

# FELICITATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN—contd.

**SHRI S. N. MISHRA (Bihar) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to offer my sincerest congratulations and greetings to you on behalf of the Congress Party in Parliament. We are conscious that you have assumed office today in the midst of some profoundly seminal developments that have taken place in the country and also in the Parliament of India. You will be presiding over Mr. Chairman, the House . . .

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) :** Is it a delegation of the Congress Party in Parliament?

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Please do not interrupt.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Do not worry.

**SHRI S. N. MISHRA :** Well, Mr. Chairman, you will be presiding over a House on which the shadow of the Government would not loom very large now, and in which there will be a rightful, official Opposition for the invigoration of democracy and for the establishment of democratic socialism in this country. We have heard too much about some of the socialist ideas which are, in fact pseudo-socialist slogans and it will, therefore, be the duty of my Party to work for the establishment of a real democratic socialist society.

*(Interruptions)*

Now, Mr. Chairman, if some of the Members at this very stage interrupt, I would like to sound a note of warning. I propose to be as soft as the drifting fog, if they are sweet, but as hard as granite, if they are rude. And if they are going to reel under our attack, let them be quite clear in their minds they have to blame themselves. But I would not like to sound any bitter note just now.

I was saying that the historic development that has taken place today is bound to have a tremendous impact on the political life of the country. It is in this context that you are now assuming the responsibilities of this high office. One who has got even a milligram of insight as they say into the future would feel somewhat disturbed at some of the portents. Our House is a continuing House and, therefore, it is a factor for stability. We want to preserve it as the bastion of democracy.

We will co-operate with you in maintaining its position. It is possible that the waters elsewhere might be ruffled, but we would like that here the waters should be as placid as possible for it is a continuing House, as I said.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as was said by the Leader of the House, you are not a stranger to this House. You have been a distinguished Member of this House. A man so rich in experience, so eminent in law and so loved and liked by all the Members is certainly going to fill the bill admirably. We have absolutely no doubt about it. You have adorned not only our Benches, the Benches of the private Members, but you have also adorned the Treasury Benches. You have given ample evidence of your erudition in law and your devotion to the institutions and practices of democracy. Your familiarity with the rules and practices that govern the conduct of this House is also well known. Your long and distinguished legal training and career is bound to prove to be a great asset to all of us.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you are also conscious, as you have been one of us for a pretty long time, how anxious we are to preserve the rights and privileges of all Members. We however, do not want that only the rights and privileges of the Members of the Opposition should be preserved, although their rights and privileges are really the concern of the whole democracy. It may be that sometimes you may not be indulgent to the Government, but you have to be indulgent to us. Therefore, since you have yourself experienced in this august House, for quite a long time how Members are solicitous of the rights and privileges of this House, you will certainly give your best consideration to preserving them.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasise that as I have known you very intimately this morning's incident hurt me very much. I consider you almost like my elder brother and you have given me the same courtesy and consideration which is due to a younger brother. I am sounding this personal note, because what happened this morning, during the course of the felicitations, was very much hurtful to our sentiments. We are unhappy that this should have happened. I feel that in you we have a person who has, whenever he did anything earned only goodwill and friendship from all and when-

[Shri S. N. Mishra.]

ever he said anything he exuded only charm and sweetness. We are glad that such a person occupies the Chair today.

Now, on behalf of the Opposition generally it has become somewhat customary to say that we pledge ourselves to loyalty to the Chair and the high traditions of this House. Although it is a good custom to do that, we would like it to be more than a custom and I would not like to make any loud protestation about that and I would only submit to you that our Party is going to show that we want to back up this pledge by practice that is what we propose to do.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I offer again our heartiest felicitations on this occasion and you can very confidently look forward to having very sincere co-operation from us.

Thank you very much.

**SHRI DHAYABHAI V. PATEL** (Gujarat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of our group and other Members in this House, we welcome you to the high office that you are going to fill. You have a background, tradition and training which befits you most emiently for this position and I am sure you will acquit yourself with credit in your duties. On behalf of a section that has suffered very much in the past, perhaps due to certain reasons, may I plead that this corner of the House would receive a fairer treatment? Intentionally or unintentionally, my group has been the group that has suffered very much in the past and I hope that will not happen in your regime. I am not making any charges. I am just mentioning a fact with the hope that there will be no reason for us to refer to this matter and that it will be a matter of the past.

