

SINGH PATEL): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the 171st Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on "Issue Affecting the Indian Tea Industry especially in Darjeeling Region" pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

FAREWELL TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir,... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Farewell Address to Retiring Members... *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Members, as you may be aware,... *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, before that, *...(Interruptions)...* That is a very emotional one... *...(Interruptions)...* Please. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the farewell address, please.. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, that is very emotional one and everyone wants... *...(Interruptions)...* Before that, kindly give me... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I give the floor to Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the issue?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I would just like to mention three bullet points and nothing much to elaborate. *...(Interruptions)...* On the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition in March, you gave a ruling in April in the last Session that anything can be discussed and any person can be referred to on the floor of the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am fully alive to it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: So, Sir, when Shri Muraleedharan mentioned LoP's observation
* ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Number two, Sir, is... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, one second. ...(*Interruptions*)... You have raised a point of order and I will give my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)... Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Number two, Sir, is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...(*Interruptions*)... No. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, yesterday.... ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, it is very, very important. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tiruchi Siva, farewell to hon. Members...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Being the last day,.... ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, we are here...
...(*Interruptions*)... We have got your point. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reserved my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I know the importance of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have reserved my ruling.
...(*Interruptions*)... On a point of order which the hon. LoP raised and which you have reiterated, you will get my ruling. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, pertaining to that, it has to be transparent.
...(*Interruptions*)... We shall take it with emotions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it?

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We will join with them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, number two is, yesterday, my notice under Rule 167,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will come to that later on. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the next one. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: One moment,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: After this, it is coming. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: You can read with Rule 168. ...*(Interruptions)*... I gave it in writing because otherwise you may find fault with that. Now that, yesterday, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you, Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we waited all day yesterday but till morning, we didn't receive any communication from the Government's side. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Tiruchiji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: So, we are prepared for a discussion and they are not. ...*(Interruptions)*... Number three is about privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have my experience of four terms here. ...*(Interruptions)*...[†]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have understood. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, now, it is unfair on your part. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:[†]

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO (Uttar Pradesh): Sir,... ...*(Interruptions)*...

[†] Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; declined. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Hon. Members, as you may be aware, nine of our colleagues, who have been our part... ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Jairamji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nine of our colleagues from the States of Gujarat and West Bengal, namely, Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbhai Anavadiya, Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala, Shri S. Jaishankar, Shri Derek O' Brien, Ms. Dola Sen, Shri P. Bhattacharya, Shrimati Shanta Chhetri, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Ms. Sushmita Dev, will be retiring on the 18th of August, 2023, on completion of their term of office.

Four of the retiring Members, Shri S. Jaishankar, Shri Derek O' Brien, Ms. Dola Sen and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, have been re-elected. Our congratulations to them on being re-elected. With their experience, they will bring on the table a greater commitment and direction. We will have continued contribution of their experience, talent, intellect and sagacity in the House.

The House may be missing other five retiring Members, who have made rich and significant contributions to the proceedings of the House during the course of their tenure. I am sure, they would cherish the unique honour of their association with this House and would continue with their contribution to the nation at large. I will, personally, urge the retiring Members to maintain live contact with Members, with whom they have spent major part in the House.

Shrimati Shanta Chhetri became a Member of Rajya Sabha in 2017 by getting elected unopposed from the State of West Bengal. She also served as a Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly for three terms. A post-graduate in Commerce from North Bengal University, she is an ardent advocate of women empowerment both inside and outside the House. She has raised the issues affecting the gender divide and development of North-Eastern region on numerous occasions in the House. Her absence would be felt by us all.

Shri P. Bhattacharya, a distinguished personality in Indian politics, became a Member of Rajya Sabha in 2011. An educationist by passion and profession, he brought with him vast legislative experience into the House. He has served as a Member of Legislative Assembly of West Bengal from 1972-1977 and that of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996-97. The present term is his second term in the Rajya Sabha. He has also served as the Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs. He is actively engaged in various intellectual pursuits outside the House and also inside, including being a part of Asiatic Society. Asiatic Society, hon. Members, is a mother institution. There is no institution in the country older than that. His wise counsel would surely be missed by all of us, but we are confident that he will continue to impart it through the hon. Members.

Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbhai Anavadiya has been a Member of this august House since February, 2021. He has made significant contributions to the deliberations of the House by raising issues of regional and national importance from time to time. He also takes keen interest in Kabaddi, --surely, we should keep Kabaddi out of the House--gardening and Navratri celebrations. He was also the Director, Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. He is a committed and public spirited citizen.

Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala was elected to this august House in July, 2019. During his tenure, he brought attention on various crucial issues concerning cultural heritage, digitization of manuscripts, a very important aspect, health awareness and promotion of sports in the country.

An avid social worker himself, he carried forward the commendable initiatives initiated by his late father, Shri Mathurji Lokhandwala. He was also the Director of Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited. He takes keen interest in tennis, badminton and singing.

Ms. Sushmita Dev, Barrister by profession, is an alumna of Delhi University, Thames Valley University, London and King's College, one of the most reputed institutions in the world. Ms. Sushmita Dev was elected unopposed to the Upper House in September, 2021. Prior to this, she was a Member of 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) from Silchar, Assam. She had also been a former Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Coming from a political background, her father, late Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, had served the country as Cabinet Minister and Lok Sabha Member for seven terms including the 9th Lok Sabha. I make particular reference to 9th Lok Sabha because during this period, I had the occasion, as a Member of the 9th Lok Sabha, of sharing the floor with him, getting his guidance, and he was a strict disciplinarian. He would walk up to me and tell me that scrupulous adherence to conduct in the House is non-compromising, that as junior Minister, I have to be in obedience of one and all. I was junior Parliamentary Affairs Minister then. Her grandfather, Shri Satindra Mohan Dev, was a renowned freedom fighter.

