

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Shri Mukul Roy, I move the following Motion:—

“That Prof. P.J. Kurien be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.”

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI JAVED AKHTAR (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move the following Motion:—

“That Prof. P.J. Kurien be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.”

MS. ANU AGA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move the following Motion:—

“That Prof. P.J. Kurien be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.”

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion moved by Dr. Manmohan Singh and duly seconded by Shri Arun Jaitley to vote. The question is:

“That Prof. P.J. Kurien be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.”

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare that Prof. P.J. Kurien has been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Prof. P.J. Kurien may now be conducted to his seat by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

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#### FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join all the hon. Members of this august House in felicitating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election to the august office of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The fact that the choice has been made unanimously is a reflection of the wide esteem, support and appreciation which Prof. P.J. Kurien enjoys in this House. He has been a Member of both the Houses. He has vast Parliamentary experience. He has vast administrative experience as well. With his experience as Union Minister in several important portfolios, and as a very prominent Member of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, he had been conducting the proceedings of the House with great aplomb. I, therefore, have great pleasure

in felicitating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election to the august office of Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I wish him all success, and I promise him that we will, cooperate with him, to the maximum extent possible, to ensure a smooth functioning of the office of this august House.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I join the hon. Prime Minister and the entire House in felicitating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. These days, unanimous elections are very rare. The fact that Prof. P.J. Kurien has been unanimously elected is, actually, a tribute to both his pleasantness and his patience which he has shown in conducting the House all these years. He is, probably, one of the most experienced Members of Parliament. I think he has lost count of the number of terms he has had. He has had six terms in the Lok Sabha, and this is his third term in the Rajya Sabha. I think, a very few people can match his kind of Parliamentary experience. More than that, because of his ability to conduct the House and his experience, he has earned a tremendous goodwill amongst Members of this House and is almost regarded as a universal friend by all sections of this House. And, Sir, now that he has literally crossed the floor and come to this side, I am sure that he will be very fair to the side which he now sits on.

**सुश्री मायावती** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी, आज प्रोफेसर पी.जे. कुरियन को सर्वसम्मति से राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुन लिया गया है, इसके लिए मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से तथा अपनी ओर से इनको हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं देती हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं इनसे यह भी आग्रह करती हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से इनको आज सर्वसम्मति से राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुन लिया गया है, उसी दृष्टिकोण से ये राज्य सभा की कार्यवाही में सभी दलों का बराबर ध्यान रखेंगे। इसके साथ ही देश व जनहित तथा सर्वसमाज में से गरीब, दलित एवं अन्य उपेक्षित वर्गों के हितों के अति महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों का भी ये प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पूरा-पूरा ध्यान रखेंगे। इस उम्मीद के साथ, इनके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करते हुए, अब मैं अपनी बात यहीं समाप्त करती हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I join the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the other leaders in heartily congratulating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

As has been stated, Sir, he comes with a huge amount of experience of Parliamentary Procedures and Practices. He has been on the Chair, as a Vice-Chairman, for a long time. He has exhibited in the past a degree of equanimity in terms of conducting the proceedings of the House. I only hope, while wishing him all the best for the coming five years, he equally gives importance to the voice of the Opposition and the voice of the smaller parties in the House.

I would urge you, Sir, before you may allow him to come and take the Chair,

[Shri Sitaram Yechury]

to remove the Bell from the Table because he is rather fond of pressing the Bell at a very odd time.

I wish Prof. P.J. Kurien all the very best on behalf of my party and on behalf of all of us. Thank you.

**श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी** (बिहार) : सभापति महोदय, मैं भी प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन को इस मौके पर मुबारकबाद देना चाहूंगा। इस सदन में ऐसे बहुत कम मौके आते हैं जब सदन सर्वसम्मति से किसी बात का समर्थन करता है। आज सर्वसम्मति का वह *rare occasion* पी.जे. कुरियन साहब के चयन के मामले में आया है और यह साबित करता है कि इन्होंने किस तरह से इस सदन का सम्मान और आदर अर्जित किया है। अभी अरुण जी ने बताया कि छः बार वे लोक सभा के सदस्य रहे हैं और तीन बार इस सदन के सदस्य रहे हैं, तो इतना लंबा जो उनका अनुभव रहा है, इसी वजह से वह हाउस का इतने बढ़िया तरीके से संचालन कर रहे थे। इनका *public life* और *Parliamentary politics* में जो *huge experience* है, वही इसका कारण है। मेरी शुभकामना है कि अगले छः साल वे हाउस इसी ढंग से चलाएंगे और जैसा कि बाकी लोगों ने कहा, मेरी भी यही गुज़ारिश होगी कि छोटी पार्टियों का वे ध्यान रखेंगे। साथ ही जैसा कि सीताराम येचुरी जी ने आपसे अनुरोध किया कि आप जाने से पहले टेबल से घंटी हटा लें, तो मैं भी इनकी बात का समर्थन करता हूँ।

**SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN** (West Bengal): Sir, I join the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and all the other senior Members who have spoken to welcome and wish Prof. Kurien the very best.

Sir, Prof. Kurien was a Professor and holds a Masters Degree in Physics. So, it would not be out of place here to quote one of the basic laws of physics which is Newton's First Law of Motion. The only reason that I have written it down here is, because I, sometimes, forget it myself. The Law says, 'Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in the state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.' Now, Sir, in the Rajya Sabha, we do not have the Law of Motion. But, in my last one year, I have seen, we do have the 'Law of Oration.' If we were to rewrite the Newton's Law and make it a 'Law of Oration' for Prof. Kurien, it would read something like this, "If every Member, in a state of uniform oration tends to remain in the state of oration until an external force is applied to him. Then, that external force will be Prof. Kurien."

Prof. Kurien, on behalf of all of us, the All India Trinamool Congress, its Chairperson Kumari Mamta Banerjee, and everyone else, we wish you luck, health and happiness. Thank you.

**श्री मोहन सिंह** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, पूरा सदन आज प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन को बधाई देने में एकमत से अपनी राय व्यक्त कर रहा है। मैं उनकी दसवीं लोक सभा से निकट से देख रहा हूँ। नौवीं लोक सभा में जब मैं उत्तर प्रदेश लेजिस्लेचर का मेम्बर था, तब एक बार दर्शक दीर्घा में उपस्थित था। कांग्रेस उस

समय विपक्ष की पार्टी थी और मैं यहां से यह impression लेकर गया कि इस लोक सभा के सबसे ऊधमबाज मेम्बर प्रो. कुरियन हैं।

मैंने इनके दो स्वरूप देखे हैं - सरकारी पार्टी में रहकर सर्वाधिक अनुशासित और विपक्ष में रहकर चेयर को सबसे अधिक defy करने वाले मेम्बर। मुझे विश्वास है कि ये अपने उस चरित्र को इस चेयर पर बैठकर भी बरकरार रखेंगे और पक्ष और विपक्ष का उसी रूप से संतुलन रखेंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इनको बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूँ।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his having been elected unanimously as the Deputy Chairman of this august Upper House. Sir, he has established himself in the past days, as the Vice-Chairman. He very much deserves to be in the position of the Deputy Chairman. Sir, I would like to say, at this moment, very proudly, India is such a big and tall democracy in the world that we had a spectacular moment, a few minutes ago, of his having been elected, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition conducted him to his Chair. Sir, this is one of the rare scenes which is seen anywhere in any country in the world and when the Leader of the Opposition spoke, he said that Prof. Kurien would do justice to the Opposition side. The way he has been seated with the Opposition itself implies that he will be very judicious and he will be very impartial. Sir, I assure Prof. Kurien, on behalf of DMK, in this august House that we will extend our fullest cooperation and we expect from him that he would turn his ears to all the sides and render justice to all. And he will do that, Sir. So, once again, on behalf of my Party, DMK, under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, I congratulate him wholeheartedly. Thank you.

