

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding observance of 75th anniversary of Azad Hind Movement.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue on which, I think, the whole House will agree with me.

Last year we observed the 75th anniversary of the Quit India movement and I had the good fortune to speak on that occasion. This House should take note of the 75th anniversary of the Azad Hind movement. Seventy-five years ago, on the 4th and 5th of July 1943, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose accepted the leadership of Indian Independence movement and the supreme command of the Azad Hind Fauj in Singapore.

At the beginning of the year, he was in Europe trying to find a way to travel to Asia. He did so by a perilous 90-day submarine voyage between February and May of 1943. On 4th July, he accepted the leadership of the Indian Independence League. He made a famous speech in Hindustani in the Cathay Theatre of Singapore where he said, हम ज़िंदा रहें या मरें, कोई बात नहीं है। सही बात यह है, अहम बात यह है, हिन्दुस्तान आज़ाद होगा।

The next day, on 5th July, he said it was the proudest day of his life because he was able to announce to the whole world that India's army of liberation had come into being and he gave the stirring call 'Chalo Dilli'. In August he was in Malaya, Thailand, Burma electrifying Indians with his speeches. On 21st October, 1943 he proclaimed the Azad Hind Government in Singapore. By the end of the year, in December 1943, he was standing on Indian soil on the Andaman Island which he wanted to rename as Shaheed Island. He visited the cellular jail where you know our Indian revolutionaries had suffered for decades.

So, I think, that the younger generation must learn about how Netaji united all the religious communities and all the linguistic groups in his Azad Hind movement. I hope the Government will observe this 75th anniversary. I would like, through you, to ask the Ministry of External Affairs to give instructions to our Missions in East and South-East Asia, particularly Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar to observe this 75th anniversary in a befitting manner.

Finally, I want to make a very special request to you, Madam Speaker, day after tomorrow, on the 9th August you will be referring the Quit India movement. This year, because it is the 75th anniversary, I would make a plea to you to also remind the House that this is the 75th anniversary of the Azad Hind movement. Our House was not in session on the 5th of July. It is not going to be in session on 21st of October. So, I think it will be very appropriate if all of us can together pay our homage to the martyrs of the Quit India rebellion and also the martyrs of the Azad Hind Fauj who gloriously kept the flag of Indian Independence alive between 1943 and 1945. *Jai Hind*. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you can all support it.