was not present on Friday last when farewell speeches were made. I thought I could make it today. So, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my sentiments.

Sir, I am grateful to you, my thanks to you for the kindness and consideration shown to me from the Chair as a Member of this House. I also convey, through you, my gratitude to the Chairman for the kindness he has shown to me during the period he has

been here. I am also thankful to the panel of Vice-Chairmen. A number of Vice-Chairmen have occupied the chair in my term of 12 years. I am grateful to all the Members of this House for the love and affection they have shown to me. I am particularly grateful to the Members of the Opposition. Although we fight inside the House, outside we are all friends and I have received extreme love and affection from all the Members of the Opposition during the last 12 years since I have been here.

I must also express my thanks to the Secretariat staff, Attendants and particularly the Watch and Ward Staff for the highly efficient work they have done. Efficiency has been combined with courtesy and consideration and I think every member is conscious about it. Here I would like to add about the efficiency of the Parliamentary Secretariat that if the Central Secretariat and various State Secretariats learn from the efficiency of the Parliamentary Secretariat, half the problems of this country will be solved in no time. That is my opinion...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): For holding elections also because we are hoping that you will be returned from Assam if Assam elections are held.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Please do not bring in those things now.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: This is the most pleasant thing that you will be coming back. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: I have spent 12 years in this House. Naturally parting is a moment of sadness, but I carry happy and exciting memories of varied experiences. During these 12 years I have seen three Chairmen, four Deputy Chairmen and a number of Vice-Chairmen. I have functioned, at the beginning, as an independent, I have functioned as a member of the ruling party and when my party went out of power I also functioned as a member of the opposition. I functioned as a Minister, also as the Chief

Whip of my party and also in the panel of Vice-Chairmen. So, I have all the experiences that one can have during ends tenure in the House. I have also functioned on many Committees, I need not mention the names. And the most interesting moment in my life was when I was sent as a delegate to the U.N., as a member of the Indian delegation in the most crucial year 1971. I was put in the Third Committee where I had fight all the time with Pakistan on the issue of Bangladesh. That was a great experience that I had and only as a Member of Parliament I was put on the Committee.

So, I had all the experiences available to an M.P. Therefore, at the moment of parting I have no regret, I carry happy memories and I shall treasure these memories all through my life.

I shall also treasure the memory of close acquaintance with some of the outstanding parliamentarians and outstanding personalities that I have made during my career of the last 12 years in this House. I do not know, Sir, whether I could make any valuable contribution at all to the proceedings of this House, but I must say that I have learnt a lot all through my 12 years in this House. It was a great training and a great education which will inspire me to continue in public life for many more years to come. I must repeat, it was a great training, a great education for me so far as I am concerned, which I have taken through the proceedings of this House. One last word. Parliament is a great institution and Rajya Sabha has the unique distinction of being a House which can never be dissolved. Lok Sabha can be dissolved; Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved. It has a continuity; the continuous process goes on. This Parliament is a great institution. It is the head and the heart of the nation. I am a firm believer in the system; I am proud of the Indian system. We have shown to the whole world that in spite of hundreds of problems and difficulties that the nation has been pass-

[Shri Bipinpal Das]

ing through, we have kept the flag of our system flying. Today, Sir, I hope that this flag will continue to fly and this system will continue to exist in spite of the further problems that we may face in future. I wish you well and I express my respects to all Members of the House, including you, Sir.

PROF. RASHEEDUDDIN KHAN (Nominated): Unfortunately, I was not here on the 26th when the Chairman made some references to the Members who are retiring and the other Members responded. It happens to be my last day in the House and I think it is appropriate that I express few sentiments in the manner of wishing "Good bye" to Members of Parliament here and share some of my larger concerns even as I leave this distinguished forum.

Uppermost in my mind is the concern that we happily have been able to establish firm roots of a representative institution in India as a model of participative democracy in which competing parties have an opportunity to aid national interest and work according to their likes. It is a measure of fulfilment of one of the ideals of the Indian national liberation movement that at a time when in several countries around us—as a matter of fact in many parts of the world people are still struggling for political identity, India, happily an ancient polity, is a land of wisdom, a land which is able to contribute to the development of human civilisation, is also a land which today has become a model of representative, responsive system of Government.

