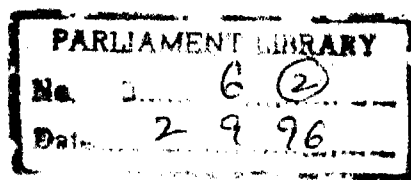


LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

First Session – Part II
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 6 to 8)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 10, 1996/ Jyaishta 20, 1918 (Saka)
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Bommagani Dharma Biksham (Nalgonda)
Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar (Baramulla)
Shri G.M. Mir Magami (Srinagar)
Shri Mohammad Maqbool Dar (Anantnag)
Shri P. Namgyal (Ladakh)
Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta (Udhampur)
Shri Mangat Ram Sharma (Jammu)
Shri Shivanand Hemappa Koujalgi (Belgaum)

11.10 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

Demise of former President Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and others

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the sad demise of our former esteemed President, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and five former colleagues viz. Sarvashri Ram Charan, Valmiki Choudhury, D.D. Puri, P.A. Antony and Vijay Pal Singh.

An illustrious son of India, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was one of the veterans of India's struggle for freedom and a leading light in the country's socio-political life for more than half a century. He took part in India's Freedom Movement and was imprisoned several times.

Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was actively associated with the political affairs of his home State, Andhra Pradesh since 1931. He was Member of Madras Legislative Assembly in 1946 and Constituent Assembly of India in 1947. He served as Minister in the State Government of Madras during 1949-51 and held various important portfolios. Thereafter he served his native State of Andhra Pradesh as Deputy Chief Minister in 1953 and later as Chief Minister during 1956 and again in 1962-64. He also served as Minister of Steel and Mines, Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism in the Union Council of Ministers during 1964-67.

Dr. Reddy, a conscientious parliamentarian of high standing, was Member of Rajya Sabha in 1952 and 1964 to 67 and was later elected to the Fourth Lok Sabha in 1967 and was elected to the Office of Speaker, Lok Sabha and continued to hold that office

till 1969. He was deeply devoted to Parliamentary institutions and made a very distinguished contribution as Presiding Officer in form of decisions and rulings from the Chair.

A widely travelled person, he headed many Parliamentary delegations to various countries. He was again elected to the Sixth Lok Sabha in 1977 and re-elected Speaker of the Sixth Lok Sabha during the same year. However, he was destined to have greater attainments.

In July, 1977, on his being chosen as the President of India, his long and illustrious public career reached its zenith. Through his administrative acumen, he added dignity to this office. A man who rose from humble means, displayed throughout his public life an abiding commitment to the welfare of the people. His skill in handling the tortuous political and administrative situations of the time is an ample testimony of his innate qualities, astuteness and equipoise in the moments of stress and crisis.

His amiable disposition and genial informality earned him accolades. Even after he retired from the august Office of the President of India, his sage counsel served as a beacon in the troubled times.

His name will ever remain inscribed in the annals of India's parliamentary and political history.

Dr. Reddy passed away at Bangalore on 1 June, 1996 at the age of 83 years. In his death, the nation had been deprived of a statesman of rare quality, a veteran freedom fighter, true democrat, able parliamentarian and, above all, a gem of a person. Though Dr. Reddy is no longer in our midst, his memories will be with us for many years to come.

Shri Ram Charan was a member of Fourth Lok Sabha representing Khurja Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1967 to 1970.

A dedicated political and social worker, Shri Ram Charan was associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of labourers and worked hard for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

Shri Ram Charan passed away in New Delhi on 15 March, 1996 at the age of 70 years.

Shri Valmiki Choudhury was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha representing Hazipur Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during 1967-70.

An active social and political worker, Shri Choudhury worked hard for upliftment of rural areas and development of weaker sections of the society. He was a member of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

A close associate of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri Choudhury participated in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned several times and remained in jail during 1942-45.

A man of letters, Shri Valmiki Choudhury authored a number of books, important among them being 'Rajendra Babu Ka Vyaktitva', 'Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki Diary', 'Ajat Shatru' etc.

Shri Valmiki Choudhury passed away on 28th March, 1996 at the age of 75 years at New Delhi.

Shri D.D. Puri was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha representing Kaithal Parliamentary Constituency of undivided Punjab State during 1962-67.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Punjab Vidhan Sabha during 1952-62.