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, मैं भी अपनी ओर से तथा अपनी पार्टी एनसीपी की ओर से प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन जी का अभिनन्दन करता हूँ, स्वागत करता हूँ। यह एक अच्छी बात हुई कि आज उपसभापति पद पर जो उनका मनोनयन हुआ है, वह सर्वसम्मति से हुआ है। यह हमारी पार्लियामेंटरी डेमोक्रेसी का बहुत अच्छा उदाहरण है। मैं प्रो. कुरियन का प्रोफाइल पढ़ रहा था तो मैंने देखा कि इन्होंने अपने राजनैतिक जीवन की शुरुआत ब्लॉक से की। प्रखंड कांग्रेस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष के रूप में इन्होंने अपने राजनैतिक जीवन की शुरुआत की और आज वे यहां तक पहुंचे हैं। इस प्रकार तीन दशक का एक लम्बा समय उन्होंने पार्लियामेंटरी कामों में व्यस्त किया है और एक अच्छे educationist, एक अच्छे सोशल वर्कर के साथ-साथ कोऑपरेटिव मूवमेंट में भी इनका अहम रोल रहा है। महोदय, उपसभाध्यक्ष के रूप में पिछले दिनों इनकी जो भूमिका रही है, वह यह दर्शाती है कि आने वाले समय में वे अच्छे ढंग से इस हाउस को चलाने का काम करेंगे और पूरे सदन को विश्वास में लेंगे तथा इनसे जो उम्मीद है, जो आशा है, उसे वे पूरा करेंगे। हम अपनी ओर से इनको शुभकामनाएं देते हैं और इनके लिए एक अच्छे जीवन की कामना करते हैं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of the other Parties and

[Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera]

Members of this House in congratulating Prof. P. J. Kurien as the Deputy Chairman. On behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, and on behalf of myself, I once again congratulate him because he has conducted this House as a Panelist Vice-Chairman very successfully and got the confidence of the House. That is why the unanimity came in his favour. I hope he will justify his responsibility, and being a student of science and having a science background, there will be reasons to allow the Members and other party Members, especially belonging to the regional parties, who need more focus in this House.

Sir, this House has, as its Members, the former Deputy Chairmen, Dr. Najma A. Heptulla and Shri K. Rahman Khan, who had excelled in their tenures as Deputy Chairmen. I hope Prof. Kurien will not only match their excellence but also go beyond it. I wish good luck to Prof. Kurien.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the All-India Anna DMK, and on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. P. J. Kurien on his unanimous election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He is a worthy successor to his illustrious predecessors, both Dr. Najma Heptulla and Shri Rahman Khan.

On behalf of my Party, I assure him that we would extend all our cooperation in the functioning of the House, within the constraints of a democratic opposition. As a true opposition, there will be very many occasions when we will be troubling you repeatedly; probably, right from the word 'go' today itself, and I request him to kindly bear with this! Thank you.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your elevation to the position of Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha. I trust that under your leadership and guidance, the House will run smoothly and excellently. We are all aware of your background, Sir. You have been in the Parliament, elected continuously to the House of the People from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards till the Twelfth Lok Sabha, that is, since 1980. You have served as a Member and Chairman of various Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees. With your experience in Lok Sabha, you had been nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2005. As a very good and knowledgeable parliamentarian, your experience and service to the nation speak a lot about you. Your active participation in the Kerala cooperative movement and your long association with the Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation is known to everyone. You are a widely-traveled person, Sir. Your social and cultural activities, and your literary, artistic and scientific accomplishments, are well-known to the country.

I wish you all success in your coming days of political life. I congratulate you once again on behalf of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party on your election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

**श्री संजय राउत** (महाराष्ट्र): थैंक्यु सर। आज प्रो. कुरियन जी का उपसभापति पद के लिए निर्विरोध चुना जाना, हम सभी के लिए खुशी की बात है। प्रो. कुरियन साहब डिप्टी चेयरमैन के पैनल में काम कर चुके हैं। जब भी वे चेयर पर बैठते हैं, तो मुझे लगता है कि जो छोटी-छोटी पार्टियां हैं, उन्हें ज्यादा मौका मिलता है। अब आपकी जिम्मेदारी बढ़ गई है क्योंकि आप डिप्टी चेयरमैन बन गये हैं इसलिए हमें आपसे ज्यादा उम्मीदें हैं। आपकी जो चेयर है, वह नेता प्रतिपक्ष के बगल में है और उस नाते आप हमारे आदमी हो गये हैं। आप आपको हमारे कंधे पर हाथ डालकर सदन चलाना पड़ेगा। यह जो सदन चलता है, यह विश्वास से चलता है। एक-दूसरे पर विश्वास होना चाहिए और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आपका जो संसदीय कार्य का अनुभव रहा है, वह बहुत बड़ा है। आप लोक सभा में रहे हैं, राज्य सभा में रहे हैं, आपने सदन को बहुत कुशलता से चलाया है। मैं आपको अपनी पार्टी शिव सेना की ओर से विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब भी मौका मिलेगा और इस सदन की कार्यवाही को अच्छी तरह से चलाने का समय आयेगा, तब हम आपके साथ रहेंगे। प्रो. कुरियन एक लोकप्रिय नेता हैं, लोकप्रिय सांसद हैं। आप जब भी सदन के बाहर मिलते हैं, तो आप हंस-मुख रहते हैं, हंसते रहते हैं, लेकिन जब आप सामने बैठते हैं, तो बहुत टेंशन में आ जाते हैं। मुझे लगता है कि आप वहां बैठकर भी हमारे साथ हंसना शुरू कीजिए और हंसते-खेलते काम चलेगा। हमारे देश में लोकतंत्र है और आप सर्व-सम्मति से इस सदन के उपसभापति चुने गये हैं, यह सबके लिए अच्छी बात है। मैं आपको एक बार फिर बधाई देता हूँ।

