

## VOTE OF THANKS

**SECRETARY-GENERAL, LOK SABHA:** *Respected Uparashtrapati ji; respected Prime Minister; Respected Speaker, Lok Sabha; our most distinguished guest Nobel Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus; Hon. Chairperson of the UPA, Hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha; Hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha; Hon. Ministers; Hon. Members of Parliament; Excellencies; Distinguished Guests; and Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I consider it a great privilege to propose a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries who have made it convenient to attend this 2<sup>nd</sup> Professor Hiren Mukerjee Memorial Annual Parliamentary Lecture organized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on behalf of the Parliament of India in the memory of an accomplished Parliamentarian and a renowned scholar, Professor Hiren Mukerjee.

Today's Lecture has been a fitting tribute to this stalwart who had a genuine concern for the poor and vulnerable, and an abiding commitment to the welfare of the people and establishment of an egalitarian society.

We are deeply grateful to the respected Uparashtrapati ji for presiding over this function and for an enlightening address. His address was unique as always because of the novelty of ideas as well as style. Sir, I thank you for presiding over this function and your address.

I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the respected Prime Minister for gracing this occasion as the chief guest. His presence today in this function has immensely enhanced its importance. We are extremely grateful to you, Sir, for your insightful address.

I must express my deep gratitude to our respected Speaker of the Lok Sabha for the initiative she took in holding this function and also for deciding to invite the eminent Nobel Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus as today's guest for guidance to us in all our activities ensure that we always do the right thing in the right way.

We have just listened to the powerful and thought provoking Lecture by our eminent guest, Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. An internationally renowned economist from Bangladesh and the founder of Grameen Bank, Professor Muhammad Yunus has spoken extensively on the conceptual and practical dimension of social business – a step towards creating a new economic and social order. Professor Yunus has postulated a new world of business where the profit and the social benefit coexist complementing each other.

Professor Yunus has strongly argued this his model of social business can greatly help the developing nations in eradicating poverty. The Grameen Bank and micro-credit has helped millions of poor in their struggle against poverty. We greatly value his contribution in the uplift of the underprivileged and the downtrodden, and express our profound thanks to him for sharing his views with us on a topic of such contemporary relevance.

I also express my sincere thanks to the Hon. Chairperson of the UPA, Hon. Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses, all the Hon. Ministers, their Excellencies, the Hon. Governors, the Hon. Chief Ministers, distinguished diplomats, the Hon. Members of Parliament, and other esteemed guests, who have taken keen interest in the programme and have taken time out of their busy schedule to attend this Lecture.

Lastly, my thanks are due to my colleagues in the Secretariat, particularly of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, and Officers and staff of other allied agencies, who have worked with great dedication to make this programme a success.

Thank you.