

## **RAJYA SABHA**

*Monday, the 29th January, 2018/9th Magha, 1939 (Saka)*

*The House met at thirty-five minutes past twelve of the clock,*

*MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

*(The National Anthem, “Jana Gana Mana”, was played.)*

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### **MEMBERS SWORN**

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (Uttar Pradesh)

Shri Narain Dass Gupta (NCT of Delhi)

Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta (NCT of Delhi)

Shri Sanjay Singh (NCT of Delhi)

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### **PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS — *Laid on the Table***

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I 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 29th January, 2018. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8675/16/18]

*[Text of the Address delivered by the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind]*

Honourable Members,

I welcome you all to the Joint Sitting of the Two Houses of Parliament. We have all recently celebrated the festivals of Pongal, Bihu, Lohri, Makar Sankranti and Vasant Panchami. For us, the Republic Day is also a major festival. The presence of Heads of States and Governments of ten ASEAN countries during this year’s Republic Day celebrations added a special dimension to our vision of ‘Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam’.

2018 is an important year for realising our vision of a New India. I am confident that peoples’ representatives present here, who have come from different parts of the country, would play an active role in accelerating this great journey for the development of our nation.

The architect of our Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar used to say that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy.