

**VOTE OF THANKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, LOK SABHA,
SHRI P.D.T. ACHARY**

SECRETARY-GENERAL, LOK SABHA: *Respected Upa Rashtrapati ji, Respected Prime Minister, Respected Speaker, Lok Sabha, Respected Prof. Amartya Sen, Hon. Ministers, Distinguished Leaders of various Political Parties, Hon. Members of Parliament, Hon. Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am privileged to be invited to propose a vote of thanks at the Inaugural of Prof. Hiren Mukerjee Memorial Parliamentary Lecture organised by the Lok Sabha on behalf of the Parliament of India.

We are deeply grateful to the respected *Upa Rashtrapati ji* for his kind presence today. We always look forward to listening to his words of wisdom and we get a sense of intellectual enrichment after hearing him. Sir, I thank you for presiding over this function and for your short but enlightening address.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the hon. Prime Minister for gracing this occasion as the Chief Guest. We are deeply grateful to you, Sir, for the address you gave, which was remarkable for his insight.

I must express our profound thanks to the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee for his brilliant initiative in instituting this Memorial Lecture in the memory of one of the most outstanding world Parliamentarians. The hon. Speaker, through his various thoughtful and novel initiatives, has enriched the institution of Parliament in many ways, which is unparalleled in the history of Indian Parliament. The Lok Sabha TV Channel, the hi-tech Museum, the Lecture Series by eminent men for the benefit of Members of Parliament, the Parliamentary Friendship Groups to foster mutual understanding among world's Parliamentarians, and now the Annual Memorial Lecture – all bear the imprint of his visionary mind. Sir, I take this opportunity to express our profound thanks for all that you have done to enrich the Parliamentary institution.

We have listened to the illuminating Lecture by noble laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen on the subject 'Demands of Social Justice'. With his characteristic incisiveness, he explained in today's Lecture the larger dimensions of '*nyaya*' in the context of the injustice in the world. So, we are indeed fortunate to have Prof.

Amartya Sen here to give this Inaugural Lecture on this occasion. He has been written about, talked about, and discussed extensively. His assimilative and syncretic mind made original contribution to the corpus of ideas and economics. He discovered the bridge between economics and philosophy. He asserted that substantial famine cannot exist in the democracies. He gave the world a new insight into the phenomenon of poverty and deprivations and laid down new parameters for understanding it. He emphasized the need to have political and civil rights in order to conceptualize the economic needs of the people. He believes that the democracy is a universally relevant system and through empirical analysis disproved the general belief that authoritarian systems generate faster economic growth.

Prof. Amartya Sen is a brilliant son of Mother India whose mind transcended the barriers of race and nationality, and internalized the impulses of an egalitarian world order. He enriched the world with ideas and thoughts. We salute this great thinker.

I also express my sincere thanks to all the distinguished guests who came on our invitation and graced this occasion.

I also thank the media and all those who helped us to make this function a success.

Thank you very much.

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