

great difficulty I convinced him that he should himself fight. There was no need for him to go to the constituency and everybody knows that he does not have to go. So, he agreed with great difficulty and without entering the constituency, he was elected with a thumping majority as expected.

Sir, such individuals are very rare. They are becoming rarer, persons on whom you can rely all your lives. Even if you do not meet him for ten years, you can rely on him that he will keep his word and he will be true to you. It is difficult to find this kind of character, rock like character and I particularly consider this as a personal loss to me.

On the other side, comes our very very dear *dada*, Shri Ashok Sen, again who was very fond of me and I was fond of him. More than anything else, more than everything that has been stated, he was the President of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee, a man of versatile qualities. There was hardly anything which he touched and did not turn into gold. That was the genius of the person. I was to visit him just about two days back; I was told that he was critically ill, but still he was able to speak. But it so happened that on the day I was to visit him, the same morning he passed away and we have lost another stalwart, whose presence was felt everywhere Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, the Ministry, outside the Ministry and wherever he went. He exuded confidence, scholarship a genius of his own. Again it is something very rare to find.

Personally I feel very sad at this double loss to the country, from distant parts, as Shri Jaswant Singhji has said.

I associate myself and my party with all the sentiments expressed by you, Sir, and the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very sad moment that we have to mourn the loss of two of our outstanding colleagues who have left their imprint on the sands of parliamentary democracy in this country. We have had the privilege of knowing both of them closely because they have been Members in this House for a very long time.

Shri Nathuram Mirdha, with his discerning smile and his attitude of friendship and cooperation with other Members, endeared himself to all and sundry. All of us those who knew him had the great privilege of enjoying his affection and his friendship. We remember particularly how with great concern, he discharged his functions as a Minister for Food in the National Front Government. His was concern for the common people of this country was for all to see.

A known freedom fighter, he had faced a lot of trouble and problems in his life but never flinched from his devotion to the causes he cherished. He was a man who made his impression wherever he was and whatever he did. I deeply mourn his passing away.

So far as Shri Ashoke Kumar Sen is concerned, it is, in a sense, a personal loss. For nearly 50 years or over 50 years, I have known him very closely. He was an outstanding lawyer of his time. When I joined the Bar in 1954, he was, in a sense, a junior lawyer. But he was competing with the recognised Senior Advocates of those days. A man with phenomenal memory and outstanding qualities as a lawyer, a lawyer who could think on his legs, as we said, with his wide knowledge of law and Constitution, naturally made a tremendous impact in the profession.

I believe, I can say perhaps without any contradiction that during the days when he was out of the Government and was practising in the Supreme Court, he really stood like a Colossus in the legal arena of this country. He made his mark apart from his profession that he chose. I was told that he was a very successful teacher also. He was an author of several books. One of them is a very well-known book of Commercial Law which is read by the students also and consulted by practising lawyers. He made his mark in the House no doubt and also in many international fora, while representing the country, with great distinction. I feel personally very difficult to have a substitute very easily. I have had the privilege of knowing his family, and his relations.

Sir, I personally and deeply mourn his passing away and on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, I convey my sincere condolences to the members of his family and I pay my tribute to the memory of the deceased.

MR. SPEAKER: The House may now stand in silence for a short while.

11.24 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

[Translation]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allocation of funds under Literacy Campaign

*421. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to the States under the literacy campaign during 1995-96;

(b) the number of districts in which the said amount was allocated by the Government of Madhya Pradesh alongwith the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the district-wise number of people covered under the said campaign?

THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c). No State-wise allocations are made under the Literacy Campaigns. Funds are released to the Zilla Saksharata Samities directly.

Nine districts of Madhya Pradesh were released grants-in-aid during 1995-96.

The district-wise number of people to be covered under the Literacy Campaigns along with the grants-in-aid released to the Zilla Saksharata Samities in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1995-96 is given below:

District	Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)	Coverage (in Lakhs)
1. Raigarh	21.00	4.00
2. Raipur	140.00	8.46
3. Bilaspur	223.00	8.69
4. Vidisha	13.90	1.21
5. Bastar	109.00	4.31
6. Bhopal	15.00	0.58
7. Tikamgarh	23.05	2.19
8. Raisen	72.06	2.12
9. Ujjain	20.00	0.50

[English]

Laboratories in Polytechnics

422. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of laboratories in Government Polytechnics modernised with World Bank assistance in Karnataka and other States;

(b) the amount of World Bank assistance spent thereon so far State-wise;

(c) the number of Learning Research Centres established with the World Bank assistance in each of the States; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent under the above programme during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b). A statement showing number of laboratories in Government Polytechnics being modernised with World Bank assistance

in project states including Karnataka and the amount spent thereon is enclosed.

(c) Learning Research Centres are not established with the World Bank, assistance.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

STATEMENT

Laboratories in Government Polytechnics being modernised with World Bank Assistance and amount spent thereon as on 30-6-96 in the project states

State	No. of Laboratories being modernised	Amount spent As on 30-6-96 (Rs. in million)
Bihar	210	55.66
Goa	20	2.23
Gujarat	162	109.45
Karnataka	496	106.65
Kerala	334	75.10
Madhya Pradesh	456	137.38
Orissa	138	107.85
Rajasthan	223	154.66
Uttar Pradesh	362	127.86
Andhra Pradesh	896	140.77
Assam	102	27.65
Haryana	129	41.81
Himachal Pradesh	77	29.52
Maharashtra	363	265.60
N.C.T. Delhi	238	33.56
Pondicherry	36	4.54
Punjab	123	62.15
Tamil Nadu	78	32.17
West Bengal	130	85.05