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PRESS RELEASE

Speech delivered by **Thiru P. Dhanapal, Hon. Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly** during the meeting convened by Hon. Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Chairman of the Committee of Presiding Officers to look into the matter of Smooth Functioning of the House with other members of the Committee through video conferencing on 29.05.2020

Vanakkam to Respected Chairman, Members and Officers of the "Committee of Presiding Officers to look into the matter of Smooth Functioning of the House"

I have great pleasure in addressing the meeting today and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Chairman for having convened the meeting through video conferencing.

It is an undeniable fact that the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies are the Supreme Representative Bodies through which the will of the people is expressed and laws are passed. They are the highest deliberating and policy making bodies in India.

The mandate given to the Members of the House is to keep a check on the executive and to give representation to people's voice. The aspiration and wishes of the Common people are expressed through these bodies thereby proving that in a democracy people are Supreme.

In order to run the House smoothly and efficiently, there should be discussion, debate, and dissent, but not 'Disruption'. To maintain dignity and tradition of democracy, there should be constructive criticism by the opposition, which will not only enhance the standard of debate but also increase the productivity of the House.

Sometimes, Members create disturbances in the House on the ground that they are not getting opportunities to put forth the grievances pertaining to their Constituencies. This can be avoided to a great extent by increasing the number of sittings per year.

It is an admitted fact that the smooth and orderly conduct of Legislative Business is the duty and responsibility of the Hon.

Speaker. However, it is not possible without the active cooperation of all the Members.

I would like to point out here that the efficient and smooth functioning of State Assemblies depends, to a considerable extent, upon the Chief Government Whip and the Whips of the Opposition Parties as they interact with the Presiding Officers very closely on behalf of their Parties regarding Parliamentary procedures, practices and conventions. They are the vital links between the Presiding Officers and Leaders of Legislature Parties.

There are separate rules of procedure for all State Legislative Assemblies and the Speakers shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing the rules and preventing disorder. In order to maintain cordial relationship, these rules are not being implemented strictly. Sometimes, Speakers are in the habit of pardoning the erring members based on the assurance given by the leaders of Legislature Parties to the effect that such instance will not recur in future.

Maintaining discipline within the House is an art. No art can be learnt without putting in a good deal of effort. Here I would like to quote a proverb 'Practice makes perfect' which says if one does an activity regularly, he becomes extremely good at it. Hence, I would like to suggest that necessary training should be imparted to the Members about the Rules of procedure, practice, convention, etc., which will automatically mould them to maintain discipline in the House.

I would also like to suggest that the 'Best Legislator Award' may be given to Members each year, as in Parliament, for their efficient functioning in the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the rules of procedure, practices, conventions, etc., which will encourage other members to follow.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

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