

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make. Members are reminded that a Group Photograph of Members of Rajya Sabha will be taken tomorrow, the 8th February, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Members are kindly requested to make it convenient to assemble latest by 9.30 a.m. tomorrow at Rashtrapati Bhawan for the Group Photograph. Members are also requested to attend the Farewell Function, in honour of retiring Members of Rajya Sabha, which will be organized at 6.30 p.m. onwards tomorrow, the 8th February, 2024, at my residence at 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi.

* SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are 13 permitted Special Mentions for today. Special Mentions of those Members who are present shall be deemed to be laid on the Table of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, there are only three or four of us present. Kindly allow us to read it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute. ...(*Interruptions*)... A Member may rise to just read the title of it.

Request for conferment of Bharat Ratna to Master Tara Singh

SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY (Punjab): First of all, I congratulate the Government of India for honouring Shri L.K. Advani and Karpuri Thakur ji, two great politicians of our times, with India's highest honour '*Bharat Ratna*'.

With the same spirit, I want to request the Government to consider the name of Master Tara Singh ji for *Bharat Ratna* too whose contributions to keep Punjab integrated with India were multi-faceted and significant, especially during the critical period of partition.

He vehemently opposed the partition of Punjab and worked tirelessly to maintain unity within the province. Despite the communal tensions and violence that

* Laid on the Table.