Hon. Members, retirement from the Rajya Sabha is just a transitory phase, and I can tell you that. I came to this House about 30 years ago as a Minister; I am back. So, it is transitory. While it is painful to say goodbye, we must also celebrate the impact these Members have had through their effective participation in debates and discussions on the floor of the House. May their journey ahead be as fulfilling and impressive as their time in Parliament! To our retiring Members, I thank you for being an integral part of the journey of Bharat's democracy. Your presence will surely be

missed, but your impact will forever be felt. I wish you good health, happiness and fruitful years in the service of the nation.

Hon. Members, in nation-building, former Members of Parliament, indeed, have a significant role to play. They constitute experienced think-tank and, I am sure, they will continue to be so engaged to serve the nation in their capacity as well. Now, the Leader of the Opposition, on this point; on farewell to retiring Members.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे): सभापति महोदय, आज जो मेम्बर्स रिटायर हो रहे हैं, वे हमसे दूर नहीं रहेंगे, क्योंकि पॉलिटिक्स में ऐसा होता है कि थोड़े दिन के लिए यदि वे हमसे अलग भी रहें, हमसे दूर भी रहें, तो दूसरी दफा फिर से मिलने का चांस रहता है। लेकिन आपको और मुझे उनसे मिलने का चांस मिलेगा या नहीं - यह सोचने वाली बात है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: यह नहीं पता है।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: क्योंकि उम्र के लिहाज़ से हमें सोचना चाहिए। जो मेम्बर्स यहाँ आते हैं, वे अपने विचार और अपनी एक विचारधारा को लेकर इस सदन में आते हैं। लेकिन अगर उन्हें अपनी बात रखने के लिए समय नहीं मिल सकता, अपने दिल की बात या अपने एरिया की बात या जिस स्टेट से वे आते हैं ..(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: एक दिल की बात होती है और दूसरी मन की बात होती है, लेकिन दोनों बातें कहने का अवसर मिलना चाहिए।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: मन की बात तो मोदी साहब करते हैं, मैं दिल की बात करता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: 'मन की बात दिल से' - यह मीटिंग ग्राउंड है।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: सर नहीं, 'मन' अलग है और 'दिल' अलग है।

श्री सभापति: कभी तो आप मुझे प्वाइंट स्कोर करने का मौका दें।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: नहीं, आप हमेशा प्वाइंट स्कोर करते हैं, लेकिन कभी-कभी ऐसा होता है कि जब मणिपुर जैसा इश्यू आता है, तो वह हमें और आपको ज़रा अलग कर देता है। आप उधर ज्यादा देखते हैं, इधर नहीं देखते हैं, वही मुश्किल होती है। ठीक है, लेकिन जो मेम्बर्स रिटायर होते हैं, वे थोड़े समय के लिए रिटायर होते हैं। वे वापस जाकर फिर से सामाजिक कार्य करते हैं। बहुत से मेम्बर्स बहुत पढ़े-लिखे हैं, कोई ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ा है, कोई बैरिस्टर है, कोई अपने स्पोर्ट्स में एक्सपर्ट है - ऐसे सभी लोग यहाँ पर आए हैं। उनमें से बहुत से यंग लोग भी हैं। इसलिए मैं यही अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वे समाज की सेवा करें और वे जिन विचारधारा पर विश्वास

रखते हैं, उस विचारधारा पर चलने की पूरी कोशिश करें, तभी देश को भी कुछ लाभ होगा। हम यह अपेक्षा करते हैं कि वे जिस सामाजिक कार्य में जुटे हुए हैं, वे हमेशा उस मार्ग पर चलते रहेंगे और फिर इस सदन में आकर, चाहे यह सदन हो या वह सदन हो, अगर वे फिर यहाँ आ गए, तो निश्चित रूप से इससे समाज को भी एक बहुत बड़ा फायदा होगा और उनकी वजह से समाज में एक अच्छा वातावरण भी पैदा होगा।

इसलिए मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से और अपने नेताओं की तरफ से यही कहूँगा कि जो लोग रिटायर हो रहे हैं, वे परमानेंटली रिटायर नहीं हो रहे हैं। वे गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट नहीं हैं। मुझे कभी-कभी अजीब लगता है कि कई लोग कहते हैं कि हम रिटायर हो गए। क्या आप पॉलिटिक्स में रिटायर होने के लिए आए हैं? पॉलिटिक्स में तो आप अपने उसूलों को, अपनी आइडियोलॉजी को सतत जीवित रखने के लिए आते हैं। लेकिन मैं बहुत से नेताओं को यह कहते हुए सुनता हूँ कि नहीं भाई, अब हम रिटायर हो गए हैं। फिर क्या आप यहाँ सर्विस करने आए थे? क्या यह गवर्नमेंट सर्विस थी? यह तो आपकी लाइफलाँग सर्विस है। इसलिए मैं यही अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वे अच्छे लोग हैं तथा वे आगे और भी काम करके दिखाएँगे और देश का मार्गदर्शन करते रहेंगे। यह मेरी विनती है।

श्री सभापति: अब लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस।

सभा के नेता (श्री पीयूष गोयल): माननीय सभापति महोदय, जुदाई हो, विदाई हो, उसमें किसी को भी अच्छा नहीं लगता है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह एक सेलिब्रेशन का भी मौका है। हम अपने कार्यकाल को रिफ्लेक्ट करते हैं। अलग-अलग माननीय सदस्यों ने बहुत सारा योगदान दिया है। उन्होंने कई डिबेट्स में पार्टिसिपेट किया है, कई भाषण दिए हैं, कई प्रश्न, कई ज्वलंत विषय उठाए हैं। अलग-अलग रिफ्लेक्शन देकर सदस्य यहाँ से निवृत्त होते हैं, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि सभी राजनीतिक व्यक्ति हैं और सबको उनकी पार्टियाँ अलग-अलग जिम्मेदारियाँ देती हैं। हमारे यहाँ पर भी लगातार यह चर्निंग प्रोसेस रहता है कि व्यक्ति कभी सरकार में आता है, कभी सदन में आता है, कभी पार्टी की रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी लेता है। इस प्रकार से व्यक्ति का भी निर्माण होता है और साथ ही साथ देश की सेवा के लिए अन्य-अन्य तरीकों से राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ताओं को मौका मिलता है।

