

## RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2025 / 11 Chaitra, 1947 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Birthday Greetings. A mild suggestion to all the hon. Members; if they seek to speak amongst themselves, please keep their decibel low. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, may I have your attention? I urge all the hon. Members, -- being present in this House is a serious business; there will be occasions when you need to interact with one another -- make it very dignified, decorous and in low decibel. I find this being transgressed on occasions. This is my appeal to you.

Hon. Members, I am extremely pleased to extend birthday greetings to hon. Members of Parliament, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita and Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda.

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** सर, वे यहाँ से वहाँ चले गए हैं।

**श्री सभापति:** जयराम जी, आप तो इधर से उधर जाने की सोच रहे हैं, तो आप शिफ्टिंग के खिलाफ क्यों हैं? It is a natural process. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, currently, the Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change is serving his fifth term since April, 2020, representing the State of Assam in the Rajya Sabha. Shri Kalita, an advocate by profession has a distinguished political career having previously served for four terms in this august House, (1984-1990, 1990-1996, 2008-2014, and 2014 to 2019) and as a Member of Lok Sabha (1998-1999)...

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** सर, पार्टी के साथ बोलिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is noted by me. I will confer with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition for that. He has been a Cabinet Minister in

the Government of Assam from 2002 to 2004 during his tenure in the Assam Legislative Assembly, 2001 to 2006.

Hon. Members, I had the great privilege and honour to be guided by him when I got into Parliament in 1989 and shared that period along with him though he was in the other House. A seasoned parliamentarian, ever smiling and full of positivity, Shri Khalita has contributed significantly through his effective participation in debates, deliberations and discussions in the House. He is widely travelled and has represented India in many global fora. He is married to Shrimati R Witticka Kalita, an ex-IAS officer, who has served in various capacities in Assam as well as in Delhi. Their son, Shri Siddhartha Kalita is also an advocate by profession.

Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda, a distinguished Member of this House since June, 2022, is currently serving his first term representing the State of Telangana. He founded the renowned newspapers '*Namaste Telangana*' and '*Telangana Today*', and was a key founding member of the T-News channel, which played a pivotal role in the Telangana Statehood Movement. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda is married to Smt. Swaroopa Rani and the couple is blessed with son, Raghav, and daughter, Gowthami.

Hon. Members, on my own and your behalf, I wish the hon. Members a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to their family members and friends.

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### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- II. **Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of GAPL, Goa; HLL Lifecare Limited, Thiruvananthapuram; and AIIMS, New Delhi and related papers**
- III. **Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of CNCI, Kolkata; ICMR, New Delhi; FSSAI, New Delhi; LGBRIMH, Tezpur, Assam; and NEIAH, Shillong, Meghalaya and related papers**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रतापराव जाधव):** महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare