



Conference of Presiding Officers  
of  
Legislative Bodies in India

**DAILY BULLETIN**

**Lok Sabha Secretariat  
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**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011**

**76<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF  
LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA INAUGURATED**

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, inaugurated the 76<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India yesterday at a solemn function held in the Chamber of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. The Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat delivered the Welcome Address at the Inaugural Function.

At sharp 9.15am on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was given Guard of Honour outside the Ceremonial Gate of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan.

After lighting the lamp, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha inaugurated two Exhibitions, viz. (i) the Exhibition entitled *Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Historical Perspective*, set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Jaipur, and (ii) the Exhibition titled *Glorious Past of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and the Development of the State* which has been set up by the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Secretariat.

After the show round of both the exhibitions, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha released the books *Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Ke Vividh Aayam* and *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Centennial Souvenir* brought out by the Secretariat of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

It is interesting to note that films related to important events during India's Freedom Movement on epoch making Acts like Right to Information and programmes such as '*Hamari Speaker*' (Smt. Meiraa Kumar interacting with school children) and the Election Process in India were worth watching at the Exhibition.

### THE CONFERENCE INAUGURATED

At the outset, the Conference passed a Condolence Resolution on the passing away of some of the esteemed colleagues.

**This Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India expresses its deep sense of grief and sorrow at the sad demise of Shri K. Parthasarathy, Former Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; Shri Kundanlal Jaswantraji Dholakiya, Former Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Shri Gopal Singh Badhrajane, Former Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha; Shri Madhukarrao Dhanaji Chaudhary, Former Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Shri Hira Singh Chauhan, Former Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha; Dr. Sapam Budhichandra Singh, Former Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly; and Shri Ashok Chandulal Bhatt, Former Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly and place on record sincere appreciation of their valuable contributions to the Country and to the Parliamentary System.**

**Later the Resolution was adopted**

**Further, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha said that the State of Sikkim and some other parts of our country were hit by a major earthquake on 18<sup>th</sup> September causing widespread loss of life and property. 'On behalf of all of you and on my own behalf, we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish speedy recovery to the injured.'**

**Thereafter, the participants stood in silence for a short while.**

**In her Inaugural Address, the Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson of the Conference, Smt. Meira Kumar** said, “since its inception in 1921, over the decades, the Conference of Presiding Officers has evolved into a lively and powerful forum for debate and discussion, where we meet, in regular intervals. The aim of holding such a Conference is to focus on the problems we face while functioning with our system and to help make it more responsive and resilient to the changing need of the society. Today, this is the forum for discussing matters relating not only to parliamentary practices and procedures but also various other issues having a vital significance for our parliamentary democratic system. Our Conferences have gone a long way in establishing sound democratic conventions and parliamentary practices and procedures in our Legislative Bodies”.

Further, she added that the Fifth Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 26 July and concluded on 31 August 2010. On 28 July 2010, some members made submissions during the Question Hour, regarding their notices of the Adjournment Motion to discuss the increase in prices of petroleum products, resulting in the increase in prices of essential commodities, thereby affecting the common man in the country. She disallowed these notices on the ground that an Adjournment Motion is always admitted on the failure of the Government to discharge the duties which are enjoined upon it by the Constitution and the law. However, appreciating the concern of the hon’ble members about the issue, she observed that a decision to introduce price reform measures, which affect the common man, needed to be discussed by the House, which might be done by giving notices for some other forms of discussion. Hence, the House discussed this issue under Rules 191 and 342. Thereafter, she moved the following resolution :- “Considering the impact of inflation on country’s economy, this House urges upon the Government to take effective action to mitigate its adverse effect on common man”. The resolution was adopted.

**INSIDE THE CHAMBER OF THE RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Behind the Chair of Hon’ble Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, the notable quote on the wall reads,**

*“one must not either enter an Assembly Hall or he must speak there with all the righteousness, for one who does not speak or one who speak falsely does involve himself in the equal sin”*

During the Seventh Session, the House adopted the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and discussed and passed the Budget (Railways) for 2011-2012 and Budget (General) for 2011-2012. Meanwhile, the sittings of the House were rescheduled due to the ensuing Legislative Assembly Elections in certain States that were fixed to be held in April-May. Therefore, to facilitate the passage of Railway Budget and General Budget in the changed circumstances, without the respective Demands for Grants being examined by the Standing Committees concerned, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal moved a motion on 7 March 2011 for the suspension of Rule 331G, which was adopted by the House. Thereafter, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha made the following observation: "...although, Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure has been suspended to facilitate passing of the Demands for Grants without being referred to the concerned Departmentally Related Standing Committees, the Committees may, however, examine the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries and make reports thereon...". Later the said Report was placed on the Table of the House.