Our people have revealed tremendous understanding of the basic impulses of what can be called an "open society". Indian mind has been an open mind, a critical mind. Indian speech has been uninhibited. Indian personality may sometimes compromise under the exigencies of circumstances and the pulls and pressures of the powers that be, but, by and large, our people are also rebellious

people. They have a sense of revolt if a defaulting authority goes astray. That has been borne out by several elections which have been held, both for Parliament and Assemblies.

I am very proud that I have been associated—I must say, by an act of accident—with this august body which shall be the repository of the sovereignty of the people, which articulates the great aspects of national development and international concern. I would also mention that we have to play a role. I would most respectfully mention, not as much as a peroration or advice, but as much as a feeling of a participant who may not participate in the House but yet will participate in several forums of India which is this: dignity of Parliament is reflective of national ethos. The style of functioning of Parliament establishes norms for the style of working of other agencies in the country. I have been a teacher all my life. I am proud to be a teacher. Once a teacher, always a teacher. Still I have many years to go in active service. I would appeal very strongly that we must maintain the high honour which the people have done us by sending us here. Apart from the high cost of maintenance of the parliamentary system, the hopes and aspirations of people are focused on us. Let us not act in a manner which might diminish the dignity of the parliamentary institution, or weaken its credibility in the eyes of our common people. Even if they do not say and even if they do not express, they must feel that these are people of high patriotism, high dignity and sense of purpose. But, of course, in a democratic system there will al-

ways be difference of opinion. conflict of opinion—which should be, as it is. I am very happy that both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition fight on issues, rightly so, because no democracy is a steam-roller. I shudder to think in India if we ever have an authoritative system which will remove our dissent but, having said it, both the Opposition and much more than the Opposition, the

ruling party, have the responsibility of making some decorous inroads.

Lastly, very briefly I would like to reflect—with your permission—what should be the role of nominated Members? I am mentioning it in the end because all these twelve years, every-time, I have been asking myself: Am I justifying my nomination? How am I justifying my nomination? According to one's energy, one's lights, one speaks. But I am only raising two issues. The first issue, I will say, is that the Founding Fathers included this provision for nominated Members especially in the Council of States—the Upper House which looks after the State—to have the benefit of functional opinion available to the House. People who are nominated may or may not be outstanding. It will be too much of self-praise to say that every Member who is nominated is the apogee of high achievement in his own profession. I have no illusions about it. But each one of us who has come here represents his profession and, by and large, represents a level which is above average. How do we conduct ourselves? Should we also become Members of a party, particularly the ruling party, and aspire to the opportunities of power, perks and position which accrue to a Member of the ruling party? Or should we become Members of the Opposition parties and indulge in partisan politics, even if our language is moderate? I always wonder and I mention it also. Nothing would have been easier for a person whose level of education was modestly average and who also comes from, what is called, a minority community by birth and who is not given to offending any people but to join the ruling party of the day and, of course, have one's own opportunities that accrue. I think one would compromise one's purpose as a nominated Member if one is to indulge in that ambition—ambition, yes, not that it is bad—but the ambition of a nominated Member should be to play a constructive, critical role in consonance with the profession which he represents, make his view

available to the ruling party and to the Opposition parties and persuade them to take a larger national view and leave it at that.

You would have noticed, Mr. Deputy Chairman, that I have never asked any question in the Question Hour. The problem is, why? Not that I can't speak, not that my tongue doesn't wag or my mind doesn't move. Early in my career as Member of Parliament I had a very unhappy experience. I was approached by certain business interests, lobbies, saying, since anyhow your voice will be heard there, okay, you may ask one or two questions and a certain small consideration may be available to you. I am not casting any aspersions. I thought, especially for a nominated Member who is here to serve a particular purpose—had I been representing business interests or had I been representing trade union interests or had I been representing minority interests, it would have been right—it was not right. Of course, Opposition parties have to play their role. I am only talking about a limited thing. I think it is very important for a nominated Member to be somewhat above the board, something in the mould of a figure of the public who is supposed to be above politics. Of course, we all indulge in partisan things and take positions. I think it is very important that no attempt should be made either by the ruling party or the Opposition parties to indulge nominated Members in a group and yet give adequate respect to their views.

