Minutes of the meeting held on 07.05.2019 at 11.00 a.m. in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Conference Hall, Vice President's House, New Delhi to make a detailed presentation on National eVidhan Application (NeVA) before the Hon'ble VicePresident of India & Chairman Rajya Sabha.

A presentation on National e-Vidhan Application was delivered by Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the meeting held on 7.5.2018 at 11.00 a.m. under the Chairmanship of Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President of India & Chairman Rajya Sabha Vice President's Secretariat. The list of participants is annexed.

2.   At the outset Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting. Thereafter, Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) made initial remarks giving the detailed presentation on NeVA including various aspects of the application along with the features and modules that are integrated with the application which adds to its versatility in a perfect manner.

3.   While giving the introduction about NeVA, Secretary, MoPA vividly elucidated about the NeVA's key features along with its background, scope and objectives that distinguish it from the various other projects run by the Government of India under Digital India Programme. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which is a Nodal Ministry for this project is rolling out e-Vidhan as NeVA, covering all 40 Houses including all Legislatures and Parliament with 5374 Members and thereby putting all of them on a single platform and thus proving the theory of 'One Nation One Application' true.

4.   The brief introduction giving the outline of NeVA was followed with the detailed presentation by the Secretary, MoPA giving the detailed account of the objectives, merits, action plan, the design of the web application and the mobile application. He also emphasised on the core idea behind the adoption of this application that will outperform various applications developed till date. The participants were informed as to how the digitization, availability and applicability of information could save precious time, money, energy and resources of the Houses and its members and thus increase their efficiency manifold. He reiterated the fact that the central purpose of the application to serve the members will prove to be worthwhile as far as strengthening of democracy is concerned. NeVA will also help Chair in management of the House via House Management Applications. This single application has been designed in a way that has the potential to replace the applications presently running in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for which a collective and collaborative effort from both the Houses is called for. Secretary, MoPA, advocated for a collective involvement of both the Houses with the NeVA Team to address all the issues confronting the parliamentary procedures and to make it a successful project.

5.   The detailed presentation was followed by query session and the deliberations wherein the participants raised various interjections concerning the issues confronting them in Secretariat's work.

6.   Secretary General, Lok Sabha appreciated the initiative but expressed her concern about the dilution of autonomy of the two Houses of Parliament in choosing NeVA a digital application of the government as per the Rules of the House and the highest standards required for confidentiality of the data/ information. She was also of the views that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs who is the owner of the Application may not be fully aware of various Rules/ requirements of the Secretariat.

7.   Sh Mukul Pande, AS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat while appreciating the NeVA application, submitted that both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats have developed their own IT systems for Members over a period of time since the computerization began in early 90's and the same is time tested and running successfully. He further submitted that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat may share data with the NeVA but Neva can run parallelly with the system developed by Rajya Sabha Secretariat. This will give an option to the users to choose either of the two depending upon his requirement and ease of use.

8.   Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, Secretary to the Vice President appreciated and supported the NeVA as a very good digital initiative. He was of the view that two Houses may see the demo of the application and on the basis of experience can project their requirement to the Ministry for incorporating thereof.

8.   Secretary General, Rajya Sabha appreciated the NeVA initiative as all the 40 Houses are going to be on a single platform. However, he expressed some concern that a House runs as per the directions of the Chair. Whether system would work as per such directions and whether system could absorb such directions & decisions taken instantly.

9.   Shri K.S.C.S.V.P Gandhi, OSD to the Vice President expressed some concern that sometimes the Chair instantly decides to expunge some part of the debates from the House Proceedings but the NeVA works on the principle of *'AS IT HAPPENS'.* It may be seen how the NeVA could handle it.

10.   All the issues were addressed by the Secretary, MoPA. He demonstrated through PPT that the NeVA works on the principle *'AS IT HAPPENS'* i.e. NeVA publishes the information on public portal as it happens and the timing of such publishing could be tuned as per the requirement in accordance with the directions of the Chair. NeVA is a flexible generic product which could work under any circumstances and as per the requirement.

11.   The session concluded with vote of thanks and the valediction from the Chair wherein he appreciated the initiative and efforts taken by MoPA in the direction of digitising the legislatures through the development of the NeVA application. Besides this, Chair expressed that NeVA application is a tool to handle and assist the Members in transaction of the Government Business in the House. He was of the view that concern expressed by Secretary General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha about the authority and autonomy of the houses must be addressed before taking the decision about using NeVA by the two Secretariats. He desired that Officers from both the Secretariats could sit together to find out the feasibility of using NeVA in their respective Houses.

The meeting ended at 12.08 P.M. with vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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List of Participants:-

1. Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha.
2. Shri Desh Deepak Verma, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha.
3. Smt Snehlata Srivastava, Secretary General, Lok Sabha.
4. Shri K.S.C.S.V.P Gandhi, OSD to the Vice President.
5. Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, Secretary to the Vice President.
6. Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
7. Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
8. Shri Mukul Pande, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
9. Shri A.A. Rao, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
10. Dr. Satya Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
11. Shri Surendra Kumar Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
12. Shri Shashi Bhushan, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
13. Shri Prateek Arya, Deputy Secretary (IT), Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
14. Shri N.S. Arneja, DDG, NIC.
15. Shri S.K. Sinha, Senior Technical Director, NIC.
16. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
17. Shri Arpit Tyagi, NeVA Coordinator, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.