**SHRI D. RAJA** (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the entire House in congratulating and greeting Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election as the Deputy Chairman of this august House. He is one of the most experienced Parliamentarians of our country. Sir, he was professor, teaching physics. But, for the past five years, I have seen him and found that he is very good at psychology and sociology too. Now, the time has come to rework his mathematics so that he accommodates all the smaller parties, regional parties and groups so that the deliberations become very balanced and meaningful.

With these words, I once again take this opportunity to congratulate and greet Prof. Kurien. Thank you.

**SHRI JOY ABRAHAM** (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am proud that Prof. P.J. Kurien, our new Deputy Chairman, belongs to the State of Kerala. It is proved beyond doubt that Prof. P.J. Kurien has got the ability to take the House into confidence and do justice to all in discharging his duties. On behalf of the people of Kerala and on behalf of my party, Kerala Congress (M), I congratulate Prof. P.J. Kurien on his election, unanimously, as the Deputy Chairman of this House.

I wish him all success. Thank you.

**श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता** (बिहार) : सभापति महोदय, आज सर्वसम्मति से प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन के उपसभापति के पद पर चुने जाने पर, मैं कुरियन साहब को बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूँ। मान्यवर, इनकी प्रोफाइल देखने से पता लगता है कि प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन एक सामान्य परिवार से आते हैं। इन्होंने अपने जीवन की शुरुआत ग्रास रूट लेवल वर्कर से की और ये 6 बार लोग सभा में चुनकर आए तथा 3 बार राज्य सभा में चुनकर आए। अब यह इनका तीसरा टर्म है।

मान्यवर, आज जैसे इनको सर्वसम्मति से चुना गया है, यह इस बात को दर्शाता है कि हम इस सभा में कुछ इश्युज़ पर एक साथ हैं। आज हम सबने मिलकर देश हित को सर्वोपरि मानकर, प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन को सम्मानित किया है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि कुरियन साहब छोटी पार्टियों का ध्यान रखते हुए, इस हाउस को एक बार फिर बड़ी कुशलता से पांच साल तक चलाने का कार्य करेंगे। मैं अपनी पार्टी तथा अपनी पार्टी के लीडर माननीय लालू प्रसाद जी के बिहाफ पर प्रो. कुरियन साहब को एक बार फिर मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं आपको यह भी आश्वासन देता हूँ कि हमारी पार्टी आपको पूरा सहयोग करेगी। धन्यवाद।

**श्री रामविलास पासवान** (बिहार) : सभापति महोदय, आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री के द्वारा प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन को उपसभापति के पद पर निर्वाचन के लिए और आदरणीय नेता विपक्ष द्वारा समर्थन के लिए, जो प्रस्ताव आया है, हम उसका स्वागत करते हैं। प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन हमारे बहुत ही पुराने साथी रहे हैं। ये लोक सभा में भी रहे हैं और अब राज्य सभा में हैं। ये बड़े ही साफ दिल के हैं। जब ये हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो बहुत अच्छा लगता है। उसमें **grammar** अभाव रहता है, लेकिन जब ये किसी को डांटते हैं, तो बहुत ही अच्छा लगता है। मैंने इनमें एक चीज की खूबी देखी है कि कोई भी व्यक्ति हो, चाहे वह सदन का कोई भी बड़े से बड़ा व्यक्ति हो या चाहे छोटा भी व्यक्ति हो, ये टाइम के बहुत पाबंद हैं, यदि इनको घंटी बजानी है, तो सबके लिए बजानी है।

