

**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND THE
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I have received a letter dated 2nd of June, 2014, from Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs informing me that Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence will be the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

I have to also inform Members that I have recognized Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of the Indian National Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 8th of June, 2014.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — LAID ON THE TABLE

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 9th of June, 2014.

[Text of the Address delivered by the President (Shri Pranab Mukherjee)]

Honourable Members,

I am delighted to address this first session of both Houses of Parliament after the elections to the 16th Lok Sabha. Let me begin by extending warm greetings to my fellow citizens, who participated in large numbers in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. We should never forget that we are here because of them. **Serving them should be our first priority.** I also felicitate the members of the new Lok Sabha. You have successfully obtained the mandate from the electorate and now you represent their hopes, aspirations and dreams. I extend a warm welcome to all of you and hope that the sessions ahead with heavy legislative agenda will be productive and useful.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the recent general elections were smooth and largely peaceful. I would like to congratulate the Election Commission of India and the official machinery for conducting these elections successfully. The unprecedented interest shown by the people of India in the elections is a sign of