**श्री पीताम्बर दास** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय सभापति जी, उपराष्ट्रपति पद के ऊपर आपको निर्वाचित होने पर मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ और इस सदन में सभापति के नाते आपके आगमन पर आपका स्वागत करता हूँ। एक जमाना था कि सत्तारूढ़ दल इस सदन में अत्यधिक भारी बहुमत में बैठता था, बूट मेजरिटी में। उस समय जिन लोगों को सभापतित्व का काम करना पड़ा वह काफी सरल था। उसके बाद एक जमाना आया जब कांग्रेस पार्टी साधारण

मत में बैठती थी और उस समय का काम खी कभी कभी कठिन दिखाई देते हुए भी कठिन नहीं था, परन्तु आज परिस्थिति बहुत भिन्न है। आज का सत्तारूढ़ दल एक नाजुक बहुमत में है, मार्जिनल मेजरिटी में। मेरे कुछ साथियों का यह भी ख्याल है यह बहुमत है भी या नहीं लेकिन मैं उसके सम्बन्ध में अभी कोई मत प्रगट करना नहीं चाहता। तो ऐसी स्थिति में सभापति का काम बहुत कठिन है, परन्तु मुझे विश्वास है कि अपनी बुद्धिमता, योग्यता, कुशलता, क्षमता और अनुभव के आधार पर आपके लिये वह काम कठिन नहीं होगा। इस सदन की कार्य-वाही में मैं स्वयं और मेरा सारा दल आपको पूरा सहयोग देगा मैं इस बात का आश्वासन देता हूँ और ईश्वर से आपकी सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

**श्री गोड मुराहरी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका निर्वाचन और उपराष्ट्रपति बनना इस सदन के लिए एक गौरव की बात में मानता हूँ क्योंकि आप इस सदन के सदस्य रह चुके हैं। बाद में कई स्थानों पर मिनिस्टर और गवर्नर की हैसियत से रहे हैं और अपनी जिम्मेदारी को अच्छी तरह आपने निभाया है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सबसे कठिन काम जो आप निभाने वाले हैं वह राज्यसभा की चेयरमेनी है और वह भी ऐसे समय जब कि राज्यसभा का स्वरूप बदला हुआ है क्योंकि कल तक जो राज्यसभा का स्वरूप था वह आज से नहीं है और कल परसों यह पता चलेगा कि यह सरकार बहुमत में है या अल्पमत है या कितने लोग, कितनी पार्टियां इसके साथ हैं और कितनी पार्टियां इसके खिलाफ हैं। अभी हम मिले हैं और किसी का चेहरा साफ नहीं है खास कर जो अभी तक सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी में रहे हैं उनका। इसलिये एक ऐसे समय पर आप इस सदन के अध्यक्ष बने हैं जब आपको यहां का काम काफी कठिन मालूम होगा, जैसा कि आज सुबह आपने देख ही लिया है। वैसे मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूँ और आश्वासन भी देता हूँ कि हमारी पार्टी कभी भी पालियामेंटरी नियम और जो पद्धति है उसके खिलाफ काम नहीं

करेगी, लेकिन अगर कहीं अन्याय होगा तो उसका प्रतिरोध हम करेंगे। जब तक हम अन्याय का प्रतिरोध नहीं करेंगे तब तक हमारे यहां आने का मकसद ही पूरा नहीं होता। इसलिए मैं आशा तो यहीं करूंगा कि आप किसी समय ऐसा अवसर हमें नहीं देंगे और इसी आशा के साथ मैं आप को अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बधाई देता हूं।

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA** (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party I welcome you not as a granite nor as a lollipop. I am a man of common clay, and in that humble capacity I heartily welcome you in the esteemed and high position which you occupy today. It has been one of your unique privileges today to preside over this House when our parliamentary democracy is facing certain deadly challenges from the side of dark reaction. It is a testing time which has summoned you to an assignment of high importance, and I have no doubt in my mind that you shall discharge your responsibility in a true spirit of democracy, keeping all the time in view that what happens outside in the life of the masses finds its vibrations within the precincts of Parliament. When the life marches outside in giant strides, Parliament cannot mark time or stand still. Therefore, Mr. Chairman it will be one of your very basic assignments, if I may say so, and undoubtedly you shall carry out that assignment, capturing the spirit that is outside.