And, lastly, I hope, the House will allot the Nominated Members categorical place. I have always been the last speaker because procedural difficulties precluded even an indulgent Chairman like you or other friends, to allow us to speak at the proper time. I would say: Don't allow us to speak on ordinary things, but on issues on which the House feels that we have something to submit a higher precedence should be given to the Nominated Members.

[Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan]

These are some of the sentiments I wanted to express. I have had a glorious opportunity hearing and meeting national leaders talking to them formally and informally. I have no regrets as such except that occasionally probably in my act of supporting a Bill or not supporting a measure I might have come in conflict with some. I have in my heart happiness for having served well and I hope with the rich experience which I have gained not only as a Member of the House but much more as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and as a Member of other committees, including as one who represents India at the United Nations. I will have ample opportunity to play my own role as an articulator of democratic idiom.

I would only end by saying: Thank you very much. Thank you all for the indulgence which I have always received. I would say that I hope the House will rise up to the occasion to become a forum of the great Republic of India, model of an open society. I wish you well.

Thank you very much.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you I thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of our Party our great Prime Minister, the Leaders of the Opposition and hon Members of this House. I have been in this House for quite a long time. I came as a Socialist and then turned myself into a Congressman. I have spoken frankly, sometimes critically, against Members or parties inside the House but outside the House I have always maintained very cordial and friendly relations; and that should be the way in which a parliamentary democracy should work. Whatever our differences, whatever political ideologies, we must freely and frankly express them, but we should be very friendly with our opponents and we should

not carry the fight from inside to the lobbies or outside. Of course, when you are in the Opposition you have greater opportunities of speaking, raising points of order, raising points of privilege and criticising the Government, but when you are in the ruling party, it may be very difficult. I have performed the duties of a Member, both as a leader of particular party, the Praja Socialist Party, for nearly five or six years and also as a member of the Praja Socialist Party for nearly 10 to 15 years and now as a Congress Member for the last 11 years. I have not changed my party at any time, but in Karnataka the entire Praja Socialist Party merged into the Congress Party and so I became a Member of the Congress Party. I remember for some time there were some differences inside the Congress Party after the Janata Party came into power... We divided up in the Congress, though it was already divided into Congress and Congress(I). But I came back to the Party in 1980, and in whatever manner I have been able to serve, I have served this Parliament, and I have served the people of Karnataka and the people of India. After becoming the member of the Congress Party, I have not been very active as I was when I was in the Opposition. There are some limitations when you are in a ruling party, and we have to accept those limitations. But one thing I have always tried to see is that the prestige, the decorum and the dignity to the House is always maintained. It is no use of shouting at another Member just because we do not like the way he speaks or the purpose for which he speaks. We should always tolerate. Tolerance is the essence of democracy, and we should maintain the dignity of the House. Whatever we want to express, we should do so with dignity, in a manner that will bring decorum, that will bring prestige, not only to the Member but also to the House, the great institution of Rajya Sabha. We represent the States, and it is but natural that we should advocate the interests of the States we come from

Otherwise we will be failing in our duty if we do not do that.

One thing we should guard against, Mr. Deputy Chairman. There was a Bill which, for nearly four years, we went on discussing, on how to prevent defections. When we were about to come to some conclusions, the Lok Sabha was dissolved. The Janata Party also wanted to bring in a similar Bill, but it did not see the light of the day. I think if you want to safeguard democracy, if you want democracy should thrive, floor-crossing should be stopped, and defections should be completely put an end to it. All parties should agree at least to bring a law that whenever a Member elected on a particular ticket crosses the floor his membership should cease from the day on which he crosses the floor. If that had happened what happened in Kerala would not have happened. A Member crossed the floor, and the Ministry that was in power, had to come out of power. And those things are going to continue unless the Government comes forward with a Bill prohibiting crossing of floor. No party, whether it is the ruling party or an Opposition party, should try to induce Members to defect from one party to another, and we should also maintain some code of conduct. If we cannot do it by a legislation, at least by a code of conduct we should maintain these things. And we should also see that the election expenses are reduced to the minimum and that the black money should not have any part to play in the political life of our country.

Unless and until we remove the impact of the black money on our political affairs, it may be very difficult to have a purposeful democratic institution.

I thank you very much for the indulgence that you have given me. Thank you.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, all the Members belonging to my party were busy in the participation of my party congress held in Varanasi. So, we could not be present when the tributes were

paid for the retiring Members. But I went through the proceedings.

Sir, our House, during the past few years, has witnessed several moments of tense situation and also very sober and enlightening moments. The Members, on both sides have contributed very much for the functioning of this House even at very tense moments. I could remember the situation when we had to sit late in the night, till 4 o'clock, and finish some of the Bills. So I must pay my tribute on behalf of my party to all the retiring Members. When they retire I do not think all of them will retire from politics and ideology, whether inside the House or outside, they are dedicated to their own politics and ideology. There is plenty of opportunity to serve our country. Our country needs very sober politicians irrespective of ideologies to serve the cause of national unity, because national unity is threatened today from inside, as never before. The security and independence of our country also is threatened from outside as never before after independence. So this situation calls upon all of us to secure the maximum unity of all patriotic forces, secular forces, so that we can pass through this crisis and come out of it successfully and preserve the unity of the country, strength the security and independence of the country. In this direction there is ample opportunity for all the retiring Members to serve even from outside.

One word about you, Sir. I saw reports in the press that your term as a Member has expired. But we are all glad that you have been re-elected and your membership continues now. I hope and I am confident that you will continue to occupy the chair after being re-elected and we hope we will have the privilege of your guidance and help to conduct the proceedings of this House smoothly.

With these words I heartily send my warmest greetings on behalf of my party and myself to all the retiring Members, irrespective of the

[Shri M. Kalyanasundaram]
party or the ideology to which they belong.

Thank you.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडेय : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, वैसे तो नेता सदन के बोलने के बाद मुझे बोलना नहीं चाहिए, लेकिन आपकी आज्ञा है तो मैं कुछ शब्द जरूर आज बिदाई के अवसर पर कहूंगा। मुझे तो इस सदन में केवल दो साल काम करते हुए हैं। मेरे साथी, इधर के या उधर के, जो भी माननीय सदस्य हैं उन्होंने पिछले दिनों में जो उद्गार मेरे बारे में व्यक्त किये हैं, मैं व्यक्तिगत तौर पर उनका बड़ा अनुग्रहीत हूँ। श्रीमन्, मैंने अपने संसदीय जीवन में बड़े उच्च आदर्शों से प्रेरणा लेने की वीक्षित की है और जब मैं सदन में बैठता था तो स्वतंत्रतापूर्वक और स्वच्छतापूर्वक अपने विचारों या सरकार के विचारों को हमारी पार्टी जो आज पावर में है उसके जो विचार जनता के बीच में रहे हैं, उनको मैंने हमेशा रखने का प्रयास किया है और मुझे इस बात का गर्व है कि हमारे विरोधी पार्टियों के लोगों में भी हमारी बात को बड़े ध्यान पूर्वक सुना और उसका बड़ी गहराई के साथ अध्ययन किया और कभी कोई अवसर मुझे न दिया कि मैं अपने विचारों को स्वतंत्रतापूर्वक न कहूँ। यह किसी भी माननीय सदस्य के लिये जो राज्य सभा का सदस्य हो, जो एक मैन्थोर हुआ है, उसके लिये बहुत ही गौरव की बात है।

श्रीमन्, हमारे सभापति जी ने या आपने भी हमेशा समय-समय पर जिस प्रकार से उच्चतम परम्पराओं का निवर्धन किया, उसके लिये मैं आपका हमेशा अनुग्रहीत रहूंगा, सभापति जी का भी हमेशा अनुग्रहीत रहूंगा जिन्होंने मुझे इस सदन में समय समय पर अवसर दिया

