

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

The undersigned was nominated to attend a Customized Training Programme on Parliamentary Administration along with 11 other Officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during 19th - 30th October 2009 organized by Royal Institute of Parliamentary Administration (RIPA), International, London at London , U.K.

The purpose behind the training was to broaden the horizons of the trainees who have Parliamentary Democracy and understanding democratic governments in the British Parliament. Lectures on the various topics and visit to House of Commons & Headquarters of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association were included in our Training Programme. The following topics and visits were covered during the training programme:-

- i) Parliament and Politics – a review of the Westminster scene
- ii) The British Constitution; the evolution of parliament functions; scrutiny and influence; representation and expression; legislation; deliberation; her majesty's Opposition; party discipline and the power of the Executive; reform; the party system; a *tour d' horizon* from Wilson to Brown
- iii) Reform of parliament and the Public Sector
- iv) Human resource management in the House of Lords
- v) Information services in the House of Commons
- vi) Select Committees in the House of Commons
- vii) Financial control and accountability at the Westminster Parliament
- viii) The Office of the chief Executive and the work of Internet Audit
- ix) Parliament, politicians and the media
- x) Guided tour of both House of Parliament
- xi) Reporting the proceedings – the Official Report [Hansard] in the 21st century
- xii) The Government's interface with Parliament – the role of a Government department's parliamentary clerk
- xiii) Computing service for Members of the House of Lords and the Parliament– wide structure of support
- xiv) The House of Lords, its work and its changing constitutional position
- xv) The work of the Table Office in the House of Commons
- xvi) Visit to the headquarters of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

- xvii) Attendance in the Chamber of the House of Commons to see the House is session – Director of Studies
- xviii) Printing and distributing the House's papers – the work of Vote Office.

It is pertinent to mention here that the contents were valuable and useful to the participants. I was very happy to attend this training programme and thankful to our Hon'ble Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha for providing this nice opportunity. Eminent faculty members and experts in different fields covered the Lecturers of the training programme. The senior officials of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords on various issues made presentations.

Under the training, apart from the above-mentioned issues, I learnt the following points:

- a) The internal organisation and day to day running of the two houses
- b) The Governments interface with Parliament
- c) The role and work of the commons office of the clerk and the board of Management
- d) Reporting the proceedings: the official Report (Hansard) in the 21st century
- e) The role of the clerk in the chamber and committee work
- f) The latest developments in financial and budgetary control – how parliament seeks to achieve value for money.

Here I would also like to make the following suggestions which can be suitably implemented in our system:-

- i) As we came to know that the British Parliament has its own mechanism in financial matters and it has discretionary powers to allocate as much as amount from the Budget as it is required by them and no one can object. Similarly, our Parliament can do in the same manner.
- ii) In the meetings of the Parliamentary Committees, media and general public may be allowed so that it will make the working of the Committee more transparent and effective.

(SAMEER SURYAPANI)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Training Cell