A dedicated social and political worker, he worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the down-trodden. A noted industrialist, Shri Puri represented India at the United Nations Sugar Conference, New York in 1956 and again at Geneva in 1958 and 1961 and led several trade delegations to Iran and Pakistan in 1961.

An able Parliamentarian, he lost no opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the problems faced by the workers.

Shri D.D. Puri passed away at London, the United Kingdom on 22nd April, 1996 at the age of 82 years.

Shri P.A. Antony was a Member of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Trichur Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala during 1984-89 and 1989-91.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Legislative Assembly of Kerala during 1972-77. A well-known political and social worker, Shri P.A. Antony took keen interest in the development of education for the weaker sections of the society.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Antony also served as Member of the Committee on Government Assurances, Consultative Committee of Commerce, Committee on Official Language, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri P.A. Antony passed away at Chalakudy on 24th April, 1996 at the age of 60 years.

Shri Vijay Pal Singh was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Muzaffarnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1971-77.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952-59 and 1962-67.

An agriculturist by profession, he was associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of peasants in different capacities.

Shri Singh worked relentlessly for creating awareness among the down-trodden about their rights and strove for eradication of social evils emanating

from casteism and communalism. He dedicated his entire life for amelioration of the lot of the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Vijay Pal Singh passed away at District Hospital, Muzaffarnagar on the 6th of May, 1996 at the age of 73 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the Condolence Resolution moved by your honour in this House, it is my painful duty this morning to associate myself with the Motion paying homage to Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

In the demise of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the nation has lost an eminent freedom fighter, an able administrator, a clean politician and an elder statesman. He sacrificed almost everything during the freedom struggle including his higher education by responding to the clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi by taking a plunge into freedom struggle early in his youth and spent several years in Jail. He was from a farming family. By sheer dint of sacrifice, hard work and merit, he became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. As Chief Minister, he took initiative in launching many projects which later led to an accelerated agricultural development. He was not only a progressive administrator but also an extraordinarily sensitive politician. He was a mass leader and was deeply committed to high standards in public life.

He served the country in several capacities starting as a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Constituent Assembly of India, as Minister in the State and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He was a Member in the Cabinet formed by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and later in the Cabinet of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. As an able administrator, he provided nature guidance to several Ministries in the Central Government. It was a tribute to his parliamentary skills that he was elected the Speaker of the 4th Lok Sabha, an office that won him wide acclaim. It was a tribute to his genius that he was again elected unanimously the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in March, 1977 and then went on to be elected unanimously to the highest office of the land.

I had the fortune of knowing him closely for several years. I also had the opportunity of interacting closely with him during his last years when he made Bangalore his home. As I speak about him today, many of these memories of my association with him are crowding in. The public life of India is poorer by his departure, but he will always remain one of the prime examples of public life for all of us to emulate.

I would also like to place on record our condolences on the passing away of some of our former colleagues.

Shri Ram Charan was a Member of the 4th Lok Sabha who had special interest in social work and uplift of the downtrodden.

Shri Valmiki Choudhary is well known for his close association with our first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He has done a signal service to the nation by collecting and compiling papers relating to Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

We also mourn the death of Shri D.D. Puri, Shri P.A. Antony and Shri Vijay Pal Singh. Shri Puri was closely associated with the interest of farmers and the sugar industry. Shri P.A. Antony was an intellectual and a distinguished sportsman. Shri Vijay Pal Singh took special interest and was devoted to the welfare of the working class, peasants and youth.

I wish to place on record the deep sense of personal loss and grief felt by the nation and by all of us on the passing away of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and our former colleagues.

May their souls rest in peace!

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two consecutive happenings of welcoming the new Members and paying homage to the departed ones taking place with an interval of a few seconds reveal the whole saga of this House and of human life-cycle.