ताकि मैं अपने विचारों को राष्ट्रीय स्तर के मामलों या अन्तराष्ट्रीय स्तर के मामलों पर बहुत स्वच्छन्दता पूर्वक रख सकूँ। यह बात सही है कि कार्यकर्ता जिस पार्टी का मैं हूँ और जिसके प्रति मैं जिम्मेदार हूँ मैं उसके प्रति यही कह सकता हूँ कि इस सदन बाहर भी बहुत बड़ा काम है और ऐसे समय में काम है जब कि प्रजातंत्र को मजबूत करने की जरूरत है और उस प्रजातंत्र को इतना मजबूत करने की जरूरत है ताकि विघटनकारी तत्व और विघटनकारी शक्तियाँ हमारे देश की एकता और सार्वभौम सत्ता को किसी तरह से कमजोर न कर पाये। मैं श्रीमन् इस में सारे सदस्यों को, जो किसी भी दल के हों, आवाहन करता हूँ और मैं चाहता हूँ कि आज ऐसे समय में जब कि सारे देश के चारों तरफ ऐसे बादल मंडरा रहे हों, जिससे ऐसा लगता हो कि चारों तरफ हम घिर गये हैं ऐसे समय में इस देश की अखंडता, इस देश की सार्वभौम सत्ता, इस देश के उच्चतर इतिहास के लिये और राष्ट्रीय एकता के लिये जरूरी है, कि हम ब मिल कर एक ऐसे वातावरण का निर्माण करें अपने देश में, इस सदन के बाहर और इस सदन के अन्दर ताकि हम मजबूती के साथ अपने देश की एकता और अखंडता की रक्षा और सुरक्षा कर सकें। श्रीमन्, इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका बड़ा अनुग्रहीत हूँ, सभी माननीय सदस्यों का अनुग्रहीत हूँ चाहे इधर बैठने वाले हों और चाहे उधर बैठने वाले हों जो भी कृतज्ञता के शब्द आपने मेरे लिये व्यक्त किये मैं उन के लिये आभार मानता हूँ। यह मेरे लिये एक बड़ा भारी सम्बल होगा, मैं भविष्य का नव-निर्माण करने के लिये भविष्य का रास्ता दिखाने के लिये इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका बड़ा अनुग्रहीत हूँ कि आपने इस पुनीत शुभ अवसर पर मुझे अपने विचारों को रखने का अवसर दिया

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Most of us made speeches on the last Friday. Some of the Members who were not present on that day wanted to speak today. And they have spoken. I do not think there is any more fresh speech to be made.

On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I wish all the retiring Members well and future prosperity.

सदन की कारवाही 2.30 बजे तक के लिये स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-three minutes past one of the clock.

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

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Res certain Economic Issues discussed during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the United Kingdom

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the Leader of the House to make a statement now.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ़ ऑर्डर है। यह तो वित्त मंत्री का स्टेटमेंट है।

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये। कृपया आप मुझसे।
बैठ जाइये।

There is no point of order.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : हम लोगों की मांग की थी कि प्रधान मंत्री जी स्टेटमेंट दें।

यह जो इकोनॉमिक इश्यूज
(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : यह कोई प्रश्न नहीं है।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : इकोनॉमिक इश्यूज, पोलिटिकल इश्यूज का कौन जवाब देगा हम ल ग जब क्लेरीफ़ के शं मांगेंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : जो चीज है वह आप चुन लीजिये बैठ जाइये।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : जो चीज है वह कह देने की फुरसत नहीं है तो हम लोग उनका क्या बिगाड़ लेंगे। आप कह देंते उनको फुरसत नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House can make a statement. There is no harm in that. So, there is no point of order.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : : इकोनॉमिक इश्यूज पोलिटिकल इश्यूज का क्या जवाब देंगे ?

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप बैठ जाइये।

SHRI SYED SIBTE RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Every time he rises in his seat and raises an issue and says it is political and all that. What is political and what is not political? (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. You please take your seat. (Interruptions).

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Is he wrong? If some authoritative clarification is required and if the Leader of the House, who is making the statement now, is not in a position to answer, it will lead to an embarrassing situation. That is why he is raising this question. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How do you presume all those things, Mr. Patel?