You are also in a very interesting situation for the first time in the annals of parliamentary democracy. Suddenly overnight an opposition has been born in the womb of a party that is in power. It has not been created by any mandate of the people. The party has not been created by the mandate of the people outside or by election through our Assemblies. It has been created somewhere else by shall I say, defection or fascination for something else. This is itself is a unique situation. Whether it is a drama or a melodrama is not for me to say, but nonetheless we take the life in its stride and we take it for what it is worth. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, you should bear in mind that even in the opposition there are oppositions and oppositions. It cannot be tarred with the same brush or painted in the same way. There will be always something to be sorted out from others. I have been

here in this House for the last sixteen years on the mandate of a parliamentary party, elected by an Assembly and came here in opposition. I have not left my parents to become the opposition. I have not forsaken my mother or my father to assume suddenly the mantle of opposition. You will forgive me if these are my disqualifications. I tell you that despite these disqualifications and difficulties I shall be, without being a granite co-operative with you.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure that we have today in you an esteemed jurist, an eminent lawyer and above all a man of integrity and I am sure you do not like in the political life malpractices, corruption, syndicalism or whatever it is. It is quite clear. You like in political life straightforward behaviour. You are also, Mr. Chairman, in the Chair today when, because of our fault, fault of the body politic, the first speaker from the opposition side is not unfortunately—I sympathise with him—in a position to say on behalf of which party he is welcoming you. I on behalf of the Communist Party of India welcome you. I am sure my friend for whom I have great regard will tomorrow find out and tell you the name of the party on behalf of which he welcomes you. But all the same we shall be co-operative with you.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to your indulgence sometimes, your affection sometimes, your admonition sometimes, your rebuke sometimes, but always I shall expect of you that in the crucible of the fight for democracy against reaction you are on the side of democracy and against reaction. Parliament is not a non-aligned body between democracy and reaction. Parliament is a partisan of progress, Parliament is a partisan of democracy and it shall be your privilege, Mr. Chairman, when the challenges are being met here and outside by the people, even the turmoil inside what has been the big ruling party—I am sure your guidance, your wisdom, your statemanship, your courage, your integrity of character, your knowledge, your judicial mind, will all be harnessed to the cause of tending the forces of democracy and weakening the forces of reaction so that this Parliament under your leadership records a new chapter of fighting counter-revolution and reactionary forces and of triumph of democracy.

Thank you. With this confidence I greet you on this happy occasion.

**SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI** (Rajasthan) : Do not plead guilty.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH** : On behalf of my party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), I would like to heartily welcome you. You have been a Member of our House and have come to occupy this august position. Now, Mr. Mishra said that turbulent times are ahead. I say, there are turbulent times, and it will perhaps be a turbulent House. So, it would need all your skill, sagacity and sense for the rights and privileges of the Members on the basis of democracy in order to conduct it. On the occasion of offering felicitations to you, we saw in a flash now the alignments are taking place. The Syndicate, the Jana Sangh, the Swatantra and, shall I say, perhaps a part of other Opposition parties, are also coming together . . .

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA** (Orissa) : Are you sure of yourself?

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH** : . . . and everybody is swearing—of course, not Swatantra and others—by the name of socialism when socialism has become the first casualty in the process. I do not know anyway. But I know, if we in this House even in a faint way reflect the people who are fighting outside for better times, we will be fulfilling our minimum duty. But I can only say—Mr. Murahari has said that if there is injustice we will protest—that I would expect that there should not be partisanship in deciding questions of procedure, etc. In that way you should see that all parties and all groups can have their say and that a broad exchange takes place and in that the issues take shape. You will see to it, and I can assure you from my party, that you will get our sincerest co-operation in this effort.

**SHRI MUKLA GOVINDA REDDY** (Mysore) : Mr. Chairman, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I offer sincere and heart-felt felicitations to you. I know you for a long time. You were with us as a Member of this honourable House. You were with us in this House as a member of the Treasury Benches. And till very recently, you were the Governor of Mysore. Wherever you have been and whatever position you have occupied you have always distinguished yourself as a great jurist, as a great administrator and as the Governor of Mysore you have always followed the Constitution of India in letter and in spirit, and you have always upheld the right causes. I have no

doubt that you will strive your best to safeguard the rights and privileges of Members of this House and you will also try your best to maintain the dignity and privileges of this House when we are confronted with such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, we are very happy that you are presiding over this House at a time when things are changing very rapidly in this country. We are sure that you will always try to uphold the right causes, that you will strive for the establishment of a democratic society in this country and that you will help this House in striving to establish that society where injustices perpetrated upon the larger sections of the masses will be done away with.

**SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN** (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I welcome you wholeheartedly. You have adorned the Bench in the field of Judiciary previously; you have earned fame and name. Now, in the political field, you are adorning the Chair. I hope you will earn fame and name. Whether you are in the Chair or in the Bench, I hope the judicial mind is always there. Being Members of the House of Elders, we consider that you are the elder of the elders of this House. On behalf of my party, I assure you of my fullest co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings of this House. With these words, I welcome you.

**SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE** (Maharashtra) : On my own behalf and on behalf of the Republican Party of India, I offer my sincere felicitations and congratulations to you on this occasion. Being an eminent lawyer, erudite, scholar, skilled and experienced Parliamentarian, and having shouldered multifarious responsibilities with distinction, I have no doubt that you will conduct the proceedings of this House fairly and impartially.

It has been mentioned here that we are sitting in a changed House. Mr. Niren Ghosh has also said that reactionary forces like the Syndicate, the Jana Sangh and the Swatantra Parties are coming together in this House. They are coming together not only in this House, but perhaps outside of this House also they would be together. I think it is the responsibility of the progressive forces in this country to come together and offer each other co-operation so that we can face and fight the reactionary forces in Parliament and outside Parliament.

On behalf of my party and myself, I welcome you and say that we will extend our full co-operation to you in conducting the proceedings of this House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, I offer you my sincere felicitations and in the course of it I do not like to repeat the most splendid career that you have had.

Mr. Chairman, I think you are well aware of the mass democratic movements taking place outside this Parliament, and we, being the representatives of the people, elected by the representatives in the States, are naturally to reflect the movements that are taking place outside. And in the course of reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people outside, we are to abide by your ruling, we have to accept the rules and procedures of this House. Although you have been elected as the candidate of a particular political party, it is also your responsibility to see that the people's hopes and aspirations are adequately represented and reflected in this House. And in the matter of shaping the destiny of the people, you have a very big responsibility to shoulder.

I sincerely assure you, as a Member of this House and also on behalf of my party, of my party's fullest co-operation in the matter of the peaceful conduct of the proceedings of this House.

SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD (Tamil Nadu) : On behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League, I congratulate you and assure you of our support in maintaining democratic traditions and constitutional rights.

سرمدار نویدلدر سنگھ باد (پنجاب) :

چیمبرمین سر - آپ کے انتخاب پر میں اپنی طرف سے اور اعلیٰ پارٹی کی طرف سے آپ کو مبارک باد پیش کرتا ہوں - آپ کے کامیاب ہونے کی ہمیں خوشی ہے - ہم کو تو اس کا اسی وقت اندازہ ہو گیا تھا جب کہ ہم نے آپ کے نام کے آگے جی - ایس - لکھا دیکھا - شری جی - ایس - تھان سے تو ہم پہلے ہی تعلق رکھتے تھے اور آپ کے نام کے ساتھ بھی جی - ایس - آگیا تو آپ کے نام کے ساتھ چھکڑا ہو گیا - یہ سال جی - ایس - کے لئے بڑا مبارک ہے اور آج ہم کو خوشی ہے -