मैं सभी माननीय सांसदों को बधाई देना चाहूँगा, जिन्होंने इतने वर्ष देश की सेवा में सदन में योगदान दिया। मैं श्री एस. जयशंकर जी का विशेष आभार व्यक्त करना चाहूँगा, वैसे तो वे वापिस चुन कर आ भी गए हैं, लेकिन इतने छोटे कार्यकाल में, उनका जो 4 साल का कार्यकाल रहा, उस 4 साल में माननीय जयशंकर जी ने सिर्फ सदन की ही गरिमा नहीं बढ़ाई, बल्कि आज पूरे विश्व में जिस प्रकार से भारत का नाम और सम्मान बना है, जिस प्रकार से वे तीव्रता से भारत की बात रखते हैं, ...(व्यवधान)...

जिस प्रकार से पूरे विश्व में आज भारत के विदेश मंत्री की एक अलग ही प्रकार की पहचान बनी है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्नाटक): सर, ये यहां भी राजनीति कर रहे हैं, यह क्या है!

श्री पीयूष गोयल: मैं समझता हूँ कि वे संसद में एक ...(व्यवधान)... I am coming to others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please... ...(Interruptions)...

श्री पीयूष गोयल: सर, और लोगों को भी सदन में चर्चा करने का मौका...(व्यवधान)... यह दुर्भाग्य है कि 'celebrating somebody's contribution to the country' की बात पर इनको दुख हो रहा है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, while the Leader of the House has reflected on a particular Member, I share your sentiments. Every Member in the House, who is retiring and who could have retired but is continuing because of re-election, has made significant contributions, and those who get the opportunity of being a Minister have a different kind of performance; we are proud of them. But, we are equally proud of the Members who didn't have the occasion because their party is not in power. So, the implication of the Leader of the House is not a reflection on other Members. For example, there are many heated moments; there are many moments where from the Chair, I reflect differently. But, I know that the Members before me are very, very talented. Take the case of Sushmita Dev; I have highest respects for her. So, I would not look at a particular moment but I would see her credentials in King's College, the kind of contributions she has made, the kind of lineage she has for three generations! If you look at Mr. N.D. Gupta, he had been the President of Chartered Accountants' Association. His son has been the President. If I look at Mr. Pathak, Jairam Ramesh, everyone, ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: How are they assuming that I was not making a mention of contribution of other Members? It is so sad! ...(Interruptions)... It is so sad that they are assuming that I would not mention about the other Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All I can say is that the Leader of the House, over a period of one year that I have interacted with him, as a matter of fact, he can suffer an allegation that he is more in connect with the Members of Parliament to my right side ...(Interruptions)... So, please conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Dr. Jaishankar has truly made the country proud across the world, particularly in the very trying circumstances during the Ukraine crisis, the way he brought back our students, which all of us, the Members, have witnessed. Derek

has been a friend; we came into Parliament around the same time, if I remember correctly, or a year or two apart. Over the years, we worked together; we both, in the Opposition, worked for different parties, but with a lot of floor coordination as Opposition Members. Despite some of his very different views, I think, the national spirit that all the retiring Members have reflected at different points of time, the 'nation first' philosophy, which all the Members will agree with me, is important. It has been the overarching framework in which Members of Parliament have worked. सुष्मिता बहन ने लोक सभा में भी काम किया था और यहां भी काम किया है। श्री राय जी ने उपसभाध्यक्ष के तौर पर, आसन से पूरे सेशन की प्रोसीडिंग्स को कंडक्ट किया। हमारे गुजरात के दो एमपीज़ और पश्चिमी बंगाल के माननीय सदस्य, इन सभी ने राजनीतिक जीवन में भी अपना प्रभाव रखा है और सामाजिक जीवन में भी इन सबका बड़ा योगदान रहा है। बहन दोला सेन और मेरा व्यक्तिगत सम्बन्ध इसलिए भी है, क्योंकि वे टेक्सटाइल्स कमिटी में मुझे बहुत अच्छे सुझाव भी देती हैं और चेम्बर के अंदर आने से भी रोकती हैं। हाउस में हर प्रकार के अनुभव और हर प्रकार के विषय होते हैं, लेकिन मित्रता कभी खराब नहीं होनी चाहिए, सम्बन्ध कभी बिगड़ने नहीं चाहिए। हममें आपस में मतभेद हो सकता है पर मैं समझता हूं कि इस सदन में, किसी के साथ किसी का भी 'मनभेद' नहीं होना चाहिए, यही इस सदन और पार्लियामेंट की गरिमा का सबसे अच्छा उदाहरण है, सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है। जो माननीय सदस्य रिटायर होने जा रहे हैं, उन सभी को मेरी बहुत शुभकामनाएं।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): सर, यह बड़ा ही गम्भीर मूमेंट है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. I have taken note of it. I will indicate who has to speak. I missed a point, let me say it. Hon. Members, I recollect one particular instance with Ms. Dola Sen, I recollect a particular moment as the Governor of West Bengal. I got a request that a delegation of Members of Parliament, including Ms. Dola Sen, wanted an audience with me.

