

yesterday while I was sitting. There was a direct intervention by Soniaji that I must have water. There was intervention from Naddaji, Health Minister, by a slip, that I must have water. This convergence for health of the Chairman, I am ever indebted.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we have come to the conclusion of a very productive 267th Session of Rajya Sabha. As we conclude the sitting of this Session, -- technically this Session ends when the hon. President takes the constitutional step -- I extend my gratitude to each one of you for your active participation and valuable contributions to the enriched discussions and soothing deliberations. The debate and discourse in the House were exemplified by enlightened inputs and varying opinion shades. After a long gap, the House witnessed welcome wit, humour, satire, sarcasm and repartee apart from intellectual fusion, while ensuring parliamentary decorum, cross-party collaboration and legislative rigour. The House engaged in insightful debate on the Motion of Thanks to the hon. President for the Address rendered by her, spanning three days with active participation of 73 hon. Members. The deliberations on the Union Budget 2025-26 were equally incisive and comprehensive, lasting over three days, and drawing the considered contribution of 89 hon. Members. Besides, the House held substantive discussion on the working of four key Ministries of the Government. On the Union Budget 2025-26, we had lively interaction between the hon. Finance Minister and the former Finance Minister that was absolutely soothing to us. As usual, they agreed to disagree. The introduction of as many as 49 Private Members' Bills in this House needs special mention. The concern of the hon. Members for Private Members' Bills is taken note of by me and I will be in touch with the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition to see that we act more diligently in this direction. Overall, the House functioned for a total of 159 hours, including more than four hours after midnight. The productivity of this Session stood at 119 per cent.

On April 3, 2025, the Rajya Sabha began proceedings and etched its name in the annals of legislative history with an unprecedented sitting from 11.00 a.m. on that day until 4.02 a.m. the following day, that is, this day -- the longest in its history. This would send a very great message to the people at large and enhance belief in this great institution. During this marathon sitting, the House passed the transformative Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, bringing transparency and

accountability to work property management, while modernising legacy systems and upholding principles of equity and justice.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the hon. Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh. His wise counsel has always been a great asset to me. I extend gratitude also to the Vice-Chairpersons, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the party leaders and all the hon. Members for their invaluable assistance and co-operation in conducting these proceedings.

I greatly recognise and acknowledge the diligent efforts of the Secretary-General and the staff for having engaged in smooth functioning of the House, working long hours. The House also had the occasion to see the presence of the hon. Prime Minister in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only what I say is going on record so that we do not have a traction otherwise.

The Session will be remembered for its historic legislative accomplishments and the spirit of unity that prevailed. It stands as a defining moment in India's parliamentary journey, a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through dialogue, perseverance and shared purpose.

The Rajya Sabha has once again set the democratic standards worth emulation by others. Hon'ble Members, our future sittings will see enhancement of these democratic values getting blossomed. *Jai Hind!* Now, our National Song.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song, "Vande Mataram", was then played.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned sine die at nine minutes past one of the clock.