The sad demise of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy has brought an end to an era. A strong bond of cohesion joining the present with the past has broken. A veteran is no more with us now. Born in the environs of a village and brought up in a farmer's family, he plunged into the country's freedom struggle. He was imprisoned several times and played a significant role in nation building after the country was freed from foreign yoke. As has been said just now, he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly and also of the Constituent Assembly. He was a Member of the Lok Sabha as well as of Rajya Sabha. He left his mark wherever he served. An amiable and affectionate heart throbbled in him. He served as Speaker, Lok Sabha twice. Once, I was in the opposition and on the other occasion, the treasury benches. He did not bank too much upon the technicalities of the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and the conventions in order to run the House though he was fully acquainted with all these regulations. Yet, he made a distinguished contribution to the office of Speaker by running the House with a consensus by dint of his sheer common sense and skilful astuteness.

He may not be compared with Shri Vithal Bhai Patel or Shri Mavalankar but we have witnessed during his tenure how the House can be run with the cooperation of each and every Member.

I had the opportunity of going abroad with him. Once, some protocol lapse was committed relating to our delegation in a particular country. India is the largest democracy of the world. A delegation of the Members of Parliament going outside represents the whole country. Dr. Reddy was the leader of our delegation. He brought it to the notice of the host country in a very firm yet courteous manner and the host country made amends for the lapse.

An indebted nation elected him as the President of the Republic for his life long services. He could have been elevated to this highest office even before 1977. I do not want to go into that controversy. But, when the circumstances changed, he adorned the office of the President of India. At that time, he visited a village in Gonda as he was invited to a poor peoples' meet. Farmers had assembled there. He was invited there. We all are well aware of the paraphernalia which accompanies the President. The hearts of thousands of villagers assembled there were moved with emotion when Dr. Reddy declared that he would have his meals on a leaf plate ('Pattal') squatting together with other villagers. He said that no special arrangement should be made for his meals. It was a big thing in itself.

He struggled throughout his life and witnessed many vicissitudes in life. We criticised many of the decisions taken by him as the President but this by no means lessened our respect for him. Today, his demise has created a great void in public life.

We also express our condolences on the demise of other friends. I have had an opportunity of being a Member this House or the other one, with all of them.

Shri Valmiki Choudhury was imprisoned when he was only ten. The books authored by him will guide our future generations. He has also raised the issue of relationship between the President and the Prime Minister as also the issues which could be raised between them.

Shri Ram Charan had won from a reserved constituency. He represented Khurja and was a friend of ours. He was constantly concerned about his constituency.

Shri D.D. Puri was replete with the memories of united Punjab and used to narrate the anecdotes of Lahore. He was associated with industry and presented its view very effectively. He endeavoured to solve the problems of the workers. Shri Antony, elected from Trichur was very active in the committees. He left a mark in every committee he served. Shri Vijay Pal Singh was a Member of the

Communist Party and represented Western Uttar Pradesh. He was associated with the canal farmers movement and with people's problems. He occupied a prominent place in his constituency.

The Members of the older generation are parting with us one by one. We all are grieved by their demise. Mr. Speaker, Sir on behalf of my party and myself I join your goodself and the Prime Minister in paying homage to Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and other departed friends and request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (Berhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

I am particularly grieved at the loss of Dr. Sanjiva Reddy. Apart from what all has been said about his services to the country, he being a freedom fighter, his adorning several positions of eminence and responsibility, I have a whole chapter which is connected with my personal relationship with him. I owe many of the things in my life to him. He gave my first break as a Minister in his Council of Ministers in 1962. He was extremely kind to me and appreciative of whatever good work I did, whenever I did a good work. I remember many, many anecdotes to prove this point. He held me in great affection. He made me the representative of his own district Anantpur, which all of us know is one of the least developed districts in the country. He often used to say about the River Pennar, which flows through Anantpur, 'what flows in this river is sand and not water'. He had many such light-hearted jokes to describe the indescribable poverty in Anantapur. I was fortunate to formulate some of the schemes in Anantpur, which have taken decades and decades. Some of them, actually, are fructifying now. And, whenever, I happened to meet Dr. Sanjiva Reddy in Bangalore, he always remembered of what I had started as a Minister in his Cabinet and what is being done decade after decade since.

He was a very honest man. His honesty was almost proverbial in the South of India. One of the anecdotes which went round and which was true, absolutely true, in every word was to the effect that when he was the PWD Minister in Madras State, in the old Madras State, one gentleman went to him with a closed letter from one of his - Dr. Sanjiva Reddy's - very, very dear friends.