اب وقت یہ دکھائی دیتی ہے کہ کتنی گفتگائیاں آپ کو آج انیس ہیں اور کتنی آئینگی لیکن اس کے بعد بھی ہمیں پورن وشواس ہے کہ آپ کی سی قابل شخصیت جس کو اتنا تجربہ ہے جو کہ ہر شعبہ سے گزرا ہے وہ اس کام کو بڑی خوش املوہی سے نبھا سکیں گے مگر ساتھ ہی میں آپ سے التجا کروں گا کہ آپ جب ہاؤس میں آئیے تو ایک گورنر کی شکل میں آئیے اور جب آپ کی وینڈتا میں نے دیکھی تو ایسا معلوم ہونے لگا کہ کوئی بزرگوں کے بزرگ، کوئی ایلڈرس کے ایلڈر بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں - اس وقت جو آپ کی ذمہ داری ہے وہ ایک اچھے بزرگ کی ہو گئی ہے - پچھلی باتوں کو بھروسہ کر میری عرض ہے کہ جہاں تک ہمارے تعاون کا تعلق ہے ہم اپنا بہترین تعاون آپ کو دینگے اور جہاں تک ممکن ہوگا اپنی آتما سے برداشت کریں گے - اور آپ کو کوئی ایسا موقعہ نہیں دینگے - پھر بھی اتفاق سے کوئی غلطی ہو جائے تو آپ بزرگ ہیں غالباً اس کو متحسوس نہیں کریں گے - میری چھوٹی سی پارٹی ہے اور ہماری طرف آپ کی توجہ غالباً دھنے کی اور میں یہ بھی کہتا ہوں کہ جس طرح آپ میری طرف اب دیکھ رہے ہیں اس طرح کبھی کبھی دیکھتے رہیں گے تا کہ ہم کو بھی موقع ملے - یہ کہتے ہوئے میں پور اپنے تعاون کا یقین دلاتا ہوں - تھینکیو -

†[सरदार नरेंद्र सिंह बरार : (पंजाब) : चयर-मैन, सर, आपके इन्तेखाब पर मैं अपनी तरफ से और अकाली पार्टी की तरफ से आपको मुबारक बाद पेश करता हूँ। आपके कामयाब होने की हमें खुशी है। हमको तो इसका उसी वक्त अन्दाजा हो गया था जब कि हमने आपके नाम के आगे जी. एस. लिखा देखा। श्री जी. एस. धिल्लन से तो हम पहले ही ताल्लुक रखते थे और आपके नाम के साथ भी जी. एस. आ गया तो आपके नाम के साथ झकाव हो गया। यह सवाल जी. एस. के लिये बड़ा मुबारक है और आज हमको खुशी है।

†[ ] Hindi transliteration.

[سردار نوبندر سنگھ بٹال]

अब दिक्कत यह दिखाई देती है कि कितनी कठिनाइयां आपको आज आई हैं और कितनी आर्येंगी लेकिन इस के बाद भी हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपकी सी काबिल शख्सियत जिसको इतना तर्जुबा है जो कि हर शुअवा से गुजरा है वह इस काम को बड़ी खुश उसलबी से निभा सकेंगे। मगर साथ ही मैं आपसे इत्तजा करूंगा कि आप जब हाउस में आये तो एक गवर्नर की शक्ल में आय और जब आपकी विनम्रता मैंने देखी तो ऐसा मालूम होने लगा कि कोई बुजुर्गों के बुजुर्ग, कोई एल्डर्स के एल्डर बैठे हुए है। इस वक्त जो आपकी जिम्मेदारी है वह एक अच्छे बुजुर्ग की हो गई है। पिछली बातों को छोड़कर मेरी अर्ज है कि जहां तक हमारे तआवुन का ताल्लक है हम अपना बहतरीन तआवुन आपको देंगे और जहां तक मुनकिन होगा अपनी आत्मा से बर्दाश्त करेंगे और आपको कोई ऐसा मौका नहीं देंगे। फिर भी इत्फाक से कुछ गलती हो जाय तो आप बुजुर्ग हैं। गालिबन इसको महसूस नहीं करेंगे। मेरी छोटी सी पार्टी है और हमारी तरफ आप की तबज्जो गालिबन रहेगी और मैं यह भी कहता हूं कि जिस तरह आप मेरी तरफ अब देख रहे हैं इसी तरह कभी कभी देखते रहेंगे ताकि हमको भी मौका मिलता रहे। यह कहते हुए मैं फिर अपने तआवुन का यकीन दिलाता हूं। थैंक यू। ]

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I cannot speak in a representative capacity, but as an old independent Member of this House may I join the Leader of the House and the honourable colleagues on this side who have paid warm tributes to you on your election. In electing you the country has not elected a politician but a jurist of great standing whose sense of fairness is well known all over the country. You have also been associated actively with the social service movement, and you have been called upon to occupy this office at a time of great crisis and tension. We are sure that you would maintain the dignity, decorum and the furtherance of this Chamber and give a lead to the country. I extend my warmest feelings to you for success in your office.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Leader and friends, I cannot adequately thank you for the warm welcome that you have given me. I greatly appreciate your congratulations on my election as Vice-President in which capacity I have to act as Chairman of this august House also. I am not indulging in the language of conventionalism when I say that I have been touched by the generous terms in which you have spoken about me.

