

RAJYA SABHA

*Saturday the 23rd March, 1968/
the 3rd Chaitra, 1890 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the Clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

FAREWELL TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now that the present Session is coming to an end next week, we will be saying good-bye to a number of our valued colleagues in this House who have been with us almost everyday sharing their thoughts with us both inside and outside the House. At the outset I would like to express my great appreciation of the good work they have done in focusing the attention of the Nation on important issues facing the country. Personally I will always cherish the unstinted co-operation and regard they extended to me which sustained me to discharge my duties.

The biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha do not have the same excitement and tumult of a General Election, for every two years our House undergoes a silent transformation. Many of the faces we will miss but we can be sure that they in their own effective and silent manner will be doing significant work to strengthen the cause of democracy with their long experience which they have gathered as Members of this House. They will be conveying to the people in different parts of the country the message of vitality of our democratic institutions and our firm faith in democratic form of Government. In the conduct of the business of this august House we are trying to lay sound traditions and conventions with all the difficulties we are facing to form the guidelines for future. The ideals that we cherish and the goals that we have before us put a heavy

responsibility on everyone of us so that the rising generation should feel proud of our achievement.

Personally I am sorry that in Haryana and West Bengal there will be no biennial election just now and to that extent we will be deprived of the counsel of some of the representatives from those States. As the Council of States, we owe a primary responsibility to the States to protect and safeguard their interests.

The Fourth General Elections have brought about certain new factors into the working of our parliamentary system. Frequent fall of Governments is unfortunately not a happy state of affairs, especially in a parliamentary system which strives to promote stability in the administrative set-up. Leaders of different political parties can contribute a lot by seeing how best they can promote greater stability in the working of Governments in different States in a more perfect manner.

Members of Parliament, the legislators as a whole, carry with them a trust which they must not fail to fulfil. They are chosen as the representatives of the people so that by collective functioning and purposeful endeavour they may work for the common good of the country and for establishing lasting values in public life.

No doubt while we regret their absence from this House; but what we lose here, the country as a whole will gain, for with their knowledge and experience and with greater leisure at their disposal they can work for the general betterment of the country.

I wish the retiring Members well and offer them our very best wishes.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I be permitted to say a few words on this occasion? Sir, I did not know that leave taking would be today. Anyway, on behalf of the retiring Members I wish to thank you for the very noble sentiments you have expressed and the good wishes you have given to the retiring Members.

Of the retiring Members some will not be returning to this House and such of us as are not returning go away with sadness in our hearts, sadness not because we lose the membership and the privilege of being Members of this House, although we value it high, sadness because we feel we are parting from the dear ones in the family. Sir, this House has functioned in a big way like a family. There have been occasions when clashes have taken place in the House between individuals and as members of Parties, when harsh words have been hurled at one another, and when the limits of your and Deputy Chairman's patience have been transgressed but yet in the Lobby cordiality has prevailed. My hon. friend, Shri Dahyabhai, in spite of his volcanic eruptions, meets every one in the Lobby with a graceful grimace. Shri Bhupesh Gupta who holds the House with canon fire all along has an infectious smile for everybody in the Lobby. Even Mr. Rajnarain, in spite of his thunder and fury, hugs everyone in the Lobby to his portly person. These familiar scenes we will be missing. The retiring Members feel proud—I dare say they all agree with me—to have played their humble part in the unfolding of the great role of this great democratic institution. Sir, we have been treated with courtesy by you, by the Deputy Chairman and the other Members of the House. Therefore we go with very happy memories of not

only our role but our friendships formed here.

Sir, this House started with great hopes and earned a reputation for its sobriety and for its calm and cool deliberations. Although things are changing now, we hope that the dignity of this House will be maintained and the reputation it has earned will be sustained in future also.

In this connection I may be permitted to say that till recently the burden of maintaining the dignity of the House and also the efficiency of the House rested mainly on the ruling party. It will be no longer so. The Opposition also has to share very largely this burden and therefore, Sir, we look forward to the entire House for enhancing its reputation. Sir, we hope that the country will be very much benefited by the conduct of this House and we will look forward with great interest to what will be happening here. So once again I wish to thank you, the Deputy Chairman and the other Members for the cordiality shown to us.

We are not a little indebted to the Secretariat and all sections of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. They have been extremely courteous to every one of us. Sometimes even when some Members lose patience, they have been very dutiful and devoted to their work and extremely courteous. I wish to express on behalf of the retiring Members our appreciation for the members of the staff.