He took the letter. He did not open it. He only said, 'I understand what this letter contains. I know you are a contractor. Either take the letter back for your own safety or if you want me to open it, you run the risk of my going against you merely because you have brought a recommendation here'. The man

without any demur took it back. This anecdote, true anecdote has been known to many people in the South, MLAs and others and to a very large extent for his firmness. Where he considers something right, not to compromise with what he considers right has been known all over the country.

He was the Congress President also. Perhaps this was the very very trying moment for him because the Prime Minister was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. To act as a Congress President when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was at the other end towering over everything in the country and the Congress, was a real job. I can say without fear of contradiction that Dr. Sanjiva Reddy proved to the task of becoming a leader, not necessarily opposed to the Prime Minister a leader along with the Prime Minister, but not a subordinate to him. I mean, this is how I would like to put it. Though that relationship was very very instructive, we try to learn something, we try to look into the nitty-gritty of that relationship. And then again, he went back as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. As the President of India, he showed that he need not necessarily and without demur sign on dotted lines. He had the courage to say that in his humble opinion what was being proposed by the Cabinet does not appear to be correct, would the Cabinet look at it again. And in most of these matters I happened to be the intermediary. So, I know how things went. On the other side was Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister. I was a Minister in her Cabinet. So, these happenings, these events, these nuances which perhaps do not have any place in the pages of history are known only to those who went through these nuances and very minutely studied them, I happened to be one of them and I feel blessed by these experiences and I would say that personally, I would call this a loss to me personally and in me I find something missing by the demise of Dr. Sanjiva Reddy. Whenever I went to Bangalore, I made it a point to meet him. And he went over the entire scenario. He was so interested in the minute things happening anywhere in the country and in the world. When I became Foreign Minister, he was very deeply interested in Foreign Affairs. I explained things and he with his sturdy common sense suggested things which perhaps would not have occurred to the Ministry of External Affairs. Some of them I know. So, we were greatly profited by him. And I for one would remember him, his personality and his relationship with me all my life.

The other friends who have left us were equally eminent in their respective fields. Valmiki Choudhary was a great friend of mine. Almost every month he met me. And we had extensive discussions centered around his writings, particularly of the days of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

He was a very dear colleague and a very prolific writer. The field of literature will be poorer for his demise.

I wish to convey my own condolences and my Party's condolences to the bereaved families, Mr. Speaker. Let their souls rest in peace.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I associate with what has been said by you and other distinguished leaders in the House. We mourn the loss of our former President and all the distinguished colleagues who are no longer with us.

Sir, I had the privilege of being in the House when Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was the Speaker in 1977, although for a brief period. I cannot but wholeheartedly agree with what Shri Vajpayeeji had said, that is, as a Speaker, he was not stickler about the rules and procedures so much, as he used to defuse the situation with his adept handling of the problem that would arise.

Sir, he was the man of the masses, he was a freedom fighter and he held with great distinction whatever Office he had to occupy; and I believe, during his period, in whatever position he occupied, he cultivated a culture of consensus which always helps in defusing situations and achieving what is required to be done. Sir, it is very difficult to substitute leaders like him in the national life. He occupied with great distinction, almost all the important Offices in this country including the highest Office of the land.

Sir, we deeply mourn his passing away and I know that it is not very easy to fill the void that has been created by his demise.

I also mourn the loss of other distinguished Members of this House; and I request you, Sir, on our behalf, to convey our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to join the other eminent Members of the House in paying my tributes to Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and other five former colleagues of this House.

I had the opportunity of working with Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy for some time. He was born in a farming family; and he remained a farmer throughout his life, at heart. Whenever I had an opportunity of meeting him, he would talk of agriculture and of farming — that showed his interest. I thought that it was because of the Department that I was handling at that time that he was asking me. But it was not so. He had the interest of the farmers at his heart. Though he was the President of India, he actually was a farmer. He rose to eminent positions because he loved his people, he served them well and people also loved him.

He became a Member of the A.P. Legislative Assembly. Again and again, he was elected to the Assembly; he became a Minister, then he became the Chief Minister. Then he was elected to the

Parliament by the same people, not just once, but many times. He became a Minister here; he was elevated to the same Chair which you are holding now, Sir. He very ably handled all the positions given to him. He finally rose to the highest position in the country and became the President of India.

