

FEEDBACK ON TRAINING PROGRAMME AT RIPA INTERNATIONAL, LONDON

I was nominated alongwith five other officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to a training programme on Parliamentary Administration: Benchmarking against the UK Parliament organised by Royal Institute of Parliamentary Administration (RIPA) in London from 31st October to 11th November, 2011. There were total ten participants out of which six were from India, two from South Africa and one each from Timor Leste and Nigeria. This training programme was specially designed for the participants to understand British Parliamentary procedure & practices. During the course of training the following topics were covered:

- (i) The administrative structure of the Westminster Parliament
- (ii) Parliament and Politics in turmoil-the background
- (iii) The British constitution, the evolution of parliamentary factions, security and influence, representation and expression, legislation, deliberation, her majesty's opposition, party discipline and the power of executive, reform, the party system.
- (iv) Reform of Parliament and Public Sector
- (v) Reporting the proceedings-recruitment and training at the official report (Hansard)
- (vi) The Govt.'s interface with parliament- role of a Govt. Deptt.'s Parliamentary Clerk
- (vii) The office of the Chief Executive and the work of internal audit
- (viii) Managing change and the implications for human resources
- (ix) The work of the House of Commons Table Office
- (x) Parliament , politicians and the media
- (xi) The House of Lords , its administration and its changing constitutional position

- (xii) Human resources development in the House of Lords
- (xiii) Information services in the House of Commons
- (xiv) The Select Committee system in the House of Commons

2. Guided tour to both the Houses of Parliament; Select Committee, Supreme Court; Vote Office- printing & distribution of parliamentary papers; Chamber of the House of Commons to see the proceedings of the House; and Office of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association were also organized.

3. During the visits to the various august institutions I got the opportunity to see the historic structures of the Westminster building, its corridors and chambers. Westminster is a wonderful monument. I also got the opportunity to witness the live proceedings of the House Commons and came to know about the comparison between British and Indian systems. I had also opportunity to see the main committee room where the Select Committee holds the committee meetings. I was informed about the seating arrangements for members, officers, witnesses and public. I was also taken to Supreme Court and Office of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which was a wonderful experience in itself.

4. The programme was primarily based on the role and working of the British Parliament. The training provided me a unique opportunity to make a comparative study of the structural & functional aspects of the two Parliaments, viz. of United Kingdom and India. The whole training programme

was very useful. I am very grateful to the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha for nominating me to attend the said training programme. I am also grateful to Training Unit, Conference & Protocol Section and Co-ordinator who gave me valuable support for the said training.

**NARENDRA KUMAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**