I immediately granted audience. We had a very frank discussion. And, when things get very frank, the vocal cord gets more active. So, my security outside was equally worried as to what was happening inside. My ADC came to the room and asked me whether everything was alright. That scene in the Raj Bhawan was a minor incident, but this one, I have seen! But, contributions have been immense intellectually. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आपका प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, आपने मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर परमिट किया था। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Neerajji, I first saw Mr. Pramod Tiwari. He caught the eyes of the Chairman before anyone else could. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मैं आपसे बहुत विनम्रता से कहना चाहता हूँ कि सदन परम्पराओं से चलता है, नियमावली के तहत हम कार्रवाई करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यह पुरानी परम्परा रही है ...(व्यवधान)... यह पुरानी परम्परा रही है कि जब कभी सम्मानित सदस्यों की विदाई होती है - आपने बड़े अच्छे शब्द बोले, बड़े चुन-चुन कर शब्द बोले, परन्तु यह परम्परा रही है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी सदस्यों की विदाई के समय मौजूद रहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... यह कई बार की परम्परा है और यह पुराने समय से चली आ रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... इसलिए आज तो उनको बुला लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आज तो उनको बुला लीजिए। इस तरह राज्य सभा का अपमान नहीं करें। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, what is your point of order?

डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है *

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is declined. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, Mr. Derek, don't do it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow leaders of other parties to speak on retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Piyush Goyal, ...*(Interruptions)*... Only Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Siva, Please speak only on retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are required to express our sentiments only on retiring Members. Trust me, hon. Members, when you express sentiments for Members who are retiring, you are addressing a very large segment of retiring Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Not recorded.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...(Interruptions)... आप बोलिए।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I am speaking on 'farewell to retiring Members'.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... श्री तिरुची शिवा, आप बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I am speaking on 'Farewell to retiring Members'.
...(Interruptions)... What is this? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tiruchi Siva, please address the Chair if you want to speak. Otherwise, I will call the next speaker. ...(Interruptions)... Address the Chair.
...(Interruptions)...

The House is adjourned to meet at 12 noon today.

The House then adjourned at forty minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I will give opportunity to the floor leaders to reflect on the retiring Members, and then give some time to the retiring Members to express their sentiments. After that, we will take up the Business of the House. Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, parting is always painful. We do not want some things to happen, but they happen because of some circumstances; farewell is one such occasion. Out of the Members who are retiring today, my dear friends, Shri Derek O'Brien, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Ms. Dola Sen, and the hon. Minister, Shri S. Jaishankar, will return to the House and work with us. Then, we have Ms. Sushmita Dev, whom you have appreciated very much -- of course, she deserves that -- I am

very happy to say that when her father, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, was the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I was in the Lok Sabha, and I had a very great time working with him. She reflects his character in many ways, the way she articulates, the depth of her speech, and, of course, the other things which we need as Opposition; everything she qualifies. So, she will return to the Lok Sabha. So also Shrimati Shanta Chhetri; she has a remarkable track record. She is very cool and silent but she makes very important and appreciable deliberations in the House. Also, Shri P. Bhattacharya, whom we can not forget. He had been the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committees; he is also a silent person. Sometimes, he would be a real *Bengali* here, when he expresses his inner mood, which is created at that moment of time. So also, Mr. Jugalsinh Lokhandwala, from the other side, who is retiring. We all bid them a farewell, but as you and the Leader of the Opposition said, it is not permanent. I would like to say only one thing. This House is a real reflection of unity in diversity; whether it is this party or that party, we are all together. We are from various States, speaking various languages and having various cultures, but we are all one here. Our differences, because of the ideologies, may reflect on the floor of the House, but the moment we go out, we are together. So, the integrity of the nation is reflected here. The Council of States and Parliament are a very good example of integrity. Sir, we are very proud to be Members of this House. We should appreciate that they had the privilege of being one among the 800 persons in 140 crore people of the country. They have made their contribution. On behalf of the DMK Party, I extend my heartiest wishes to them. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री नारायण दास गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली): चेयरमैन साहब, आज हमारे बीच से कुछ साथी रिटायर हो रहे हैं। ये रिटायर तो हो रहे हैं, लेकिन ये tired नहीं हैं। ये लोग इस हाउस में जिस सेवा भाव से आए, उसको ये किसी न किसी रूप में continue रखेंगे। मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से इनके भविष्य के लिए मंगलकामना करता हूँ और यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जिस लगन से यहाँ इस हाउस में इनका योगदान रहा है - हालाँकि उसको भुलाया नहीं जाएगा, सदन उस चीज़ के लिए आभारी रहेगा - आने वाले समय में ये उसी लगन से काम करते रहेंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं फिर से इनके भविष्य के लिए मंगलकामना करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Keshava Rao.

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I share the sentiments of all my colleagues in extending them farewell and, at the same time, wishing them a better life ahead. But I hope we have learnt much from these Members and that they will have much more time to spend in the service of the people. I wish all of them best in their lives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Derek O'Brien. Shri Derek O'Brien is a connecting factor. He is retiring and would also continue to be the leader of the party.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, while bidding farewell to those Members who are retiring, I don't want to give a long speech, I wish them well. All the Members who are retiring from the Rajya Sabha, I must apologize to them, that in their last twenty-three days in Rajya Sabha while they were serving, they didn't have the privilege. We would have all been very happy if our hon. much-respected Prime Minister had spent a little time here. That would have been a beautiful farewell gift. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sasmit Patra.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Biju Janata Dal, we extend our warm felicitations and our best wishes to all the hon. Members who are retiring. Sir, I will request you to indulge me just for two minutes. I would like to specifically speak one sentence on each of them.

Hon. Anavadiyaji has always touched us by his simplicity, his warm smile and his contribution in the House. Whenever he stood up, he was very meaningful.