For seven years I enjoyed the privilege of working with you in this House as your colleague. I recall with pleasure and gratitude the uniform countesy and kindness that I received at your hands. By the expression of your sentiments today I have been assured that my absence from this scene for a little over two years has not made any difference and that I enjoy your confidence which, I am certain, will make the fulfilment of my responsibility as your Chairman easier.

Parliament occupies the centre of our constitutional structure. It is the most powerful instrument for securing to our people, who are sovereign, justice, economic and social, and for making political progress. It is through Parliament that peaceful change is ensured. Parliament is the protector of the citizens' rights and citizens' freedom in the land. All this underscores the solemnity of our obligations to Parliament. We must, therefore, endeavour to preserve and strengthen our parliamentary system. We can secure that end by faithful observance of the relevant constitutional provisions, the rules and our conventions. These constitute the real bonds ensuring the healthy functioning of the various parts of the parliamentary machinery.

The Government must govern, but the Opposition is also an essential part of our democratic system. While the Government has a right to explain its policies, the Opposition is entitled to criticise it, and to exercise control over legislation by debate and over the administration . . .

SHRI RAJNARAIN (Uttar Pradesh) : Not only to exercise control but also to change it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : . . . by seeking information. The parliamentary machinery must function according to parliamentary law and within the limits assigned by law.

Friends, you have spoken about my work in the legal sphere. I do not know whether I deserve even a modicum of the praise you have bestowed on me. It is true that I spent half a century, the best part of my life, in the service of the law. The training and experience gained have created in me the faith that nothing is higher than justice. The office to which I am called involved the exercise of some judicial functions. The ordinary task of interpretation of the Constitution and the Rules devolves on me. I assure you that I shall give fair and impartial judgment in the fullest measure I am capable of.

I shall always be anxious to help in the preservation of the dignity and decorum of the House. Our House has great traditions. I pledge my service to the cause of Parliament and shall faithfully observe the traditions that belong to it. I deem it a great honour and privilege to serve it as its presiding officer. I assure you that I shall make every endeavour to protect and defend your rights and privileges and the rights and privileges of this House. For all this, I need not say, I need your goodwill and co-operation which you have so kindly offered me today. I am confident that working together we shall be able to meet successfully the challenges of these times. I thank you once again for your felicitations.

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, before we proceed further, I would like to bring to your notice a matter of great concern to the country . . .

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I want first to make an obituary reference. Before we proceed to the next item on the Agenda, I have to refer with regret to the passing away of Shri Ajmal Khan, sitting Member, and Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, ex-Member of this House.

Shri Ajmal Khan was a well-known Urdu scholar. He was the Secretary of the Khilafat Committee, Allahabad, in 1920. He was closely associated with the late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He worked in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations during 1958-64. He helped in the preparation of the Urdu version of the Constitution of India and edited the works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad for the Sahitya Academy. He was nominated to this House in 1964 and continued as a Member until

the day of his death. On the occasions he spoke in this House, he expressed himself with sincerity and understanding. In his passing away we mourn the loss of a valued colleague.

Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman was a Member of this House from 1952 to 1956 and again from 1958 to 1964.

He actively participated in the freedom struggle, suffered imprisonment several times and underwent privation. He was a respected leader of Punjab and worked ceaselessly for the uplift of the common people. A man of deep conviction, he will be remembered for his great dignity and sense of values.

I shall now request Members to stand up and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Ajmal Khan and Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

Secretary will convey to the Members of the bereaved families our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT RE RESIGNATION OF SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform Members that Shrimati Violet Alva has resigned her office as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 16th November, 1969.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

##### RECENT CYCLONIC HAVOC IN VARIOUS PARTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the recent cyclonic havoc in various parts of Andhra Pradesh destroying property worth crores of rupees and rendering thousands of people homeless.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : Sir, I will briefly describe the cyclonic havoc that took place recently and I am laying a detailed statement on the subject. Hon. Members could put questions today or after reading the statement.