

**Hon'ble Speaker Thiru. M. Appavu, Speech in All India
Presiding Officers Conference held in Mumbai on 27-1-2024**

**To strengthen people's trust in democratic institutions -
the need to maintain discipline and decorum in Parliament
and the Legislatures of States, Union Territories**

The Starting point for the Democracy in Modern India can be traced to the Kodavolai System and it can be found in the Uthiramerur inscriptions in Kancheepuram District of Tamil Nadu. Ten qualifications were prescribed for electing the president of Gram Panchayat. The Removal of President of Gram Panchayat were also prescribed in the above System. Indian Democracy is an extension of this System.

Direct elections for electing representatives of the Parliament and the Legislatures by the people is the process of democracy in the federal system of Indian Republic. The four pillars of democracy in India are Parliament/Legislative Assemblies, Executive, Judiciary and Press. Although the Jurisdiction of these pillars are entirely different, people will be benefited if there is only complete unison among them. Only if there is fruitful debate on the resolutions/bills in the Parliament/Legislative Assemblies relating to the problems faced by the people, it will be

beneficial to the society. The Judiciary interprets the laws passed by the Parliament and the house monitors the functioning of the Executive limb. The press expresses its views on these three pillars.

The creditability and decorum of the House will be enhanced if the Bills introduced in the House are subjected to detailed discussion. At times, when the members wilfully disrupt the proceedings of the house, it is natural that the Chair will take action on those members. The Members have unfettered right to raise issues pertaining to the people during the Question hour. The views aired by the Opposition has to be heard by the Government. However, of late, it is observed that the voice of the opposition is being deliberately stifled in Parliament, and crucial bills have been introduced and passed after evicting the opposition members. This is not good for Democracy.

The observation of the Hon. Justice Anand Venkatesh of Madras High Court regarding the IPC Bill may be brought to the notice of this August Body. **"I will refer to IPC only as IPC even after it gets replaced with new law named in Hindi."** It may be pertinent to state that this bill has been recently passed by the Parliament without majority of the opposition members.

I wanted to bring to the notice of this august body of an incident when Thaliyar Kalaingar was Chief Minister during 2006-2011. At that

time Thiru. O. Pannerselvam was Leader of the Opposition. For an incident which had happened during that period, the then Hon. Speaker expelled all the opposition members from the house. As and when the Hon. Kalaignar entered the house, he asked the present Hon. Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin to bring the opposition members so as to participate in the proceedings of the house. This is the act of kindness and shows how the leader wants to preserve democracy.

In the present Legislative Assembly treasury bench has 132 members and opposition has 101 members. In the past two and a half years of my tenure I have given 107 hours for the opposition members for taking part in the discussion. However, Ruling Party Members have given opportunity to speak for 78 hours only. The aim of our Hon. Chief Minister is to give more opportunity and time to opposition members so as to record their views in the house.

The Bills passed in the Lok sabha and Rajya Sabha have been assented to by the Her Excellency the President in one or two days. But, in many states the Hon. Governors are not assenting and keeping the bills for Number of Months and Number of Years which were taken to Supreme Court. With a view to stop these, I have expressed in the last presiding officers conference held at Simla that a time limit has to be

fixed for assenting the bills by the Hon. Governors. I insist again the same view in this Conference also.

Further, Hon. Governor during the last years Governor's Address deleted some portions in the Address which was already approved by him and added some portions in the Address which were already approved by him and added some portions on his own without the knowledge of the elected Government, which decreased the decorum of the House.

Recently Hon. Governor of Kerala read the last page of the Address which made a mockery of Democracy which will not be accepted by anyone who has faith in Democracy.

If the Ruling Party in a democratic way follows everything, it gives respect to the Democracy and enhances the pride of our Nation.

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