Shri Pradip Bhattacharya; as I know a bit of Bengali, I had the privilege of sharing a bit of Bengali and perfecting it with him; and *dada* was always very forthcoming in terms of his contributions.

Shri Jugulsinh Lokhandwalaji; we became friends on the very first day that he came to the House; and he is like Lokhandwala, strong and steel, and that is how his contributions have been in the House; truly remarkable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And very well dressed; always very well dressed.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Always very strong.

Shanta Chhetriji, as a sister, her presence in the House has always enlightened us, especially, being from the North-Eastern part, Darjeeling and all those areas; and the issues that she raised were very meaningful.

We have Ms. Sushmita Devji, and she was tremendously
...*(Interruptions)*...

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव (पश्चिमी बंगाल): आज तो सेन मत बोलिए।

DR. SASMIT PATRA: No, no, आज देव।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am so glad. It doesn't go further. It ends here.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: But she has been like a true friend, and, many a time, we have had conversations, and she understands various aspects that we have shared together. It stays between both of us. But, I am sure, her presence helped us and her absence will surely be felt.

For all the four Members whom we are privileged to have with us back, namely, Dr. Jaishankar, Derek *da*, Dolaji and Sukhendu *da*, it is going to be a truly remarkable journey with them in the next few years that we work together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajeev Shukla.

श्री राजीव शुक्ला (छत्तीसगढ़): चेयरमैन सर, यह सदन तो ऐसा है कि इसमें एक-न-एक दिन सबको रिटायर होना है। इन दीवारों में, इन छतों के नीचे कितने ही आए और कितने ही चले गए - एक-से-एक बड़े लोग आए, एक-से-एक छोटे लोग आए -- इसलिए इसका कोई अभिमान नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो माननीय सदस्य यहाँ से रिटायर हो रहे हैं, उनमें से जो बोलना चाहते हैं, उनकी भावनाएं भी सुन ली जानी चाहिए, those who are actually retiring. वे नहीं, जो वापस लौटकर आ जाएंगे। ऐसे मुश्किल से तीन-चार हैं, जैसे पि. भट्टाचार्य जी हैं, ये बोलना चाहते हैं, तो इन्हें भी मौका दिया जाए। फ्लोर लीडर्स तो बोलते रहते हैं, लेकिन इन्हें भी मौका दिया जाएगा, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will be given. It is there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ला: उनकी भावनाएं भी सुन ली जाएं, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, आज नौ माननीय सदस्य रिटायर हो रहे हैं। वे सार्वजनिक जीवन में स्वेच्छा से आए हैं। अब पार्टी के बंधन से उनका टर्म पूरा हो गया है, तो वे जा रहे हैं। मैं अपनी और अपने दल की तरफ से ही नहीं, बल्कि इस सदन के सभी माननीय सदस्यों की तरफ से भी इन्हें बधाई देता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि

"नजरें बता रही हैं तुम दूर जा रहे हो,
पर दिल कह रहा है
तुम पास आ रहे हो।"

जय हिंद!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati P.T. Usha.

SHRIMATI P.T. USHA (Nominated): Sir, my best wishes to all the hon. M.Ps who are going to retire today. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Sivadasan.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, the contributions of the retiring Members are very great. They have made immense contributions for the improvement of our parliamentary activities. Sushmita Dev and others have actively participated in the parliamentary procedures and they have also raised the issues of common people in this House.

All of us would support them in future also. I believe they would raise issues of the common people wherever they get an opportunity, as they did here. I salute them. I wholeheartedly wish Ms. Sushmita Dev and others that they would continue to actively participate in the democratic processes of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now, I have the privilege and honour to call upon those who are retiring from this House to share their experience and sentiments with us. Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbai Anavadiya. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the Leader of the House is always present when such speeches are made. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Leader of the House is always present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this occasion... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is the first time that the Leader of the House is not there. This is not the parliamentary practice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me tell you. Take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... जयराम जी, नज़ाकत समझिए। हम रिटायरिंग मेम्बर्स की बात सुन रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने खुद कहा है कि यह मेरा honour and privilege है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस को यहाँ होना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे समझ में नहीं आता, आपका लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस से कितना strong connect है कि आपने बात की और वे आ गए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब आप हमारे माध्यम से बात क्यों करते हैं, सीधे कर लिया कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री पीयूष गोयल : सर, मुझे यहाँ आने में इसलिए देर हुई, क्योंकि इन्हीं के मित्र पक्ष के एक सीनियर लीडर ने मुझे बाहर पकड़ लिया, यह समझाने के लिए...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: पकड़ लिया? आप इसको क्लैरिफाई कीजिए। पकड़ लिया, मतलब?

श्री पीयूष गोयल: पकड़ लिया, मतलब मुझसे कहा कि हम भी आपके ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: फिज़िकली तो नहीं पकड़ा न? ...**(व्यवधान)**... Hon. Members, let us now hear Shri Anavadiya.

श्री दिनेशचंद्र जेमलभाई अनावडीया (गुजरात): सभापति महोदय, आज पार्लियामेंट में हमारा लास्ट डे है। मुझे पार्लियामेंट में भेजने के लिए हमारी पार्टी, इस देश और समग्र विश्व के नेता और हमारे देश के सम्माननीय प्रधान मंत्री आदरणीय श्री नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी साहब का, हमारे गृह मंत्री आदरणीय श्री अमित भाई शाह साहब का, हमारे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष आदरणीय नड्डा साहब, हमारे प्रदेश के अध्यक्ष आदरणीय सी.आर. पाटिल साहब और हमारे मुख्य मंत्री आदरणीय श्री भूपेन्द्रभाई पटेल साहब का मैं बहुत-बहुत आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने मेरे जैसे एक छोटे कार्यकर्ता को एक बड़े सदन में आने का मौका दिया।