ऐसा नहीं है, मान लीजिए, कोई बहुत बड़े नेता हैं, यदि वे टाइम से बियोन्ड जा रहे हैं, तो इनकी घंटी उनके लिए नहीं बजती है, इनकी घंटी उनके लिए भी बज जाती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ये जो शब्द कहते हैं, "यह रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएगा", वह हो जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज का यह बहुत ही सुनहरा अवसर है और पार्लियामेंट्री डेमोक्रेसी का एक खूबसूरत भाग है कि प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन जी आप उपसभापति के पद पर सर्वसम्मति से चुने गए हैं। हम सभी लोगों की शुभकामनाएं इनके साथ हैं और हमें इन पर पूरा विश्वास है। सर, आप सभापति हैं, ये उपसभापति हैं, आप दोनों के नेतृत्व में सदन की कार्यवाही चलेगी और एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। इसका नाम अपर हाउस है, यह अपर हाउस आपके नेतृत्व में अपने कर्तव्य का निर्वाह करेगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**DR. BARUN MUKHERJI** (West Bengal): Sir, on behalf of myself and my Party, All India Forward Bloc, I heartily congratulate Prof. P.J. Kurien for being unanimously elected as the Deputy Chairman of the House. We are happy that he is the right man for the right post. We are also happy that he has just succeeded another right man for the right post. We are lucky that we are having consecutively very good and efficient Parliamentarians as our Deputy Chairmen. He is not only vast experienced and knowledgeable Parliamentarian, but, at the same time, he is friendly to all of us also; and he is loved by all. So, he is elected unanimously as the Deputy Chairman

of this august House. I hope, as he is having firmness, at the same time, he will have flexibility also so that the interests of all the Members will be served equally. So, once more, I heartily congratulate him for his being elected as the Deputy Chairman of this House. Thank you very much, Sir.

**श्री संजीव कुमार** (झारखंड) : सभापति जी, मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी जे.एम.एम. की तरफ से और झारखंड की जनता की तरफ से प्रो. कुरियन को डिप्टी चेयरमैन चुने जाने पर हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ। मैंने जो कम समय में ऑब्ज़र्व किया, वह यह है कि जिस तरह से इन्होंने हाउस का सक्षमतापूर्वक चलाया है, मैं आगे भी उम्मीद करता हूँ कि ये उसी तरह से हाउस को चलाते रहेंगे। मैं उम्मीद करूंगा कि ये छोटी पार्टियों को प्रॉपर रिप्रेजेंटेशन देंगे। धन्यवाद।

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा** (पंजाब): सभापति जी, थैंक यू। प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन का सर्वसम्मति से इस हाउस का डिप्टी चेयरमैन चुने जाना एक बहुत खुशी की बात है। मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी शिरोमणि अकाली दल की तरफ से इनको बधाई देता हूँ। यहां पहले भी, जो डिप्टी चेयरमैन का पैनल था, उसमें से ज्यादा टाइम से ही इस कुर्सी पर बैठे होते थे। यह हाउस तो बहुत अच्छा चलाते थे, पर कभी-कभी हमारी तरफ निगाह कम करते थे। अब, क्योंकि ये हमारी तरफ आ गए हैं, मैं इनसे विनती करूंगा कि हमारी तरफ ज्यादा निगाह रखें। मैं आपको दुबारा बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूँ। थैंक यू।

**SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA** (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad to join the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and other Members of this House to congratulate Prof. P.J. Kurien for his unopposed election to the post of Deputy Chairman of this House. Prof. Kurien is a well experienced Parliamentarian. He has already shown his credibility by running this House smoothly as one of the members of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen. Sir, I, on behalf of my Party, Asom Gana Praishad, congratulate him again. Sir, I give full assurance that we will always give our cooperation to Prof. Kurien. Sir, with these words, I once again congratulate Prof. P.J. Kurien on his election as Deputy Chairman of the House.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I join the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of various political parties and groups and other Members of the Rajya Sabha in congratulating Prof. P.J. Kurien on his election as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Prof. Kurien's unanimous election has demonstrated beyond doubt that he has endeared himself to all sections of the House.