#### **Cyber Café**

**A Cyber Café is set up in Room No. 110 on the first floor, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha premises for the convenience of the delegates and others. They may use this centre to browse the internet as also to receive and send e-mails. This service is available till 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

In her address, Smt. Meira Kumar stated that on 4 August, the Lokpal Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The House held a marathon debate on 27 August to discuss various issues relating to setting up of a strong and effective Lok Pal. The day being a Saturday, an extra sitting of the House was called for the purpose. About one hundred and twenty-six members expressed their views on the issue before the debate ended with the reply of the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Taking the sense of the House, the proceedings of the day was referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. As the Committee is under the jurisdiction of the Rajya Sabha, the proceedings of the debate were forwarded to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha. **This was for the first time that the proceedings of the House were sent to any Standing Committee.**

**FROM THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF HON'BLE SPEAKER,  
LOK SABHA**

- *I have had an old association with this city. I have spent several years of my childhood and adolescence at Vanasthali Vidyapeeth and MGD School at Jaipur. I learnt several things here which have helped me particularly in tough times. This land is most revered for me. I bow to the hardworking, simple and pure hearted people of this land.*
- *On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the U.S. President Barrack Obama addressed the members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. Paying tribute to the Father of Nation, he said that he became the President of the United States because Mahatma Gandhi was his inspiration. He further said that by his successful experiment with peaceful Satyagrah, Mahatma Gandhi gave the world an example of a unique revolution through a non-violent movement.*
- *We had the privilege of hosting the Fifth Conference of Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians at New Delhi from 10 to 12 July 2011...It was also decided that next conference onwards, we would have at least one woman member in every delegation and a meeting of these women representatives would also be organized.*

**Welcoming to Jaipur, Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly** said that the capital of Rajasthan which is world renowned as the Pink City has again got the honour of hosting this prestigious Conference after 33 years.

He proudly stated that each nook and corner of Rajasthan tells stories of bravery, chivalry and sacrifice...In Operation Vijay of Kargil War, of the 51 soldiers of Rajasthan who laid their lives, 35 were proud sons of Shekhawati region. The enthusiasm of youths of this region to gain entry into the Indian Army is marvelous and seen to be believed. Despite witnessing their soldier husbands sacrificing their lives at the altar of land, their proud widows prefer their only sons again with the Army.

He added that today the environmentalists may be worried about the environment protection and conservation; however, about 500 years ago a saint of this land and founder of Bishnoi tribe, Jambhoji recognizing the importance of environment conservation taught to protect wild life and trees by terming them indispensable for the

survival of human race. The credit to save black buck specie goes entirely to Bishnoi tribe. With the objective of growth of vegetation, Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Government of Rajasthan have initiated '*Harit Rajasthan*' (Green Rajasthan) campaign and due to this common man are encouraged towards tree plantation and have rejoined the traditional culture of adoption of trees.

**Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Assembly Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat was unanimously elected as the Co-Chairman of the Conference.**

He further stated that the day of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001 is a special day for the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly when H.E. the President of India dedicated this beautiful Legislative Assembly building to the public. A mixture of modern and traditional architecture, this building is a unique attraction of Rajasthan which is generally famed for its town planning and excellent vaastu craft.

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, getting encouraged from the Parliament of India and other democratic countries of world, has made every effort to maintain and enhance the parliamentary conventions, making them strong, effective and exemplary by adopting them in its day-to-day affairs. This Legislative Assembly in the early years of its life passed many radical bills oriented towards land reforms. Rajasthan, on the one hand, has been in the forefront of working in the direction of land reforms; at the same time, it has enacted many important legislations oriented towards enlightenment in social and economic spheres. Credit for it goes to the State's public welfare oriented Cabinets and vigilant members of the legislative Assembly who have always worked for taking forward the state on the road to progress.

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly has maintained special dignity in its conduct. By establishing high standards of debates, it has presented such an example of dignity and bonhomie which are exemplary and can be a source of inspiration for other State Legislatures. The legislators of Rajasthan, on the one hand, have always been thoughtful about state's economic, social and political development and simultaneously their role in the evolution and establishment of conventions, practices and feats in Legislative Assembly has been commendable indeed.

Appreciating the dire requirement of conservation of environment, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly taking initiative in the whole country has begun use of electronic medium in the important and

big part of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly by putting the entire process of question asking and answering thereof by government departments to the Assembly online. In this process, presently the Legislative Assembly Secretariat and the departments of the State Government are exchanging questions and answers thereto through computers and internet. Hon'ble members can forward their questions to the Assembly Secretariat while sitting in their constituencies or homes. By a quick estimate, the adoption of this practice will lead to a saving of about a crore pages, and the equivalent natural resources, a year.

