

[Answers to Starred and Un-starred Questions (Both in English and Hindi) are available as Part -I to this Debate, published electronically on the Rajya Sabha website under the link <https://sansad.in/rs/debates/officials>]

1.00 P. M.

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is my great pleasure and honour to indicate to this House that देश के पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, चौधरी चरण सिंह जी को भारत रत्न से सम्मानित किया जा रहा है। भारत के प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने अपने ट्वीट में यह कहा है कि यह सम्मान देश के लिए उनके अतुलनीय योगदान को समर्पित है। उन्होंने किसानों के अधिकार और उनके कल्याण के लिए अपना पूरा जीवन समर्पित कर दिया था। वे उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री रहे या देश के गृह मंत्री रहे या विधायक के रूप में रहे, उन्होंने हमेशा राष्ट्र निर्माण को गति प्रदान की है। वे आपात काल के विरोध में भी डट कर खड़े रहे। हमारे किसान भाई-बहनों के लिए उनका समर्पण भाव और इमरजेंसी के दौरान लोकतंत्र के लिए उनकी प्रतिबद्धता पूरे देश को प्रेरित करने वाली है। मेरे लिए यह परम सौभाग्य है कि मैं आपके समक्ष एक ऐसे व्यक्तित्व, जो ईमानदारी के प्रतीक रहे हैं, किसान के लिए समर्पित रहे हैं, उनको भारत रत्न देने की सूचना दे रहा हूँ।

Hon. Prime Minister has also tweeted, "It is a matter of immense joy that the Government of India is conferring *Bharat Ratna* on Dr. M.S. Swaminathan ji in recognition of his monumental contributions to our nation in agriculture and farmers' welfare. He played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during the challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernising Indian agriculture."

Hon. Members, I had the good occasion to interact with him when I first made an entry into the Parliament and I am sure, everyone associated with agriculture and farming will be delighted. It is a day of great satisfaction for every farmer, every person in this country that Chaudhary Charan Singh ji and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan ji have been accorded *Bharat Ratna*.

Hon. Members, another distinguished son of the nation, former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao Garu, has been honoured with the *Bharat Ratna*. Hon. Members, he was known *..(Interruptions)..* Please, G.V.L. Narasimha Rao *..(Interruptions)..* I do not appreciate it. *..(Interruptions)..* G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, I do not appreciate it. *..(Interruptions)..* Such practices must be cut down. When

the Bharat Ratna is given, it is an honour not only for the person but also for the entire nation.

Shri Narasimha Rao has been known as, and the Prime Minister has rightly noticed it, a distinguished scholar and statesman. I had many occasions to personally interact with him while he was the Prime Minister. During his tenure, there were issues on which he sought my legal advice and suggestions. Every time, I came away enlightened. His approach was sagacious and full of sublimity. Hon. Prime Minister has indicated that Narasimha Rao Garu is equally remembered for the work he did as a Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, a Union Minister and as a Member of Parliament and Legislative Assembly for many years. His visionary leadership was instrumental in making India economically advanced, laying a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth. Narasimha Rao Garu's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant measures that opened India to global markets, fostering a new era of economic development. His contribution to India's foreign policy, language and education sectors underscores his multifaceted legacy as a leader who not only steered India through critical transformations but also enriched its cultural and intellectual heritage. I am sure conferring the award on these three personalities is a matter of satisfaction for every Indian. It is well-earned. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to say one thing. *..(Interruptions)..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not on this. *..(Interruptions)..*

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, just one line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, not on this. *..(Interruptions)..* Please bear with me. *..(Interruptions)..* No, please.

Hon. Members, the Business Advisory Committee had allotted two hours for one Bill, that we are taking up, and two hours for the other two Bills. Further, the Ministers are also different. So, they may be taken up consequently, if the House so agrees.