Prof. P.J. Kurien has an experience of more than two decades in Parliament and is well conversant with the nuances of parliamentary procedure and practice. He has immensely contributed not only to the deliberations in the House but also in the various Committees on which he has served from time to time. He has also



[Mr. Chairman]

proved his abilities as an able administrator during his brief stint as Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers.

A Presiding Officer is required to possess tremendous amount of patience, as he has to often deal with a variety of situations in the House. As a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Prof. P.J. Kurien has amply demonstrated his ability to conduct the proceedings of the House with dignity, charm and tact. I have always seen him tackling difficult situations with composure and equanimity. With the goodwill that he has earned, I have no doubt in my mind, that Prof. Kurien would always carry all sections of the House with him.

On behalf of this House and on my own behalf, I once again congratulate Prof. P.J. Kurien and wish him all success.

Would the Deputy Chairman wish to speak?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sir, with your permission, I will read from the prepared speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... Being the maiden speech, it is permissible. ...*(Interruptions)*... Respected Chairman, I am extremely grateful to you and the hon. Prime Minister, hon. the Leader of the Opposition, distinguished leaders of political parties and groups and hon. Members for electing me as the Deputy Chairman of this august House. I am grateful to the hon. Congress President and the hon. Prime Minister for making it possible for me to be a Member of this House and for all their blessings on me. I express my profound gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister, the esteemed Leader of the Opposition, and all the distinguished leaders of the parties and groups and every Member of this House not only for electing me but also for making this election unanimous. I am greatly honoured that alongwith the hon. Prime Minister, hon. the Leader of the Opposition also proposed my name. Hon. Leaders who felicitated me spoke very kind words about me. I thank them for their kind words even though I know I am not worthy of it. I am deeply touched and humbled by their kindness, good words and good wishes.

Sir, I am not new to this House. In fact, in my own humble way, I have been presiding over the sittings of this House for quite sometime and I have no hesitation to say that I have received in ample measure the affectionate cooperation of my distinguished colleagues in the House. Also, in discharging my duties as a Vice-Chairman, I received abundantly the affection, benevolence and guidance of our hon. Chairman for which, Sir, I am highly grateful to you. I am sure I will continue to receive the same and also the friendly cooperation of the hon. Members.

Sir, we celebrated the 65th Anniversary of Independence a few days ago. At this point of time, my mind goes back to the countless number of Indians who

sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. They went to the gallows or faced bullets with *Vande Mataram* on their lips. We are sitting here today because of the sacrifices of those brave men and women who believed that no sacrifice was too big for the freedom of the motherland.

We need to imbibe their spirit. On this occasion, I bow my head before their unparalleled sacrifices.

This House represents the collective will of the States in the Indian Federation. It has fostered great traditions, which stabilized and strengthened the parliamentary system in this country. Great wisdom has gone into the shaping of its rules, traditions and conventions. Though often called the House of Elders, this House has always displayed a youthful exuberance and creative excellence. The men of eminence who came to this House, from time to time, added to its richness and refined its ethos.

I feel proud to belong to this institution and honoured to be its Deputy Chairman. I assure you that I will do my best to preserve and uphold its great traditions. In the discharge of my duties, I assure you that I will be only guided by the Constitution of India, the Rules of the House, the directions of the Chairman and the conventions and traditions of the House, and nothing else.

The Democracy becomes meaningful for the people only when the Parliament gains their confidence and trust. It should be our endeavour to keep that confidence and trust alive and make the Parliament truly responsive to the needs of the people. I am one with you in this endeavour, of course, as a servant of this House.

Now, Sir, I cannot but react to some of the observations or suggestions or advices that came from this House, especially the concern of the smaller parties. As for the implication of my seating here, alongwith the esteemed Leader of the Opposition, whom I respect very much, and also my fondness to the Bell, I assure you that I will bear in my mind all your advices and would try to accommodate every Member, especially from the smaller parties, of course, within the constraints of time. And, my fondness to the Bell is natural because I was a teacher. I will try to control the reflex action of my lips hereafter, and would try my best, if I don't succeed, please forgive me for that.

I, once again, thank the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the distinguished leaders of parties and groups, and every hon. Member of this House for reposing their confidence in me. Thank you, *Jai Hind*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I, now, invite the Deputy Chairman to take the Chair.

Congratulations and good luck!