

FEEDBACK ON RIPA TRAINING FROM OCTOBER 19 TO OCTOBER 30, 2009.

I was nominated to attend a customized Training Programme at RIPA International, London from 19th October to 30th October, 2009. This training programme was specially designed to meet the requirements of the participants from our Rajya Sabha Secretariat. During the course I took active participations in the discussions. That gave me a tremendous opportunity to understand the different functions of our parliamentary democracy.

In the introductory session, Ian Charch, as the Director of Studies of RIPA International gave us a warm welcome and introduced the Training Course.

The programme was heavily based on the expertise of the departments of both Houses of Parliament - the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Course was focused on the practical aspects rather than its legal and political principles. The training course was aimed to acquaint the participants with the latest thinking at westminister on the day to day functioning of one of the busiest and most demanding Parliaments in the world. The course also aimed to provide first hand how officials and procedural experts keep pace with the increasing demands and changes that typically affect many Parliaments. The training course provides a unique opportunity to make comparative study of the functional aspects of the two Parliaments, viz. of UK and India.

During the training course, the most important thing which I came to know is that in the UK recruitment system there is no upper age limit even at the age of sixty one can seek government job unlike India. And I wish India should also learn from their practice and do away with the upper age limit in the recruitment processes.

During the first visit to the Westminster Ian Church has guided us. We got an opportunity to see the Historic structures of the building, its corridors and chambers and experience its ambience. The structure of the Westminster is a wonderful monument. The second time we saw the House in session and we got the opportunity to see the discussions held in that hall at that time. It was a magnificent moment for us.

We also got an opportunity to see the video recordings of the Queen's speech in the House of Lords. Ian Church explained to us the significance of different customs and practices. The visit to the Office of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was a wonderful experience in itself.

Our RIPA International visits have given us valuable opportunity for all-round development, particularly in the field of global outlook. I pay my hearty thanks to the whole secretariat and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha in particular, who has got this vision to continue to provide this unmatched world class training programme to the officials of this Secretariat. I should not forget to pay my gratitude to past visionaries who were the part of these two great institutions of the world and I am really thankful to all of them once again. This training programme has far reaching effects in our social life.

The whole training programme was very useful. I as an individual have got invaluable experience. I am extremely grateful and thankful to the respected Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha and the Training Unit for nominating me for the programme. From the experience gained, I am of the view that officials of the Secretariat should be exposed to such training programme in future also.

(PREM SINGH)
Deputy Director