

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TO FELICITATE HER ON BEING AWARDED THE BEST PARLIAMENTARIAN AWARD, 2013 ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2018 AT THE AUDITORIUM OF NCW, NEW DELHI

Ms. Rekha Sharma ji, Chairperson, National Commission for Women,  
All the Officers and Staff of National Commission for Women,  
Representatives of the NGOs,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be here at this Special Programme organized by National Commission for Women to felicitate me on being awarded the Best Parliamentarian Award, 2013. I am thankful to Ms. Rekha Sharma ji, Chairperson, NCW and her team for taking the trouble to organize such a memorable programme for me.

The Best Parliamentarian Award has been instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group to recognize and honour the MP who has contributed the most in upholding the best parliamentary practices in a year. It is considered a prestigious Award as India is looked upon as the largest vibrant democracy in the world and if not for anything else but for the reason that the Indian Democratic System revolves around the Indian Parliament. The recipients of the Award in the past have all been illustrious personalities who left their footprints in the best spirit of democratic ethos. I feel really humbled and privileged to be ranked among some of the greatest advocates of Indian democracy.

The Award also underscores the basic postulate of democracy that we all have onerous responsibilities as elected representatives of the people whose trust and faith are paramount in a Parliamentary polity. It also warrants that we should go far beyond the confines of our political and social identities to channelize the spirit of the country's progressive vision across the length

and breadth of the nation. It is the fundamental duty of Parliamentarians to discharge their duties with commitment to the interests of the people. To be effective Parliamentarians, the members are required to use various procedural devices and opportunities available to them in a responsible and pro-active manner.

The legislative function of the Parliament is geared to ensure a just and equitable society and to safeguard the sanctity of our democratic values. Our effectiveness as Parliamentarians depends much on the sincerity, commitment and ability with which we are able to use various opportunities available in Parliament to influence the Executive action in evolving timely and constructive solutions to the problems that our people face. Only by meaningful participation in Parliamentary debates and Committee works, can we truly serve the people. Disruptionist and confrontationist attitude is neither in the interest of the system nor of the people. Of late, unfortunately, there is a perception that the atmosphere in our Legislatures is not in consonance with due discharge of the members' duties towards the society and that the quality of debates as also the behaviour of our members is not up to the desired level. It is indeed a disturbing trend, which tends to demoralize and dishearten the people at large. If we have to retain the trust of the people in our functioning and commitment to our democratic structure, we cannot allow such debilitating trends to continue.

I consider the National Commission for Women an important and essential cog of our democratic wheel. The Commission serves as a powerful watchdog for the protection of the rights of women in our male dominated society and instils in them the confidence to enjoy their independence. In the context of good governance, women empowerment figures prominently and the Commission's primary concern would be that no injustice is done to women. Unfortunately, the growing crime graph against women in the country of late is tearing the society apart. This trend should be checked and

curbed at all cost and there is need for the Commission to remain ever vigilant. I have implicit trust in the Commission that it will rise to the occasion.

With these few words, I, once again, thank the National Commission for Women for organising this felicitation programme and assure you to always stand by the Commission in your endeavour for promotion and protection of women's rights.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.