

Officer works as Joint Secretary in the Health Department and an Ordnance Service official finds himself in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Governance is not a contractual work; it is a commitment to the country. I urge the Government to provide incentives to young civil servants to acquire knowledge and improve their skills in order to build a healthy bureaucracy. The Government should formalize a criterion to decide what skills, qualities and experiences a particular role requires as it will allow the Government to assign roles more confidently.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for amendment in the Table of Precedence

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL (Punjab): Sir, the Order of Precedence in India is a protocol list in which the Government of India's functionaries and authorities are listed by rank and office. It is designed for State and ceremonial events. It has no application in the Government's day-to-day operations. The President of India issues the Order which is maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Currently, the Members of Parliament are listed at number 21 in the Table of Precedence which is even below the statutory posts like Cabinet Secretary, Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal and Chairman, Minorities Commission. A Member of Parliament is elected through the mechanism laid down in the Constitution of India. A Member of Parliament represents the will of the people and is their voice in the

Parliament, and in addition to this, he is also entrusted with representing his State and also the country at multiple forums.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) *in the Chair.*]

However, the low ranking in the table of precedence doesn't do justice to the stature and sanctity of a Member of Parliament which needs to be changed in a representative democracy like India, which takes pride in its parliamentary system of governance where its citizens decide their representatives, including the Prime Minister, the President and the Vice-President. I request the Government that in view of the important constitutional, statutory and legislative functions being discharged by the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly, the table of precedence should be revised and entry 15, which is accorded to Cabinet Ministers in State Government, should be given to the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly who reflect the aspirations of their electorate as policy makers.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA (Punjab): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAKESH SINHA (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Shri Sujeet Kumar; not present. Shri K.C. Venugopal; not present.

Need to abolish Toll Plazas across the country

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there are more than 1,000 toll plazas in India, the highest being in Tamil Nadu - 48. Right to travel is a fundamental right. In developed countries, there is an option of toll and non-toll roads. However, in our country all important arterial roads in States have been taken over by the NHAI and converted into toll roads, forcing the people to pay toll. Those living adjacent to toll roads have to use the road every day and even the monthly passes are expensive. There are many stretches of National Highways operated by concessionaires/NHAI who have already realized the investment but still continuing to collect exorbitant toll fees. Toll fees are increased year to year by NHAI mechanically. Toll fees are charged even for Government transport buses and other State Government vehicles. State transport corporations are not profit driven but provide services at nominal rates. Therefore, all NHAI toll fee plazas in the country require immediate auditing by an independent authority to analyse the investment made, amount realized through toll collections in such stretch and any amount due to concessionaire/NHAI. Such concessionaries could be settled once and for all. There cannot be element of profiteering in public utility infrastructure.

Time has come where all the toll plazas have to be abolished completely. Instead, a one-time fee at the time of registering the motor vehicle can be collected.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Union Minister for Road Transport Highways to abolish all toll plazas across the country. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.