In 1977, I was attending FAO Conference in Rome when I received a message that there had been a very severe cyclone in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh.

And there had been a very heavy loss of life. I immediately came back and when I reached Delhi, I received a message that the President was visiting that area and I was to accompany him. So, I accompanied Sanjiva Reddyji to the coastal areas. We had to go there many miles by road and the sight was so distressing. Human corpses and animal carcasses were lying all along the road, littered in the fields. We even saw some dead bodies hanging from the electric lines about ten feet high from the ground. Water had risen so high in that area; sea had submerged the land for about twenty kilometres and then receded. So, there was a great loss of life; There were some gatherings and camps being organised at that time. We visited one of the camps and saw men, women and children almost naked; some women were half-naked and starving. Sanjiva Reddy had tears in his eyes and told me, "Mr. Barnala, you do something for them immediately some clothing and food?" I replied that by the evening everything will be supplied and the next day, when I told him that supplies of clothes and food had been arranged for that area, he was very happy. He was tender at heart. A person with such an exalted position with eyes moist shows that he had a tender heart, heart, which bled for the people and cared for the people.

A time came later when Choudhary Charan Singh resigned because there was a no confidence motion in the House against him. A few days after that, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy called me to the Rashtrapati Bhawan and told me that he had an idea of having an interim national Government and then surprisingly, he told that it was to be headed by me. I thanked him and told that I was not worthy of it and asked him as to why did he think of me. Then he said, "I know some qualities which others do not have and which you have you are non-contraversial." So, Sir, I have fond memories of this great man who served India so ably in different positions and I condole his death.

Shri D.D. Puri was from Punjab; he was a legislator also and I had an opportunity of being with him as his colleague. Then he came to the Parliament. He was a dedicated man with nationalist views, had made sacrifices for the Independence of the country and later served the State as well as the

country to the best of his capacity. On my own behalf and my party's behalf, I join other Members in conveying heart-felt condolences.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I join you, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other distinguished Members of this House to express my profound sorry and grief on the passing away of former President Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and other distinguished Members of the House who are no longer with us.

Sir, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was a stalwart in the nation's freedom struggle; he was an able administrator; he was a great statesman and had qualities which are very rare. He adorned the Chair which you are occupying now.

He left an indelible mark in conducting this House. He set up certain landmarks in creating new conventions and traditions by giving a number of rulings. I had the privilege of working in this House when he was occupying that exalted Office of the Speakership. Sir, I felt him as a guide, philosopher and inspirer, as when new Members were at a difficulty, he was always available in his Chamber for providing some guidance, information and also necessary instruction. I owe my debt to him as a young and new Member of this House. As the President of this great country of ours, he discharged his Constitutional responsibilities in a marked manner. He has become a name which the countrymen can never forget. I join you, leaders of this House and other distinguished Members in conveying my respectful homage to the departed leader. On my behalf, I also request you to convey the condolences of my party to the other bereaved families.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that a person of eminence of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy has passed away. On my own behalf and on behalf of my party I join you in extending our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families.

A person who made a very humble beginning in his political career remained a humble man despite his attaining high offices and ultimately becoming the President of India. He was a person who became the Chief Minister, Union Minister, Speaker of the House and also the President of India. His Presidency passed through one of the most turbulent times the Indian politics has witnessed. Despite that he passed with flying colours. That bears the testimony of his statesmanship. I am one of the unfortunates who never knew him personally though I appreciated him as a person from distance. He is always as nice as knowing a person from close quarters. We would certainly like to join you in extending our condolences to the bereaved family

members and also to the family members of other five Members of this House who have passed away.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Punskura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join the the Prime Mnister, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and other distinguished leaders who have already spoken and expressed their appreciations about Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. Most important things have already been said and I do associate myself and my party with all those. I would like to make another point. He was not only a statesman, a person of great eminence, a person who was very kind at heart, he never changed his lifestyle despite being in such an exalted office.

In today's India, that is one of the qualities which I think all of us must appreciate and try to emulate.

Sir, from a very humble beginning to the highest office he conducted himself with great ability. In losing him, our country has lost a brilliant son and the void shall always he felt. I would like to express my condolences also to the family. I request you to pass them on to the family on my behalf as well as on behalf of our Party.

I also pay my respects to the other hon. Members of this House Shri Ram Charan, Shri Valmiki Choudhary, Shri D.D. Puri, Shri P.A. Antony and Shri Vajay Pal Singh. I request you to pass on our sorrow and condolences to the bereaved families of these Members who were with us at one time and who are no more.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed on the sad demise of the former President Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. Indeed he was a man gifted with qualities of head and heart. He was an eminent freedom fighter and after Independence great has been his contribution to the nation-building.

Sir, he brought honour and dignity to every post that he had held, the posts of the Ministers, of the Speaker of this House, the Member of the Constituent Assembly and also the President of our republic. Indeed, the national loss is very great and words will never be sufficient to describe the profound sorrow into which the entire nation plunged on receiving the sad news of his demise.

It is for such tall personalities and on the passing away of such tall personalities that the Urdu poet of the East Dr. Allana Iqbal had said :

"Hazon Saal Nargis Apni
Benuri Pai Roti Hai.
Barhi Mushkil Se Hota Hai
Chaman Mein Didavar Peda."

We all mourn the national loss. Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy has left his footprints on the sands of time. He will be long remembered.

We also mourn the sad demise of our other Members of the House already mentioned. Through you, Mr. Speaker, we convey our sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the former President of India was a great leader who served the nation in various capacities with distinction.

12.00 hrs.

Following his death, the country has lost a great patriot, an able administrator and a distinguished statesman. The loss is irreparable. On behalf of my party, the R.S.P., and on my own behalf, I convey our deepest condolence to the bereaved family of the departed President, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and of the other colleagues of this House.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with the feelings expressed by the other leaders of the House on the demise of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, a former President was a stalwart of the freedom struggle is no more with us. He was one of the forerunners of the freedom movement of this country.

He was a true Gandhian who fought for the nation's Independence and had been imprisoned on several occasions. In the post-Independence era, he had shown a keen interest in the country's development. As you said, he was the President of the Republic of India between 1977 and 1982. During his tenure he had sworn in three Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Charan Singh and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. He was praised for his behaviour with each one of them with grace and highness befitting his high office. The late President had been a successful Chief Minister and also a Central Minister in charge of a major economic portfolio, that is, Ministry of Steel. He was the Presiding Officer of this august House. As Speaker he never referred to Rules Book and conducted the House to the entire satisfaction of all sections. He conducted the proceedings nonchalantly with conciliation and a sense of humour. There was a certain old world charm about him, with his famous stride flashing after a rather searching comment. In voicing his Government policies he used very straightforward expressions.

Sir, with proud honour I want to state he was also a Member of the Legislative Assembly in our composite Madras State. He was a true Gandhian to the core. He said once that "Gandhiji taught us to return good for evil: why should we give up our manners?" The successful President had been touched by Gandhiji and Panditji.

With the passing away of Dr. Sanjiva Reddy, another crucial link in this chain has gone.

Sir, on behalf of the D.M.K. party to which I belong, I associate myself with the House and pay my respects to the departed leader and I also pay my respects to the other departed former Members of Parliament.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Gwalior) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to be associated with the sentiments of tribute for Dr. Sanjiva Reddy being expressed in this House today.

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Sanjiva Reddy right from 1967 when he was first Speaker and then later in 1977 and even later as the President of India.

Sir, Dr. Reddy was always a person who greatly encouraged the younger elements in the House. And I am sure that this example would be emulated by the very young Speaker that we have today. He did say that a Speaker should be seen but not heard. I do not know how far we are going to allow you to adhere to this dictum. Dr. Sanjiva Reddy was born in a farming family, joined the freedom struggle under the leadership of *pujya bapuji*.

He later held so many high offices both in party organisation, as a Central Minister and as Chief Minister. He is the only person to have emerged victorious second time after having lost the first Presidential elections which showed his grit and his determination. I remember, in 1969 I was personally witness to the happenings, which was my first introduction, to the hurly-burly world of national politics.

In the passing away of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, we have lost a true patriot and an illustrious son of India. I would like you, Sir, to convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. I would also like you to associate us with the condolences to be sent to all the other erstwhile colleagues who are no more with us.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI (Nainital) : Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to associate myself and my party with the homage paid by the hon. Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Indian National Congress and leaders of other parties to the revered Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and other departed souls. In paying homage to the memory of the deceased leader, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, we recall the entire history. We recall the great freedom struggle in which he took part as a dedicated soldier. We are reminded of

the decades of the freedom struggle when after partaking in the "Quit India Movement", he made a significant contribution in drafting our Constitution in the Constituent Assembly. Thereafter, he demonstrated his administrative acumen, resolute determination and assiduity in different departments of the Government and in the organisational matters of the party. He is one of the builders of modern Andhra Pradesh. The developmental achievements of Andhra Pradesh and the contribution of the great Andhra people, belonging to a very large state and region of the country is greatly attributed to the leadership, the Chief Ministership and Ministership of Shri Reddy. I have watched Shri Sanjiva Reddy working firmly and resolutely in tortuous organisational situations. He showed the honesty of principles during difficult days of division and unity. Even today we have to draw inspiration from him as to how, remaining true to our ideologies, we can bring maturity to democracy through Parliament. Shri Sanjiva Reddy set many examples to this effect during his life time, during his Presidential tenure and at different stages of his life through his acts and deeds. We also pay homage to our other departed friends with whom we got a chance to work. Shri Vijay Pal Singh, whom you and other hon. leaders have paid homage, was the voice of the farmers. He advocated the cause of the farmers in his speeches in the U.P. Legislative Assembly or this House. He was the leader of the sugarcane farmers of the country. His communist ideology represented the farmers and the workers. Likewise, whereas on the one hand Late Shri D.D. Puri was a staunch advocate of modernisation of industries and wanted the sugar industry to be modernised, on the other hand he was a unique industrialist who also represented the workers.

I have also had the opportunity of having experience of maturity of thought and eloquence of Shri PA Antony. Whenever he used to speak, he effectively influenced the Parliamentary Committees in which he served by his sheer honesty of thought and impeccable reasoning.

Shri Ram Charan who represented Khurja Parliamentary constituency always raised here the voice of the poor and the downtrodden. The services rendered by Shri Valmiki Choudhary, as mentioned by you earlier, his literary experience, works and contribution made by him as a freedom fighter will ever be remembered.

I request you to kindly convey my and my party's humble condolence to the bereaved families.

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP (Panaji) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I join you and the worthy Members of

this House in offering condolences upon the death of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and other departed colleagues of this House on behalf of my party, the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, and on behalf of the people of Goa.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a novice in this House. I had no occasion to know Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy from close quarters. But ever since I began my political career almost two decades ago, I had watched Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. I had occasions to meet him whenever he visited Goa in his capacity as the Congress President and in his capacity as the President of India.

Sir, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy will be remembered for his various deeds, various achievements and in times to come, perhaps, this country may raise various memorials in the form of statues or perhaps some institutions in his honour.

I wish to draw your attention to a small memorial which exists down in Goa. Way back, when he was the President of this country, he visited Goa and laid the corner-stone of a bridge which connects Goa with Maharashtra, the neighbouring State. I am very sorry to state in this House that years have gone by; great leaders have occupied various positions in this country; Indiraji came and went; Rajivji came and went; we had also illustrious Prime Ministers like Shri Narasimha Raoji and very recently we had Shri Vajpayeeji and now, of course, Shri Deve Gowdaji yet the bridge was not completed. I am sorry to state that that bridge, the work of which was started when Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was the President of this country, still remains unfinished. It is my humble request to this House and particularly to the present Government that we cannot leave unfinished a work which was started by an eminent personality like Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. Something in earnest should immediately be done. It is a bridge which spans a small river and the length could be not more than 500 metres. I think, one year's dedicated work will be enough to complete that bridge and it can carry the name of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy. We, the people of Goa, are grateful to Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy not only for having started the work of that bridge on National Highway but also for an irrigation project which he had started. The project has been completed but the bridge has not yet been completed.

I also join the House in extending my condolences to the bereaved families of other departed Members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

12.4 ½ hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to
meet again tomorrow, the 11th June, 1996 at 11 a.m.

12.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of
the Clock on Tuesday, June 11,
1996/Jyaistha 21, 1918 (Saka).*
