

RAJYA SABHA

Sunday, 13th May, 2012/23rd Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Ms. Anu Aga (Nominated)

DISCUSSION ON SIXTY YEARS' JOURNEY OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, we are having a special sitting to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House, to initiate a discussion on the sixty years' journey of the Indian Parliament.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate you, the Members of this august House and the people of India as we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Rajya Sabha is an institution whose deliberations, over the years, have enriched our parliamentary democracy, nurtured the strength of our federal polity and served as a bulwark against the transient impulses of the moment.

This House has a unique position in our Republic. It is both a Council of States and a House of Elders. As a Council of States, it provides a unique platform for every region of our vast and diverse country to have its voice heard at the highest forum of our democracy. As a House of Elders, we are called upon to reflect and guide, with patience and sobriety, on the issues and challenges our nation faces. This House brings balance and sincerity to the deliberations of the day and the legislation at hand. Through thoughtful interventions enriched by experience, intellect and a spirit of national bonding, Members of the Upper House have contributed to forging a national consensus on critical issues enabling us to face the challenges of the present and the future as a united nation.

Many of our great leaders have served this House with great distinction. Replying to felicitations at his election as the first Vice-President of India and the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr.S.Radhakrishnan had observed, and I quote, "There is a general impression that this House cannot make or unmake governments and therefore, it is a superfluous body. But there are functions, which a revising chamber can fulfil fruitfully.