सर, मैं गुजरात के कुम्हार, प्रजापति समाज से आता हूँ। गुजरात कुम्हार प्रजापति समाज से 75 साल में पहली बार प्रजापति समाज, कुम्हार समाज को राज्य सभा में लाने का मौका सम्माननीय मोदी साहब ने दिया है, इसके लिए मैं उनका दोबारा बहुत-बहुत आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। मेरा समाज मिट्टी से जुड़ा हुआ समाज है और मैं किसान पुत्र हूँ। मैं एक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में काम करता था। मैं सन् 1981 से भारतीय जनता पार्टी के एक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में काम करते-करते संगठन में काम करने लगा और उन्होंने मुझे सीधे इतने बड़े सदन में बिठाने का मौका दिया। इसके लिए मैं अपनी ओर से, मेरे परिवार की ओर से और पूरे गुजरात एवं हिन्दुस्तान के प्रजापति कुम्हार समाज की ओर से आदरणीय श्री नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी साहब, आदरणीय अमित भाई शाह साहब, आदरणीय नड्डा साहब और हमारे प्रदेश अध्यक्ष जी का बहुत-बहुत आभार मानता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री दिनेशचंद्र जेमलभाई अनावडीया: सर, एक मिनट। मैं सदन के माननीय सभापति आदरणीय धनखड़ साहब का आभार प्रकट करता हूँ कि हमें आपका भी मार्गदर्शन मिला है। मैं लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस, आदरणीय श्री पीयूष गोयल सर का भी आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। मैं सभी माननीय

सदस्यगण और सभी पार्टियों के लीडर्स का भी आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। आप सबसे मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला है और इस सदन में मुझे आप सबका मार्गदर्शन भी मिला है। यदि मेरे व्यवहार, वाणी और वर्तन के कारण मुझसे जाने-अनजाने कोई गलती हुई हो तो उसके लिए मैं आप सबसे क्षमा चाहता हूँ। मैं लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन सर का भी बहुत-बहुत आभार मानता हूँ कि हमने उनसे भी बहुत कुछ सीखा है। मैं इस सदन की सभी पार्टियों के सभी सदस्यों का आभार मानता हूँ कि आप सबसे मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला है। आभार, अस्तु। भारत माता की जय! वन्दे मातरम्!

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I am very happy that you have given me the opportunity to spell out... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: To retire! I have not given anybody the opportunity to retire.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Sir, you have given me the chance to say a few words. As you recall, when I met you in your Chamber, I told you very frankly, "Sir, I don't believe in this type of drama. So, kindly don't allow me to say something." In spite of that, you are kind enough that you have again called me to say something.

First of all, I give my good wishes to all my colleagues, no matter they are on this side or that side, and I am sure that they will be able to run this House properly and smoothly so that the people of the country will understand that Rajya Sabha is alive and they are doing something good. With my long experience in politics, at least for 50 years, I had the opportunity to work with Indira Gandhiji, Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and Narasimha Raoji. Now, I am working with our Leader of the Opposition, Khargeji, and so many of my colleagues from this side and that side. Whenever I meet some of our hon. Ministers, they listen to me and try their level best to help me so that I can serve the people of the country. I had the impression that, at least, this august House would come out with a resolution with regard to the Manipur issue. But, unfortunately, it did not happen. *...(Interruptions)...* Just for a moment. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen to him.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: I was a teacher of a college for 29 years or 30 years. My two students have been working in Manipur and they are in Central Government service. They rang me a few days back and asked me why Rajya Sabha is not coming out of something about Manipur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point noted. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: It is that hard feeling that I would like to impress upon this House. Lastly, if I have done something wrong, kindly excuse me and I wish everybody good health and good life ahead. Thank you.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला (गुजरात): सभापति महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का तहेदिल से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं माननीय श्री अमित शाह जी का भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। हमारी भारतीय जनता पार्टी के अध्यक्ष माननीय जे.पी. नड्डा जी, गुजरात के चीफ मिनिस्टर श्री भूपेन्द्रभाई पटेल, हमारे संगठन के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष श्री सी.आर. पाटिल, हमारे सदन के नेता श्री पीयूष गोयल जी और सदन के सभी साथियों का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। हमारे सामने बैठे अपोज़िशन लीडर श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे जी और माननीय उपसभापति श्री हरिवंश जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। मेरे माता-पिता और मेरे परिवार के सभी सदस्यों ने आशीर्वाद दिया, तब मैं यहां तक पहुंचा हूँ। आज मेरे कार्यकाल का चार साल एक महीना पूरा हुआ। उसमें डेढ़-दो साल हम सबने कोविड महामारी को फेस किया। उसमें दो-तीन चीजों में मेरे साइन रहे। धारा 370 और 35ए, जो राष्ट्र को जोड़ने के लिए, जम्मू-कश्मीर को भारत का अभिन्न अंग बनाने के लिए था, उसमें मेरे साइन रहे। सर, तीन तलाक, सीएए और ऐसे कई कानून बनाने में मेरा सहयोग रहा।

मैं मानता हूँ कि मैं शायद ऐसा खुशनसीब हूँ कि जो संकल्प हमारे भारतीय जनता पार्टी के श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने लिया था, उस संकल्प के अंदर हमारे साइन थे। सर, मैं दो-तीन बातें कहकर अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा। सर, यहां बहुत सारे मित्र बैठे हैं - मुझे सेन्ट्रल हॉल की कमी महसूस होगी, जब मैं गुजरात रहूंगा, तब सभी लोगों को मिस करूंगा। सदन के सामने वाले माननीय सदस्यों से भी मुझे बहुत अच्छा सीखने को मिला है। कहीं न कहीं जब कोई बात रहती थी, तो सेन्ट्रल हॉल के अंदर हम लोग एक-दूसरे के साथ वार्तालाप करते थे और वह वार्तालाप मुझे आने वाले वक्त में काम आने वाला है - ऐसा मनोज जी कह रहे थे और ... (व्यवधान)...