Once again I thank you for the extreme indulgence you have shown to us and a very noble advice you have given to us. Thank you.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I am one of those retiring Members . . . (*Interruptions*). So I take this opportunity to say a few words. Sir, at times I have heard

that this House, the Council of States, is a useless body and it should be done away with—no Upper Chamber or Upper Council. I, for myself, as regards the Council of States, do not share that view. I quite appreciate that in the States there should not be Councils or Upper Chambers but in the Indian Parliament there should be another Chamber and I should think that it should be renamed as the Council of Nationalities of India. That should be the proper name for it. In any future Constitution I dare say that there will be a Council of Chamber to represent the nationalities in India. No Constitution could work in India because the nationalities in India have their own interests. Though they are merged in the body politic of India, they have their different approaches and interests and the States represent those nationalities more or less to-day. In that sense it is essential, I consider, that there should be a Council of States or Nationalities to represent the various nationalities inhabiting India. That is one point that I would like to make.

Now I go away and I do not know whether I might come or not, that is another matter.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): You will come back.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : But I would take this opportunity to say that I go away with a deep sense of apprehension for the future of parliamentary democracy in India. There has been a big question mark that has been put besides that word and that is known to the world at large. If you go outside India—those who have gone have told me that—after some polite remarks, the foreigners would ask you : 'Would India remain united or would it disintegrate ?' That is the question they ask because of the crisis that has overtaken parliamentary democracy in India. So it is a very

serious thing. So I do not know but it all depends on the ruling party how parliamentary democracy would shape up in India or whether it will be thrown over-board. Absolutely it depends on them. That is what I want to say.

I came here in 1962 and at that time there were progressive trappings in the Government. After six year I find that the Government has taken a definite swing towards the direction of right reaction, pro-Western direction. I do not think that is in the interests of our country. Our country should be independent and sovereign and should stand on its own feet. There is also a feeling that I have inner most in my mind and I take this occasion to put it across again that unless this policy is reversed, perhaps we face a very dark and a dismal future in India. A period of crisis may intervene if things go on in this way and the Government do not mend its ways. However those who will remain here have a part to play in this respect. I hope they will take these few words into consideration in their future deliberations.

Thank you.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh) : May I thank you and the Members of the House for their good wishes first? I particularly refer to you because my association with you is a long one. You know that you were in the old Legislative Assembly and I was in those days in the old Council of States. I used to act as your deputy for sponsoring labour legislations in the Council of States and it has been my privilege to serve in this Council under your Chairmanship and may I associate with your name the honoured name of Mrs. Violet Alva and my friend Shri Bhargava and the other Vice-Chairmen. I had spoken sometimes harshly and I had spoken sometimes in a manner

which perhaps some Members may not have liked but I had spoken with the deep conviction because it is my belief that a man should not sacrifice his conscience for the sake of anything and I hope that in my old age, in my retired life, it may be given to me to serve, by my writings and so on, this country which we want to see rising to greatness and become a power for good in this evil world of ours. Thank you.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA (Andhra Pradesh): May I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleague, Shri Govinda Reddy, who has spoken at length on behalf of all of us? I also personally would like to thank you and the Deputy Chairman and all the others who have been very kind to me. I have known your family and your father. Very few people here know that I had been a colleague of your father. He was in the Legislative Council when I was in the Legislative Assembly and his sister was the Deputy Speaker in Orissa and we used to meet in the Presiding Officers' Conferences. So we have been associated with each other for a very long time and he has been very kind to me. That is a different matter. I have known Mrs. Alva only now but she has been very kind to me. It is really strange that people are kind to me. I am myself very abrupt and as a matter of fact and very harsh and it takes a very long time for people to understand me. Still they have been very indulgent to me. I have friends almost in every party, whether it is on the side of the opposition or on this side and I really feel grateful to them for all the indulgence they have shown to me. I also crave their pardon if many times I must have offended them in my conversations though really I do not have any ill-feelings towards anybody here. I have just a friendly feelings.

I have been talking to most of the Members. Each one of us really must be interested in keeping up the dignity and decorum of this House. To whichever party we may belong, we belong to the Parliament and we must be eternally aware of the fact that we must bring a good reputation to our parliamentary institutions and to our country. Nobody should think that unless he makes some noise or something, he will not be heard. That should not be the concern at all. We must co-operate with the Chair and make it easy for those who occupy it. They have been having great nervous tension and really I am sorry that it has come to this state of affairs but I hope here after at least, we will feel that it is our individual duty to keep up, the dignity and get a good reputation to our parliamentary institutions. I am not criticising anybody but I feel that it should be our concern and it should be made easy for the Presiding Officers to carry on their work. I am thankful to everybody including yourself.

Of course Shri Govinda Reddy has mentioned about everybody. Everybody really has been very kind and dutiful and I have had a very pleasant time when I was here all along.

I again thank you, Sir.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY, C.S.I.R.

9. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : †**
SHRI A. M. TARIQ :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the C.S.I.R. rules do not envisage appointment of a Secretary-in-Charge

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.