

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE 10TH EDITION OF SANSAD RATNA AWARDS 2019
FUNCTION AT DURBAR HALL, RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI
ON 19.01.2019 AT 3.00 PM**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

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Award Winning Members of Parliament

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It fills me with happiness to participate in the function organised by Prime Point Foundation for the distribution of the Sansad Ratna Awards. The top performing Members of Parliament are being honoured today as a mark of recognition of their services rendered to the people of India through their invaluable contributions in Parliament.

I am informed that these awards were instituted on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India.

The Parliament is a place where major matters affecting the nation or the State are raised and discussed. A Member of Parliament has thus a major role to play in shaping the destiny of the nation. The Member of Parliament can use this

platform to raise issues concerning his Constituency, his State and the Nation. But it must be always remembered that the functioning of Parliament should serve the national purpose. In this context let me quote to you a famous statement about Parliament made by Edmund Burke. He said, "Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different and hostile interests; which interests each must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates; but parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where, not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole.

You choose a member indeed; but when you have chosen him, he is not a member of a Constituency alone, but he is a member of parliament.”

The Government plays a vital role in preparing legislations. Yet the role played by the Members of Parliament is also important. Right from the time of our Independence, innumerable legislations have been passed. Some of our important legislations have been initiated by private members also. One can recall the Lokpal bill, the Freedom of Information Bill etc., as well known examples.

The Members of Parliament have to be versatile personalities. They have different roles to play, like legislation, national level policy-making

and supervision of the Government. Sometimes the local people also approach their representative Members of Parliament for issues which are to be tackled by local bodies. And the local people evaluate the performance of a Member of Parliament on the basis of his responsiveness to their requests. Even I, as a Member of Parliament, used to receive many complaints from the public about issues which ought to have been handled by the local bodies or the State Government. I would then contact the District Administration or the State Government officials in Mantralaya to find redressal for such grievances.

I am sure the Honourable Members are aware of the positive role that technology plays in the

various spheres of life. I would suggest to the Hon'ble Members to make use of technology for the welfare of the people in the constituency. The role of the social media in today's life cannot be down-played. They have greater reach especially among the youth and the urban population of the country. Most of the Hon'ble Members are making use of the social media to their advantage as well as for the benefit of the people. Yet again, I urge upon them to use this platform wisely for the betterment of their constituencies, say, for the propaganda of the welfare schemes of the government so that it reaches a large number of the people for their benefit, and for broaching

sensitive issues for a healthy debate in order to reach an amicable solution.

India is on the threshold of realizing the full benefits of the Demographic Dividend. The average age of the population of about 125 crores is 29 years and more than half the population is below the age of 25 years. This augurs well for both short term and long term growth.

At least ten million Indian youth enter the country's workforce each year. The benefits of the demographic dividend will be realised fully when this large workforce is fully skill trained for gainful employment. As Parliamentarians it is your responsibility that the way is paved for this transformation to occur.

India is a nation with a glorious past. Inspired by the dynamic leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister the nation is asserting itself vigorously in the present. Considering the huge wealth of talent that the nation is endowed with, the future promises to be even rosier. It is in our hands to make that happen. Imagine the strength when a nation of 125 crore people starts moving forward in one whole mass. It will not only dominate the world but will also leave everybody behind. That in my view is the concept of the New India that is emerging. Great people have moulded the nation and its people. Great books continue to guide us in our daily lives. Great ideals beckon us to greater heights. Let us resolve unto ourselves,

to contribute all our mite for the sake of the nation.
That would be nationalism with a sense of service.
That would be growth without pain since all of us
will grow together. That would lead to greatness
which is beckoning us from all directions.

Nation building is long and to arduous task,
and it is necessary to have the right mix of
strategy, timely execution and goal oriented action
for the exercise to bear fruit.

The time is ripe for a quantum leap forward.
The whole world is our stage and our performance
is going to spur us on a path of high growth
employment and prosperity.

I congratulate all the award-winning
Parliamentarians for their outstanding performance

in the House. The Awardees have been selected by the Selection Committee, based on their individual cumulative performance i.e., Initiated debates + Private Members Bill + Questions raised etc. Additional parameters like attendance in the House and Committee Meetings. Usage of MPLad funds have also been taken into account.

Between 2010 and now, 9 editions of Award have been completed. Today awards are being distributed to 12 Members of Parliament. This noble effort should go on. I congratulate the Prime Point Foundation for their efforts and Thiru K. Srinivasan in particular for the initiative taken by him to honour Parliamentarians and extend my best wishes and greetings to them.

India gave unto itself a Constitution which enshrined the values of justice, liberty and equality so as to promote fraternity among the people of India. The nation rejoiced together to welcome the arrival of an era of opportunity and growth. The Constituent Assembly had in its ranks redoubtable personalities such as Sardar Patel, Rajaji, Nehru, Kannaiyalal Munshi, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Balwant Rai Mehta and H.V. Kamath.

It was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee was Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These personalities have, through their lives of simplicity and sacrifice shown the way for the evolution of a society based

on justice and inclusive growth. Let us follow their paths with sincerity and steadfastness.

We have a vibrant democracy and we are all proud to be a part of it. I am confident that you will all carry forward the time-tested democratic values. I wish you success in all your endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind.....