(Speech delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal on 3rd June, 2017, the Allahabad Youth Parliament held at United Engineering College Naini, Allahabad)

Bharat Bhagya Vidhata

Bharat Ke Bhagya Vidhata, the youth of the country;

The dignitaries present;

Ladies and gentlemen.

I am overwhelmed to be present in this second edition of the Allahabad Youth Parliament. I thank the organisers and specially Miss Damini Tandon for giving me this opportunity.

It is a novel concept to organise a Youth Parliament and I am proud that it has been organised in a city like Allahabad which had always been alive to the national problems and had contributed immensely to the law making.

I had no idea as what Youth Parliament is all about till I received this invitation. The first thing therefore, which flashed to my mind was to know something about it.

I understand that Youth Parliament is simply a forum provided to the young people between the age of 15 to 35 to learn how Indian Parliament and its members' work; how decisions which shape our lives are taken; how the matters that decide the course of nation are debated; how the democracy functions; and what is the process of making law for the welfare and the benefit of the nation. The participants in the "youth parliament" come up with ideas, plans and policies that may ultimately make life better for every citizens and in the process they learn about the democratic and parliamentary ways of living.

The involvement of youth in the process of making law is very important as they are the future of the country and they are the best persons to decide the way they want to live and the kind of foot prints they want to leave for the generation to follow.

After independence we have not witnessed much participation of the youth in Indian politics and the law making.

A few years back the legendry President of India Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam had visited Allahabad and had asked a huge gathering of students before him to raise their hands if they wanted to be future politicians of the country. Hardly, one or two young people raised their hands. This shows the apathy of the youth of the country towards politics or to the law making.

Generally, what is happening is that some parliamentarian picks up an idea for enacting a law on a particular subject may be due to some political constraints. The bill is introduced and most of the time with some or no debate it is passed making a law for the country. At this stage, no one from the public or the political a legal background comes up with any suggestion or lodges a protest against the proposed legislation. The hue and cry only starts after the enactment of the law.

If people from legal background do not come forward and involve themselves in the process of law making the situation would move from bad to worse and we will have all kinds of unwanted law may be for show only or for benefits other than the welfare of the human life.

Most of the law graduates opt for the corporate world, some go to judiciary or teaching and some land up into litigation. I suppose very few take it to the legislative work. Drafting of a statute or a rule or regulation is a specialized work and is more important then implementing and interpreting the laws. It is only if we have well drafted and meaningful laws that the courts of law would be able to expand the law to a new horizon keeping in mind the social needs of the people of the country.

It is therefore, imperative to persuade the youth of the country to come forward and to participate in law making. This can only happen if we run a shadow parliament of the youth and discuss the

various laws which our Parliament is thinking of to legislate so that concrete suggestions on the basis of what the young people of this country wants can be circulated to the legislators to help them out in forming their opinion before enacting any law. These shadow Parliaments would not only be of immense help in improving the quality of law but in preparing the new generation in the skill of legislating.

In the end, I extent my deep gratitude to PAHAL the organisation of law students for organising the 2nd edition of Allahabad Youth Parliament. I hope that their efforts would bear fruits in bringing about new breed of skilled future parliamentarians.

Thanking you.

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