Answers of the Questions asked by the members are put on the website of the Legislative Assembly same day soon after the Question Hour which becomes available to the general public along with the hon'ble members. **Hon'ble members can seek information on matters of public interest through questions in the inter-session period also. For this, there is a provision in the Rules of Procedure to ask unstarred questions during inter-session period.**

**Attention Delegates!**

**Delegates are requested kindly to keep their mobile phones switched off during the Business Sessions of the Conference and the Symposium. Kind cooperation of Delegates is solicited.**

**Agenda Items of the Conference**

There are three Agenda Items which will be discussed during the Conference. The first topic in the Agenda of the Conference is '*Determination for maximum period for Assent to Bills passed by the Legislature*', a pertinent question closely related to the working of our parliamentary system which requires relook. Article 111 of the Constitution of India provides that when a Bill is passed by the Houses of Parliament, it shall be presented to the President, and the President shall declare either that she assents to the Bill, or that she withholds assent therefrom. Under the proviso to article 111, the President may, however, return the Bill other than a Money Bill, to the Houses for reconsideration. There is no specific mention in the Constitution of any time-limit within which the President shall declare either that she assents to the Bill, or that she withholds her assent. Further, the proviso to article 111 also says, if the President wants to return the Bill, she shall do so "as soon as possible" after the Bill is presented to her.

*The Role of the Legislature in scrutinizing and making Laws for Good Governance* is the next subject chosen for discussion during this Conference. Legislature's role in law making - the opportunity to

review and examine and discuss the proposed legislation and influence the final shape – is of immense value. At the same time, enactment of law is not as easy as one thinks. Before a Bill becomes an Act, it has to go through a process of well-defined procedural channel - the three readings, reference to Select/Joint Committee/ Departmentally Related Standing Committees, inviting public opinion, consulting experts, etc. Before the law is enacted, it is discussed and scrutinized considerably on the floor of the House. Simultaneously, the issue is also discussed in other *fora* like political parties, NGOs and the civil society. Therefore, the procedure of legislation is elaborate and time consuming.

**Attention Delegates!**

**All Delegates, Secretaries, Spouses/accompanying persons and other Officials are cordially invited to attend all the Lunches and Dinners.**

**Attention Delegates!**

- **Cultural programme at Vidyadhar Ka Bagh, Jaipur at 1900 hours today**
- **Dinner hosted by Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha at Vidyadhar Ka Bagh, Jaipur at 2030 hrs. today.**

As regards the third topic, the emergence of the '*Age of Coalition*', as it were, is closely associated with the growing complexity in the process of representation. Very few democracies are today untouched by the phenomenon of coalition and India is not an exception. The Indian experience shows that coalitions have not been alien to our soil. Though the emergence of coalition was delayed in our country, it is now increasingly being felt that this system may become the most favoured form of governance in the years to come, given the magnitude of socio-political problems and the inherent complexities of consensus-building that we have been facing in the prevailing conditions. India has become exemplary in providing a model of coalition government, which is stable, durable and effective, to the world through its coalition experience of more than a decade. It has

combined coalition government with good governance and has become successful in ensuring political stability and development. However, the coalition arrangement has its own peculiar problems, compulsions and challenges too. Certainly, in this era of coalition politics, a coalition culture is required to be inculcated in the mindsets of the people and the politicians. Equally vital is the constitutional and legal safeguards to check and prevent the behaviours of the recalcitrant political parties. These can provide order in disorder, coherence in contradictions and continuity in change.

Today, the Second Agenda Item was the first to be taken up which was initiated by Shri Uday Narain Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly. A number of delegates participated in the discussion.

### **VISIT TO AMBER FORT**

Situated 11 Km. from Jaipur amidst widespread hills raises Amber also known as Amer, the magnificent old citadel – is a beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions and temples.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar hosted Dinner yesterday alongwith a Sound and Light Show followed by Cultural Programme. Delegates and others enjoyed outstanding performances by well-known artists against the background of Amber Fort.

### **'AT HOME'**

H.E. Shri Shivraj Patil, Governor of Rajasthan was gracious to invite Hon. Presiding Officers and others for 'At Home' organized at Raj Bhawan, Rajasthan.

## **PLEASE NOTE !**

### **Sight-Seeing/Post-Conference Tour**

Arrangements have been made to take the spouse of the visiting delegates and others on local sight-seeing in the Pink City from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 and of course, they will be accompanying the

delegates on the Post-Conference Tour scheduled to Ajmer-Pushkar and Ranthambhor.

### **Photographs**

Delegates can have a look at the photographs clicked during the Conference and place an order by depositing the money towards developing the pictures after selection of the pictures on the computer itself in Room No. 245. The photograph could also be sent through e-mail.

**TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS****Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011**

<i>1000 hrs.</i>	Discussion on the points on the Agenda to continue
<i>1130 hrs.</i>	Coffee Break at Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan Premises
<i>1145 hrs.</i>	Discussion on the points of the Agenda to continue
<i>1300 hrs.</i>	Lunch at Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Bhawan Premises
<i>1430 hrs.</i>	Discussion on the points of the Agenda to continue
<i>1600 hrs.</i>	Conclusion of the Conference
<i>1900 hrs.</i>	Cultural Programme at Vidyadhar Ka Bagh, Jaipur
<i>2030 hrs.</i>	Dinner hosted by Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Speaker, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha at Vidyadhar Ka Bagh, Jaipur.