डा. जॉन ब्रिट्टास (केरल): नई पार्लियामेंट में सेन्ट्रल हॉल नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: जॉन जी, इसके साथ बहुत सारे कमेटी के मेम्बर्स ... (व्यवधान) ... जॉन जी, मुझे आपका सहयोग चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. John Brittas, you must stop the habit of interrupting every time. ... (Interruptions) ... I caution you. Don't do it. There is a procedure to be followed.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: मैं तो चाहूंगा कि हम हर एक बात को पॉलिटिकली न कहें, क्योंकि आने वाले सदन के अंदर शायद आप हमारे पास रहने वाले हैं। ऐसा मुझे सौ प्रतिशत विश्वास है। सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। विश्व जानता है कि एक ऐसा विराट व्यक्तित्व, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी, जो डेढ़ घंटे तक स्पीच दे रहे थे, लेकिन सामने से उन्हें बोलने नहीं

दिया जा रहा था, यह अच्छी बात नहीं है। मैं मानता हूँ कि हर एक का विचार होना चाहिए और वह जो कुछ कहना चाहता हो, कह सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सर, मैं आपका भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ और वेंकैया नायडू जी का भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने मुझे यहां पर बोलने का मौका दिया था। यहां के हमारे जितने भी ब्यूरोक्रैट्स हैं, जितने भी मार्शल्ल्स हैं, वे हमसे हंस कर मिलते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will communicate your greetings to Venkaiah Naiduji.

श्री जुगलसिंह लोखंडवाला: मैं जब गुजरात में रहूंगा, तो यह सब मिस करूंगा। सर, मैं आपको भी मिस करूंगा। आप जब भी मिलते हैं, तो हंस कर मिलते हैं। धन्यवाद, जय हिंद! वन्दे मातरम्! भारत माता की जय!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Shanta Chhetri; we will miss you. Your presence has been impactful; your absence will be felt.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir. सर, आज 11 अगस्त, स्वतंत्रता सेनानी खुदीराम बोस की डेथ एनिवर्सरी है। आज बलिदान दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में मैं उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए अपना फेयरवेल भाषण देना चाहती हूँ।

On the 18th of August, my term as Rajya Sabha Member will come to an end. I am eternally thankful to our supreme leader, hon. Mamata Banerjee, for giving me this opportunity. It is due to her trust in me that today, I can proudly say that my body of work is in Parliament records for eternity. This opportunity has fulfilled my greatest dreams. I am a contented person now, happy with a lifetime spent well. What more can one ask for than contentment and joy, which my heart is filled with? I thank Mamata *Didi*. I also take this opportunity to thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, and the hon. Members of this House for all the support and exchange of knowledge.

In these six years, I have worked tirelessly to represent the Gorkha people of Darjeeling Hills as well as the State of West Bengal. I did not waste a single opportunity to take up matters concerning our Darjeeling Hills as well as my State of West Bengal. I have spoken for the 11 communities' tribal status, inclusion of Lepcha language in the Eighth Schedule; I also talked about tea workers, problems on roads and National Highways during monsoon, the Kurseong TV tower, not to relocate the Army Hospital, matters concerning Himalayan Railways, etc. The list goes on. More than 400 Questions given by me have been admitted in the Parliament. In all the 11 Private Member Bills introduced by me, I took up issues related to my State of West Bengal as well as the Darjeeling Hills. I spoke on the Bill relating to the third gender

and presented my valued opinion and suggestions, which have been satisfying, as this gender deserves a lot more.

Sir, I made innumerable Special Mentions and Zero Hour submissions. I attended regularly all the Committee meetings and tours. The six years that I spent were full of hard work and learning.

Sir, today, as I move on from this place, I would like to say that I will be grateful to you for the trust that you placed in me and for the invaluable lessons I learnt from my fellow Parliamentarians. I would also like to thank the Members of my Party, TMC, who have been my strength and support all along this fantastic journey.

As I bid farewell to the Rajya Sabha, I carry with me a sense of accomplishment, a deep appreciation for the democratic process and a commitment to continue contributing for the betterment of society. I will cherish the memories of this place as also the lessons learnt here, and I will forever hold in my heart the privilege of having served alongside some of the brightest minds and most dedicated individuals in our nation.

I thank all the hon. Members and all the employees of Rajya Sabha for this incredible journey, for the opportunities and for unwavering support. May this House continue to be a beacon of democracy and a forum where the collective wisdom of diverse voices shapes the destiny of India!

Finally, I wish and pray, as the Sun rises over the majestic Tiger Hills and turns it into gold, our I.N.D.I.A. party rises with the same glow in May, 2024 and bring forth the beginning of a golden era for India. *Jai Hind, Jai Bangla, Jai Gorkha!*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Sushmita Dev.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: First of all, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Today is the Martyr's Day and I would like to start by paying my tribute to Khudiram Bose ji. Sir, incidentally, on a lighter note, my division number is 144, which represents 'partial curfew', as you know. I have waited for very long for my turn to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And, you took it so literally!

सुश्री सुष्मिता देव: सर, मेरा डिवीजन नम्बर ही 144 है, मैं क्या करूँ? Sir, I am extremely grateful for your kind words. I am also grateful to the floor leaders of various parties who have spoken. I come from North East, from the State of Assam and, I think, ऐसे बहुत कम उदाहरण हैं कि जब किसी बाहर के प्रदेश का व्यक्ति नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के किसी प्रदेश से,

किसी हाउस में मेम्बर बनकर आये। As you know, my late father won two elections from Tripura. Secondly -- Kalita ji would know it -- Professor B.B. Dutta was once nominated. I think, I am the third such Member, coming from a State in the North East, but I am honoured that my leader, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, gave me a seat in Rajya Sabha from the State of West Bengal. When I won in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, very often, I used to come to these galleries in Rajya Sabha to watch what the Upper House was saying. I used to watch very keenly how Mr. Jaitley used to speak or how Mr. Chidambaram debated on GST. I watched Shri Derek O'Brien, Sukhendu da, Prof. Yadav and other leaders, and I used to truly feel what a privilege it was to be in this House. Contrary to popular belief, I never expected that I will come to the Upper House. लोग कहते हैं कि इनको तो पता था कि ये राज्य सभा में आयेंगी, मुझे पता नहीं था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was the first one to congratulate you. I was the Governor then.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: Right, Sir. As the Governor of West Bengal, you called me and congratulated me. हम एक-दूसरे के बारे में बोलते हैं, but I would like to mention here that the integral part of this House is not just the Members but it is the marshalls, the officials who sit here, and the Secretary General who guides us through many moments. I would like to thank them also.

Sir, coming from the North-East -- I am not going to make a political speech at all -- I will say one thing. Keeping the States of North-East stitched together is a herculean task.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it not political? Whenever someone says, "I am not going to make a political speech", I am sure it will be a hundred per cent political speech.

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: I will not criticize anybody today, but I feel that the way peace in North-East has been stitched together, it is a very delicate process. Different ethnic groups have different aspirations. I will not use the word 'conflict'; today is not that day. There are different linguistic groups. I myself am a linguistic minority from Assam. It is a very fine balance that we should all strive to maintain even in the future. That is all I seek. मैं एक बात और कहना चाहती हूँ कि 16th लोक सभा में एक ऐसी खासियत थी कि after many decades, a Government came to power with absolute majority, and in that, I think, was a golden opportunity to do policy reforms and many other good things for the country. Whether that has been done or not done, I am no one to comment on that. But I hope that the effects of this majority will be judged by the people.

Sir, I hate good-byes. I am very bad at saying good-bye. So, I will tell all my colleagues on my right and on my left that, I am sure, we will meet again, whether inside the House or outside the House. I would like to thank my leader, Shri Derek O' Brien, Sukehndu *da* and Khargeji, who guided me in the 16th Lok Sabha. He is today here in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to thank the Leader of the House, Piyush Goyalji. I would end my speech with one story. Sir, in Lok Sabha, once a very complicated and technical Bill came up. It was about payment gateways on credit cards, and Jaitleyji was the Finance Minister then. अचानक खरगे जी ने बोला, "Sushmita, this is coming up and you will have to speak on it because the person who was supposed to speak on it is not here today." I just could not decipher that Bill. I was struggling with it. I remember going to Digvijaya Singhji and asking about it. I went to Arun Jaitleyji and said, "Sir, you are moving this Bill. I am not able to follow it and, in the next ten minutes, I have to speak." He told me how to debate that Bill against the Government. So, Sir, how much we may fight, I feel those back-room channels ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just saying that that is the beauty of Parliament, of democracy, and I hope to see that in the future in this House and in the other House. Thank you very much, Sir. I hope to see you soon again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the hon. Member, Ms. Sushmita, was saying 'people on my right and left', I was wondering that people who are on your right are on my left. So, we will have to reconcile.

Hon. Members, the sentiments expressed by the retiring Members and by the leaders of various political parties indicate that our bond will continue to flourish and everyone leaving this House will be an integral part of this House. I had indicated on an earlier occasion that whenever hon. Members visit Delhi, as Chairman, Rajya Sabha, we will look after and make arrangements for their stay. We have devised a mechanism that hon. Members in this House need not get in touch with the Secretariat. They need to get in touch with Secretary, Rajya Sabha, a very senior official, so that the Members have least inconvenience. As regards certain issues of retiring Members, like pension issues, all are settled before the last day of retirement. This enlightenment I got after a situation on 8th August, 2022. After my election was declared, but I had not taken oath, a former Member of Rajya Sabha thought it fit to write to me as Vice-President. Venkaiah Naiduji was the Vice-President then.

He said that his pension issues are pending with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on one ground. And that ground is that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat was insisting on an affidavit that must be sanctified by a Gazetted Officer. After taking oath of office on 11th August, after one hour at *Up-Rashtrapati Niwas*, I came to the Rajya Sabha and I

asked the Secretary-General, "Why are we delaying it? The hon. Member retired in April. We know his bank account. We know his details." I was surprised. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat said that there is an Act. That Act has been passed by the Parliament. That Act is in pursuance of the recommendations of a Joint Parliamentary Committee. And that Act makes a provision that such a form should be there. I said that the hon. Member has already indicated that he will go to a court of law. With your strength, I directed the Secretary-General then and there that all these provisions are not mandatory; they are directory. I ensured it on the same day. The proceedings at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were convened on that count. But sometimes when we engage in legislation, we create a mechanism that puts the executing authorities in problem. And that indicates that everything which is passed by this House as a legislation must be fully scrutinized. We, in this House, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee sanctified that a retiring Member would have to give an affidavit duly signed by a Gazetted Officer, and the Secretariat was bound by it. I have held it to be directory. But if we had been more alert at that point in time and cared for the dignity of a retiring Member, perhaps, that situation would not have arisen. I have made it a condition here that before a Member retires, everything must be formalized. Whenever an ex-Member comes to Delhi, and if he has any problem of accommodation, we will try to accommodate him in Western Court.

Hon. Members, I now take up Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... This was already there. It was done as a special circumstance. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Dr. Meena.

डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, राजस्थान के हालात बहुत बिगड़े हुए हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.241.

Promotion of manufacture and sale of electric vehicles

*241. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: