

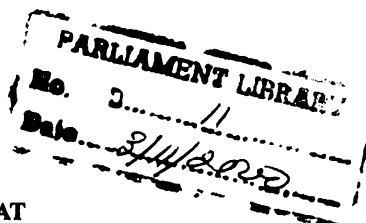
LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 8)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, October 25, 1999/Kartika 3, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Forty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN – Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Secretary-General may call out names of those hon. Members who have not yet taken the oath or made the affirmation.

Shri Dileep Sanghani (Amreli)

Shri Laxman Singh (Rajgarh)

12.47 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS*

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address** to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 25th October, 1999.

President's Address

Honourable Members,

I am pleased to address this first session of both Houses of Parliament after the elections to the 13th Lok Sabha. I extend a warm welcome to all of you, including the newly elected members.

The just-concluded parliamentary election was the last of this century. It has given us the first Lok Sabha of the next century. As behoves a great nation with a history of many millennia, it is natural for India, at this historical juncture, to look at her past with pride and her future with hope and confidence. We must also look at our many missed opportunities that have prevented Free India from becoming a land of all-round progress and prosperity. Let us pledge today to use our collective strength, determination, and a sense of national purpose to meet the great future that beckons our country.

The coming year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Indian Republic. The adoption of our great Constitution, authored by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and

other distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly, was a proud event in the history of this ancient nation reborn as a Free and Modern Republic. The majestic words of the Preamble, beginning with "We the People of India...." and carrying the epochal message of unity, sovereignty, democracy, and equality, still reverberate in our ears. They motivate us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of our glorious Freedom Struggle and the enlightened Constitution that it gave birth to.

They inspire us to work for the realisation of the ideal that Mahatma Gandhi set before the Constitution much before India became free. As far back as 1931, Gandhiji wrote: "I shall strive for a Constitution, which will release India from all thralldom and patronage. I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people; an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony... This is the India of my dreams. I shall be satisfied with nothing less." Can we be satisfied with anything less?

The just-concluded elections have again demonstrated the strength of Indian democracy and the maturity of the Indian voter. The electorate has put an end to the phase of instability at the Centre by giving a clear and decisive mandate to my Government. The participation of regional parties in managing the affairs of the country at the national level in a stable and coherent coalition augurs well for our democracy and federal polity.

I am happy to note that the "Agenda for a Proud, Prosperous India", which is the Government's common policy document, reaffirms its faith in the principles of Secularism, Social Justice, Federal Harmony, Probity, and Socio-economic Equity. Rooted in the eternal values of our ancient civilisation, these are also the cornerstones of Modern India. Government will fully implement the promises made in its common Agenda.

The interregnum between the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha and elections to the 13th Lok Sabha witnessed a grave challenge to our national security. The armed aggression in Kargil by Pakistan to occupy strategic territory on the Indian side of the Line of Control, was decisively foiled by our brave jawans, airmen, and officers. Pakistan suffered a double defeat—both on the battlefield and on the diplomatic front. Today we pay our grateful tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil war. Their sacrifice and heroism will forever remain a source of inspiration and strength to the nation.

There was unprecedented support across the nation for our jawans fighting Pakistani intruders in Kargil. The entire nation stood as one. Common people, who have little to spare, made generous contributions for the welfare of our brave jawans and their families. We have been actively looking after the rehabilitation needs of the families of our brave soldiers who laid down their lives during "Operation

* The President delivered the address in English.

** Also placed in Library. See No. LT 2/99.

Vijay", or who have been invalidated due to injuries sustained during the war. A package of assistance for the welfare of such families is being implemented.

While there is every reason for us to rejoice at India's victory in the Kargil war, there is little room for complacency. This is evident from the sudden spurt in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country and the recent attacks on security forces following the Kargil conflict. Government is determined to thwart all disruptive activities and maintain vigil on all fronts. The Kargil conflict has also underlined the need for modernisation of our defence forces. Government will ensure that our defence forces are fully equipped to meet any challenge to our national security.

We remain firmly committed to global nuclear disarmament on a universal and non-discriminatory basis. At the same time, Government will ensure that India's strategic autonomy is preserved. This will be done in a way that India's legitimate security concerns are suitably addressed, in keeping with our own assessment of the evolving international security environment. The National Security Council will advise the Government in this regard and, also, in the establishment of a credible nuclear deterrent. A Draft Nuclear Doctrine has already been prepared and presented for public debate.

During the current year, the Indian economy is expected to grow over six percent. Inflation as measured by the Wholesale Price Index is around two percent, which is the lowest in the last two decades. Notwithstanding an adverse global economic environment last year, our balance of payments position has remained comfortable and our foreign exchange reserves are at a record level of nearly \$33 billion.

However, despite these achievements, the challenge to overcome the scourge of poverty remains a daunting one. Crores of our people, particularly in villages, are still to be provided with basic services such as clean drinking water, reasonable shelter, primary education, health services, and roads. Illiteracy is still a curse for large masses of our people - especially among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities, and rural women. Millions of young men and women continue to be victims of unemployment. We have failed to stabilise our population, despite being one of the first countries to initiate an official programme for this purpose. We must redress these serious inadequacies as we chart a new course for the future.

The broad theme guiding the policies and programmes of my Government is : "Faster Growth with Employment and Equity." Government is committed to create one crore additional employment opportunities each year. These will be mainly in the areas of agriculture, agri-based businesses, small-scale and cottage industries, housing and construction, services, and self-employment. However, unless India grows in the coming years at a rate of at least seven to eight percent, there is no way we can eradicate poverty and unemployment.

Experience both domestic and international, suggests that rapid and multi-sectoral growth is possible only by pursuing a bold strategy of economic reforms. The nation's re-oriented strategy of development will have to rest of a triad in which the Government provides a strong policy and regulatory leadership; the private sector brings the dynamism and efficiency of the competitive environment; and, local democratic institutions and the civil society brings enthusiastic participation by the people. This strategy demands a new pro-development mindset in every section of society, polity, and administration, creating a strong national consensus for a bold departure from the past.

Guided by this overarching vision, Government has decided to give topmost priority to Social Sector development. In the field of education, a separate Department of Primary Education and Literacy has been created. An action plan to give greater thrust to female literacy and primary education will be shortly announced. Further, a programme for provision of primary school buildings for all unserved habitations will be formulated. Private sector participation in higher and technical education will be actively promoted.

A National Health Policy will soon be presented, whose twin aims will be the provision of adequate primary health services to all citizens and a stabilisation of population. Reproductive and Child Health services will be further strengthened through greater community participation. The use of Indian systems of medicine will be greatly encouraged. Greater attention will be paid to the welfare of the disabled and the aged through joint Government and Non-Government initiatives. Private sector participation will be encouraged in tertiary health services, including speciality hospitals, diagnostic centres, and related activities.

Government will give renewed thrust to improving Rural Infrastructure. The newly created Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development will implement a programme to provide clean drinking water to all villages in the next five years. A Programme for Rural Connectivity through construction of all-weather roads to connect all villages will soon be started. Fifty percent of the diesel cess will be earmarked for this programme. A massive "Shelter for All" programme will be taken up to facilitate construction of twenty lakh additional housing units each year. Of these, thirteen lakh will be built in rural areas.

Prosperity and employment generation in rural areas depend crucially on a fast-growing agricultural sector, complemented by a nationwide network of agro-based industries. In agriculture, Government will address issues such as development of rain-fed farming, soil conservation, wasteland development, watershed management, agriculture credit system, promotion of horticulture and floriculture, expansion of the cold-storage network, fertiliser pricing, balanced use of chemical fertilisers, and promotion of organic manure. Cooperative sector reforms, issues

relating to crop insurance, post-harvest management, pricing and procurement policy for agricultural produce, forecasting and early warning systems etc. will also be thrust areas in the new policy. An action plan for the early completion of pending irrigation projects in a time-bound manner will be taken up.

Scarcity of water is fast becoming a serious national problem. Unless water is conserved and managed properly, there will not be enough to meet the country's burgeoning demand from households, farms, and industries. Government will present a Water Policy that will facilitate the creation of appropriate administrative, commercial and technological solutions to ensure that the present and future generations are not deprived of this life-sustaining resource. Inter-State water disputes will be equitably resolved. The needs of environmental protection and afforestation will be fully addressed in achieving the goal of sustainable development.

The most obvious constraint to rapid economic growth today is the inadequacy of our infrastructure. Government shall take urgent steps to improve the situation, guided by the principle of greater private investment within a strong regulatory mechanism. In the power and energy sector, the Centre will work closely with State Governments for time-bound corporatisation of the State Electricity Boards. Generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity will be unbundled as separate activities. Tariff reform, privatisation of transmission and distribution of power, and setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions will be accelerated. A Task Force under the Finance Minister was set up some time back to prepare a "Hydrocarbon - Vision 2020" report. The recommendations of this Group will be implemented. An accelerated timeframe for dismantling the administrative price regime will also be finalised quickly. The Coal Mines Nationalisation Act will be suitably amended to remove hurdles in the growth of this vital industry.

The Ministry of Surface Transport has been reorganised into the Department of Road Transport and Highways and the Department of Shipping. The Integrated Transport Policy shall be soon finalised. NHAI will be strengthened to enable it to quickly implement the National Highways Development Project including the East-West and North-South corridors. A Dedicated Road Fund will be created. A Railway Reforms Commission will soon be set up to evolve a new resource mobilisation strategy, rationalise tariff, prioritise the project portfolio, and urgently fulfill the unmet needs of railway safety. High priority will be accorded to improving the efficiency of existing ports, corporatisation of some of our major ports, and private sector participation in setting up new ports. A new Civil Aviation Policy will be formulated, designed to secure India's needs in the 21st century. The programme for modernisation of our airports through private sector participation would also be implemented in a time-bound manner.

The New Telecom Policy 1999 shall be expeditiously implemented to achieve the objective of providing universal access to world-class telecom services at the lowest possible price to the public. Rapid spread of rural telephony will be promoted through a special plan to cover all the uncovered villages in a time-bound manner. Corporatisation of the Department of Telecommunications as India Telecom will be speedily implemented. As a first step, a new Department of Telecom Services has been created to separate the policy-making function from the service provision function. The TRAI will be strengthened to increase investor confidence and create a level playing field between public and private operators by suitably amending the TRAI Act. A Group of Experts will be constituted to recommend a new legislation in place of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to enable India to seize the new opportunities created by the technological convergence between telecom, computers, television, and electronics.

A new Ministry of Information Technology has been created to be the nodal institutional mechanism for facilitating all the initiatives in the Central Government, State Governments, academia, the Indian private sector, and successful Indian IT professionals abroad. The Ministry will implement a comprehensive action plan to make India an IT Superpower in the early part of the next century and achieve a target of \$ 50 billion in software exports by 2008. It will accelerate the Internet revolution in India, emphasising the creation of useful content in Indian languages. IT-enabled services, IT education, hardware manufacturing and exports, e-commerce, and Internet-based enterprises will be actively promoted. These have the potential to create employment and business opportunities for hundreds of thousands of young Indians. A legislation to promote E-Commerce will be introduced soon. A Task Force for the pharmaceutical and other knowledge-based enterprises will be constituted for making India a world leader in this sector. I am happy to note that India is well on the way to ensure Y2K compliance in all our critical computer systems before the end of this year.

All these infrastructure initiatives will lay a firm foundation for the revival and expansion of India's industrial base - especially the vast and hitherto neglected sector of small-scale and cottage industries, rural craftsmen and artisans, and the KVIC. Special emphasis will be laid to meet the multiple needs of this sector such as timely and adequate credit including the implementation of a credit guarantee scheme, marketing, technological upgradation, skill improvement - and, above all, removal of bureaucratic harassment. Rules will be suitably modified in some carefully identified industries in the SSI sector, which have a huge potential for exports and employment generation. Government will make comprehensive and sustained efforts to solve the long-pending problems of India's textile industry, especially in view of the challenges in the post-MFA regime.

Necessary steps for modernisation and restructuring will be taken to restore Indian textiles to their traditional pre-eminence in global markets.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays a crucial role in rapid economic development by bringing in modern technology and management practices. Government will review existing FDI regime in order to bring in greater transparency, cut delays in project implementation, and create an enabling policy to ensure FDI inflow of at least \$ 10 billion per year. There shall be an automatic route for FDI clearances except in a small list of carefully chosen areas.

We will evolve a programme for achieving fiscal rectitude through improved expenditure management, undertake far-reaching tax reforms, and secure speedier restructuring and disinvestment of public sector undertakings, including strategic sales. The Expenditure Commission, which would be set up shortly will review all direct and indirect subsidies, examine all ongoing expenditure streams and schemes, as well as lay down the roadmap for downsizing of Government. A Task Force on Tax Reforms shall be constituted to recommend a time-bound programme of reforms of tax structures, both direct and indirect. Reform of banks and financial institutions, would be accelerated by reducing non-performing assets and strict application of prudential norms. Necessary legislation on bankruptcy, foreclosure, debt recovery, and mergers would be enacted to underpin financial sector reforms.

We are fully committed to promote the interests of labour, especially those in the unorganised sector, in the new environment of economic reforms. The Second Labour Commission will study the changes needed in various labour laws in order to better achieve the welfare of labour, faster generation of additional employment, accelerated industrial growth and exports.

Government will institute effective measures to eliminate chronic delays in the dispensation of justice, through suitable reforms in the judicial system. Independence of Judges shall be fully respected and efforts made to attract the best talent to the Bench. Government had undertaken a study some time back on which of the existing laws, rules and regulations have become obsolete and are proving an obstacle to rapid socio-economic development. Based on the recommendations of this study, all such outmoded and inessential laws will be repealed.

As a member of the World Trade Organisation, India will continue to interact with other nations to further protect and promote our national interests. Towards this objective, Government is preparing a well-thought out strategy for the forthcoming Seattle conference. My Government will ensure that in any new round of WTO negotiations, India's national interests are fully protected, and that our gains from global trade are maximised.

Government will intensify the promotion of science and technology—in education, basic research, and application for meeting the critical challenges of socio-economic development. Interaction between Indian industry, CSIR laboratories, universities, IITs, DRDO, ICAR, ICMR, and the departments of Space, Atomic Energy, Biotechnology, and Ocean Development will be strengthened. In keeping with the message of "Jai Vigyan", special efforts will be made to nurture scientific temper and problem-solving attitude among our children, and also to encourage promising young scientific talent.

Government will endeavour to give a new direction to Urban India and bring about an orderly, healthy, and dynamic development of our cities, which is necessary to tackle the problem of urban poverty. Special efforts will be made to raise the quality of civic services and to carry out a fundamental restructuring of the administration of municipal bodies and public utilities.

Youth power provides the dynamo in the mission of nation-building. Government will focus and facilitate the efforts of thousands of youth and students organisations across the country to give a renewed thrust to their enthusiastic participation in constructive activities, sports, arts and culture. The main energising aim of these efforts will be to strengthen national integration, rekindle the spirit of voluntary work, and to enable our talented young men and women to achieve global excellence.

Internal security is an integral part of national security. Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens of India, irrespective of their caste, religion, gender, or language. The incidence of communal violence last year was at its lowest in the last decade. Government is already engaged in taking effective steps to create a riot-free and terrorism-free India.

The past two years have seen a marked improvement in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Education, tourism, and other economic activities are fast returning to normal in this State. More than 110,000 pilgrims participated in the Amarnath Yatra this year. Nevertheless, terrorism continues to pose a challenge in Jammu and Kashmir. We will meet this challenge firmly and provide all assistance to the State Government to neutralise terrorists. After its crushing defeat in Kargil, Pakistan has stepped up its proxy war against India. The immediate objective of the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists was to disrupt the election process in Jammu and Kashmir, and also in the North-Eastern States. The people in these States, however, have once again opted for the ballot in the face of the terrorist's bullet. This is a ringing endorsement of their faith in India's unity, secular democracy, and a rejection of the theocratic separatism.

The Prime Minister has announced that Government will follow the principle of "Zero Tolerance" while dealing with terrorism. Simultaneously, Government will continue

to focus international attention on the deadly impact of trans-border terrorism that has claimed countless lives all over the world. There is no dearth of evidence to show how state-sponsored terrorism has affected peace and stability in South Asia and beyond. India is actively working to initiate concerted international opinion and action against state sponsored terrorism in any part of the world. The menace of illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, and narco-terrorism has also to be effectively countered through both national and international efforts.

Government will soon restructure the North-Eastern Council for faster socio-economic development of the North-Eastern States. The NEC (Amendment) Bill, 1998 will be moved shortly. A special scheme to modernise police forces has been introduced in the North-East; it is expected that the States' police forces will soon be better equipped to tackle insurgency and law and order problems. The remaining portion of the India-Bangladesh border will be fenced shortly.

Harmonious Centre-State relations are fundamental to a healthy federal polity and to achieve balanced socio-economic development. The pending recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission's report in this regard will be considered for expeditious implementation. My Government believes that the States should have greater financial and administrative powers and that there should be decentralisation right up to the grassroots through the Panchayati Raj system. Necessary action will soon be initiated to give full Statehood to Delhi and for the creation of Uttaranchal, Vanaranchal, and Chhattisgarh as new States.

A Commission comprising noted constitutional experts and public figures shall be appointed to study a half-century's experience of the Constitution and make suitable recommendations to meet the challenges of the next century. Government will also examine replacing the present system of no-confidence motion by a system of "Constructive Vote of Non-Confidence", and a fixed term to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas, in order to prevent political instability both at the Centre and in the States.

No nation can prosper unless there is a concerted effort to empower women and invest in the girl child. Some of the miracle stories of rapid development are hinged to economic, social, and political empowerment of women. Government proposes to reserve, through legislation, 33 percent seats for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, we shall provide free education to the girl child up to college level, including professional courses, and set up a Development Bank for women entrepreneurs in the small-scale and tiny sectors. Nari Shakti shall fuel the engine of a modern, dynamic Indian society.

We are committed to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and minorities through appropriate legal, executive, and

societal efforts. Our focus will be on large-scale education and socio-economic empowerment. We are determined to wipe out the last vestiges of untouchability from our society. Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be extended for another ten years and reservation percentages above fifty percent followed by some States will be sanctified through legislative measures. Government has already created a new Ministry of Tribal Affairs for better formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programmes aimed at all round welfare of our tribal brethren.

Comprehensive electoral reform is necessary if elections are to be made a truly democratic exercise, free from the clutches of muscle and money power. A broad consensus already exists on the need for extensive reforms in our electoral laws. Government will soon bring forward a comprehensive electoral reform Bill to further strengthen our democracy. Government will also ensure the right to franchise of Defence and Security Forces by introducing the system of proxy voting.

The canker of corruption is eating into every institution of our nation. Government is determined to ensure probity in public life. Towards this end, the Lokpal Bill has already been introduced. It will, *inter alia*, also cover the office of the Prime Minister. Government will also soon enact the Central Vigilance Commission Bill for conferring statutory status on the Central Vigilance Commission.

Continuity and consensus have been the underpinnings of India's foreign policy. Successive governments have demonstrated their commitment to secure for India a place, role, and position in the global arena, commensurate with its size and importance.

The recent military takeover in Pakistan is a matter of grave concern. Democracy alone can best guarantee peace, understanding, and cooperation among countries and peoples. We are watching the situation in Pakistan with careful attention. We had initiated the composite dialogue process and had sought to reinforce it through the Lahore Declaration. Pakistan must stop cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other regions of India, and also put an end to hostile propaganda against India.

The situation in Afghanistan demands a careful reassessment and a fresh approach. The world has unfortunately watched passively while Afghanistan disintegrated into a source of terrorism, narcotics, and dangerous instability. As a result, India's security interests have been affected. We shall work together with like-minded countries for an early return to stability in Afghanistan. An essential requirement for this is the cessation of outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Recent years have seen significant strengthening of India's traditionally close friendship and cooperation with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives, as well as our interaction with SAARC. We shall continue to work actively with these neighbouring countries and within SAARC to reinforce the trend of cooperation in this region. India will also forge closer cultural and economic relations with South Africa, Mauritius, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, and such other countries where large numbers of people of Indian origin live.

India seeks to further deepen and broaden her relations with the United States of America, on the basis of the values and ideals we both share. We are also committed to further strengthen our traditionally close and friendly ties with Russia. We shall develop our links with France, Britain, Germany, along with other members of the European Union and Japan, in a spirit of goodwill and mutual benefit. We would continue our dialogue with China with a view to improving and broadening our relations. India highly values her cordial and steadily growing relations with the countries of Central Asia, West Asia, East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, as well as Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meet (CHOGM) in Durban provides a useful forum for presenting India's views on a wide range of subjects of regional and global significance.

My Government will maintain and foster close understanding with our strategic partners and key interlocutors in order to strengthen our political and economic relations with the outside world. We also continue our efforts for a more equitable world order and for greater democratisation of the United Nations and its organs. A greater role for the developing countries in the councils of the world will bring in much-needed stability and justice in global affairs.

Honourable Members, you have a highly challenging, but equally rewarding, task before you in the 13th Lok Sabha. The people who have elected you have high expectations from all of you. They hope that the proceedings in Parliament will be of high standards, marked by consensus and cooperation among all members, cutting across party lines. In this context, I would like to compliment the 13th Lok Sabha on the unanimous election of the Honourable Speaker. This, indeed, is a welcome development. I am confident that the coming Session, as also all the subsequent sittings of Parliament will witness constructive debate in both Houses, leading to successful conclusion of all the legislative and other scheduled business. I wish you the very best in your endeavour.

Jai Hind.

12.48 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS – *Contd.*

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you, to the august House, my colleagues, the Ministers of State in the Council of Ministers.

Ministers of State

Shri Ramesh Bais	Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty	Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources
Shri Shriram Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Bandaru Dattatreya	Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development
Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology In addition, he will assist the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shri Bangaru Laxman	Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development

Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta	Minister of State in the Ministry Power	Shri I.D. Swami	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri Muni Lal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour	Prof. Rita Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines & Minerals
Shri Omer Abdullah	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.
Shri Ajit Kumar Panja	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs		
Shri Harin Pathak	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence	12.53 hrs.	
Dr. Debender Pradhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Surface Transport		
Shri E. Ponnuswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas		
Shri A. Raja	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development		
Shri O. Rajagopal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs		
Dr. Raman	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry		
Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles		
Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs		
Shri B.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture		
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat "Bachda"	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence		
Shri Digvijay Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways		
Shri Th. Chaoba Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports		
Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution		

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today I have a very long list of obituary references. I request the hon. Members to have some patience to listen to me.

Hon. Members, we are going to make obituary references to our former colleagues who are no more. But, before we do that, we would like to refer to the sad demise of Mr. Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania. This House wishes to place on record its profound sorrow and grief at the passing away of Mr. Julius Nyerere who passed away on 14th October, 1999. In his death the world lost a truly renowned leader and India a great friend.

President Nyerere's many splendoured life spanned an era. His life will remain an inspiring legacy for Tanzania and Africa, and beyond Africa, for the entire developing world. He was a towering symbol of self-reliant aspirations of the entire developing world. We recall his ideological clarity in fighting against all vestiges of colonialism, including the abhorrent practice of apartheid. The values he sought to disseminate in a post-colonial world will remain enduring, freedom with dignity, economic growth with equity and international relations based on equality.

India will always have a special place for the memory of Julius Nyerere. We did ourselves proud by conferring on this world statesman the Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding and Gandhi Peace Prize.

This House wishes to convey its heartfelt sympathy to the people and Government of Tanzania and to the members of the family of the late President.

I have also to inform the House with profound sorrow of the passing away of eighteen of our former colleagues namely: Sarvashri Kshudiram Mahata, N.T. Das, Amar Singh Damar, Shrimati Indubala Sukhadia, Sarvashri J.M. Lobo Prabhu, Sidha Lal Murmu, Amar Nath Chawla, Ch. Lachchi Ram, Shri J. Vengal Rao, Prof. Parag Chaliga, Shri K.N. Singh, Rajmata Kamlendu Mati Shah, Dr. (Shrimati) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Sarvashri Braja Mohan Mohanty,

Kalp Nath Rai, Acharya Bhagwan Dev and Sarvashri Yadendra Dutt and Dada Baburao Parajpe.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata was a member of Provisional Parliament representing Bihar State from 1950 to 1952.

An advocate by profession, Shri Mahata served as Assistant Public Prosecutor in 1948 and 1949.

As a well known social worker, he was associated with various social organisations in different capacities.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata passed away on 17 February, 1999 at Purulia, West Bengal at the age of 80.

Shri N.T. Das was a member of First to Fourth Lok Sabha representing Monghyr and Jamui Parliamentary constituencies of Bihar from 1952 to 1970. Later, he was elected to Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1977.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Das was a well known social and political worker. He was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for upliftment of backward classes.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Das was a member of various Parliamentary Committees. He actively participated in the proceedings of the House.

Shri N.T. Das passed away on 16 April, 1999 at Monghyr, Bihar at the age of 84.

Shri Amar Singh Damar was a member of First and Second Lok Sabha representing Jhabua Parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh from 1952 to 1962.

A veteran freedom fighter Shri Damar actively participated in freedom movement and suffered imprisonment.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Damar was an active social and political worker. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

An able parliamentarian, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions.

Shri Amar Singh Damar passed away on 30 April, 1999 at Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 74.

Shrimati Indubala Sukhadia was a member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Udaipur Parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan from 1984 to 1989.

Shrimati Sukhadia was an active social and political worker. She was actively associated with social reform work in her State. She was the President of Rajasthan Social Welfare Board and Mahila Mandal, Udaipur. She worked relentlessly for the welfare of the downtrodden.

As an active political worker, she lent support to her husband Shri Mohan Lal Sukhadia, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan in development activities of the State.

An active Parliamentarian, she took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution thereto.

Shrimati Indubala Sukhadia passed away on 8 May, 1999 at Udaipur, Rajasthan at the age of 78.

Shri J.M. Lobo Prabhu was a member of Fourth Lok Sabha representing Udipi Parliamentary constituency of erstwhile Mysore State from 1967 to 1970.

Shri Prabhu was a distinguished administrator. Before his retirement from Indian Civil Service (ICS) in 1959, he served as Collector in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and erstwhile Madras State. He also served the Central Government in different capacities.

A man of letters, Shri Prabhu edited "Insight", an English weekly. He wrote many prize winning articles on economics and politics. His publications include "Mother of New India", "Death Abdicates", "Collected Plays", "New Thinking", and "Second Plan X-rayed".

Shri Lobo Prabhu passed away on 14 May, 1999 at Mangalore, Karnataka at the age of 93.

Shri Sidha Lal Murmu was a member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Mayurbhanj Parliamentary constituency of Orissa from 1984 to 1989.

Earlier, Shri Murmu was a member of Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1971 to 1973 and 1980 to 1984. He served the State Government as a Cabinet Minister for Labour, Employment and Housing during 1971-72.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Murmu was a well known social and political worker. He took keen interest in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. He was associated with the Adivasi Socio-educational Cultural Organisation, Orissa in 1960.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Murmu was a member of Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions from 1987 to 1990 and Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1989-90. He focussed the attention of the House to the problems faced by the downtrodden.

Shri Sidha Lal Murmu passed away on 4 June, 1999 in Mayurbhanj, Orissa at the age of 64.

13.00 hrs.

Shri Amar Nath Chawla was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1974 representing Sadar Parliamentary Constituency of Delhi.

Shri Chawla was one of the known public figures of Delhi. He was associated with various public and cultural organisations of Delhi in different capacities. He took keen interest in the field of irrigation and power; works and housing; administration and industrial development and development to trade in the country.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Chawla was a member of the Joint Committee on Amendments to Election Law during 1971; Court of the University of Delhi from 1972 to 1974 and the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions during 1973.

A well known social worker, Shri Chawla worked relentlessly for communal harmony, upliftment of poor sections of society and promotion of educational and cultural societies.

Shri Amar Nath Chawla passed away on 5 June, 1999 in New Delhi at the age of 85.

Chaudhary Lachchhi Ram was a Member of Second and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Hamirpur and Jalaun Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh from 1957 to 1962 and 1984 to 1989, respectively.

A businessman by profession, Ch. Lachchhi Ram was an active political and social worker. He was associated with various social and educational organisations in different capacities.

An able parliamentarian, Ch. Lachchhi Ram was a Member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House from 1987 to 1989 and Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1989.

A well known social worker, Ch. Lachchhi Ram worked relentlessly for upliftment of the poor. He made special efforts in educating the children of weaker sections and to eradicate certain social evils prevalent among the downtrodden.

Ch. Lachchhi Ram passed away on 11 June, 1999 at Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 85.

Shri J. Vengal Rao was a Member of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Khammam Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh from 1984 to 1991.

Earlier, Shri J. Vengal Rao was a Member of Legislative Assembly, Andhra Pradesh from 1962 to 1978. He served the State of Andhra Pradesh as Home Minister from 1969 to 1971 and Minister for Industries in 1972-73.

He rose to become Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and held that office from 1973 to 1978. As an able administrator, he had made significant contributions to the development of Andhra Pradesh.

He was Union Minister of Industries from 1986 to 1989. An able parliamentarian, he focussed the attention of the House to the problems faced by the farmers.

Shri J. Vengal Rao suffered imprisonment twice during the Hyderabad liberation struggle in 1947-48.

A widely travelled person, Shri J. Vengal Rao was members of several Indian Parliamentary delegations to USA, England, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia.

Shri J. Vengal Rao passed away on 12 June, 1999 at Hyderabad at the age of 77.

Prof. Parag Chaliha was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Jorhat Parliamentary Constituency of Assam from 1985 to 1989 and also a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha.

An able parliamentarian, he was a Member of various Parliamentary committees of Lok Sabha as well as consultative committees of the Ministries of Government of India.

Hailed from the family of freedom fighters, Prof. Chaliha was actively involved in Anti-British Students' Movement since 1939. He led 1942 "Quit India Movement" at Sibsagar and suffered imprisonment. He was actively involved in the Assam Movement since 1979.

Prof. Chaliha was a teacher, administrator and votary of fine art. He undertook pioneering activities in the spread of higher education in backward areas of the State, founded the Sibsagar College, a premier educational institution in the country. He had the distinction of being conferred upon the first L.N. Bezbaroa Professorship named after the great poet of Assam. He rose to become head of the Department of Assamese in Dibrugarh University. He also founded and led Seujla Samaj and S.S. Sangeet Vidyalaya at Sibsagar. With public donations, he set up Sibsagar Natya Mandir, the most prestigious Art Centre in North-East India and established numerous other educational, sports and cultural organisations.

A man of letters, Prof. Chaliha authored several books on educational, sociological and cultural topics. His publications include 'Chari Hejar Bacharar Assam' a dramatic monologue on Assam's 4000 years of history; out look on NEFA in English and 'Simantar Sambhed' glimpses of North-East Frontier etc.

A widely travelled person, Shri Chaliha visited East Germany as a member of the Indian Delegation in 1970 under the Cultural Exchange Programme of U.G.C.; and later South Korea in 1986 as a member of Seoul Olympics team.

Prof. Parag Chaliha passed away on 22 June, 1999 at Sibsagar, Assam at the age of 75.

Shri K.N. Singh was a member of Fourth, Fifth and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Sultanpur and Hapur Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh from 1970 to 1977 and 1984 to 1989 respectively. He was also a member of Rajya Sabha from 1990 to 1996. He ably served as Deputy Minister in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs during 1971-74 and in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation during 1974-77 in the Union Council of Ministers.

A advocate by profession, Shri Singh actively participated in the 'Quit India Movement', of 1942 and suffered imprisonment. He took leading part in all the students movements in Uttar Pradesh during 1947-55. He was arrested twice during Kisan Movement in Uttar Pradesh and jailed during 1956-63.

An active social worker, Shri Singh worked for the propagation of education particularly in the rural areas. He set up premier scientific and technological institutions in rural areas to facilitate the application of modern tools and techniques in the field of agriculture. He also established various schools in the rural areas.

Shri K. N. Singh died on 1 July, 1999 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 71.

Rajmata Kamalendu Mati Shah was a member of First Lok Sabha representing Tehri Garhwal District (West) cum Bijnor District North Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

An able parliamentarian, Rajmata Shah actively participated in the proceedings of the House.

A well known social worker Rajmata Shah worked relentlessly for the upliftment of women and children.

As a recognition of her services to the society, she was awarded 'Padma Bhushan', in 1958.

Rajmata passed away on 15 July, 1999 at Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 96.

Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai was a member of Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Sitapur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh from 1980 to 1991.

Earlier, Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai was a member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1982 to 1977. She held with distinction various important portfolios in the Uttar Pradesh Government during 1970-77. She was also a member of Union Council of Ministers during 1985-89. She was Lt. Governor of Pondichery from 1995-1998.

A well known parliamentarian, Dr. (Smt.) Bajpai was Chairman, Committee of Papers Laid on the Table from 1980 to 1982. She was also a member of various parliamentary as well as Consultative Committees during her tenure of membership of Lok Sabha.

A teacher by profession, Dr. (Smt.) Bajpai was an active social and political worker. She actively participated in the 'Quit India Movement of 1942'. She worked relentlessly for the welfare of the downtrodden women and children. She established various educational institutions in Uttar Pradesh.

A widely travelled person, Dr. (Smt.) Bajpai was a member of Indian Delegation to United Nations in 1980. She led the Indian Delegation to International Labour Organisation Conference in Geneva in 1976; the World Peace Conference at Prague in 1983 and the Japan Social Rehabilitation World Conference twice.

Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai passed away on 17 July, 1999 at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 74.

Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty was a member of Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Puri Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa from 1980 to 1989. An able administrator, Shri Mohanty served as Deputy Minister in the Union Council of Ministers from 1980 to 1983 and held various important portfolios.

Earlier, Shri Mohanty was a member of Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977. He adorned the high office of the Speaker of Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1974 to 1977. He was a member of the Public Accounts Committee of the Orissa Legislative Assembly during 1971. He also served as Minister in the State Government of Orissa during 1972-73.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Mohanty was a member of various parliamentary committees. He was also a member of the Consultative Committee constituted under the Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Power) Act, 1987.

Shri Mohanty also participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

An advocate by profession, Shri Mohanty was the Associate Public Prosecutor and Special Prosecutor of Vigilance cases during 1965-66.

A well known social worker, he was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for the promotion of education amongst women and poor sections of the society. He was a founder member of Puri Mahila College and Nimapara College.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mohanty was a member of Indian Delegation to the World Peace Congress for Moscow in 1973 and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Mauritius in 1976.

A man of letters, Shri Mohanty wrote several articles in various newspapers and periodicals.

Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty passed away on 24 July, 1999 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi at the age of 75.

Shri Kalpnath Rai represented Ghosi Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh for four terms successively during Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1999. Earlier he was elected to Rajya Sabha thrice in 1974, 1980 and 1986.

Shri Kalpnath Rai was an able administrator. As Union Minister for nine years, Shri Rai held with distinction various important portfolios which include Parliamentary Affairs, Industry, Energy, Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Food.

A well known parliamentarian, Shri Rai was a member of several parliamentary and consultative committees. He actively took part in the proceedings of the House and fearlessly voiced the people's grievances.

An advocate and agriculturist by profession, Shri Rai was an eminent social and political worker. He was associated with various social and political organisations in different capacities. He took keen interest in rural reconstruction and welfare of the downtrodden.

Shri Kalpnath Rai passed away on 6 August, 1999 in New Delhi at the age of 58.

In his death, the country has lost an eminent social and political leader and a friend of the rural masses.

Acharya Bhagwan Dev was a member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing Ajmer Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan from 1980 to 1984.

An able parliamentarian, Acharya Bhagwan Dev was also a member of the Committee on Official Language from 1980 to 1984.

An active social and political worker, Acharya Bhagwan Dev was imprisoned for several times in connection with the Goa Liberation Movement. He also held important positions in the Maharshi Dayanand Yogashram Society and Akhil Bhartiya Yoga Vijnan Parishad. He was associated with various social and cultural organisations in different capacities.

An erudite scholar, Acharya Bhagwan Dev was well versed in English and many other Indian languages.

As a propagator of yoga, Acharya Bhagwan Dev authored several books on tenets of Yoga. He had also written books and articles in Gujarati as well as in Sindhi. He was also editor of 'Yoga Mandir', a monthly publication.

Acharya Bhagwan Dev passed away on 14 August, 1999 in Delhi at the age of 64.

Shri Yadendra Dutt was a member of Sixth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Jaunpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh from 1977 to 1979 and 1989 to 1991, respectively.

Earlier, he was a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1974. He was also the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

An agriculturist by profession, he was an active social worker and took keen interest in sports.

A well known parliamentarian, Shri Dutt was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He was also the member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs during 1990.

A man of letters, Shri Dutt authored several books. Some of them are 'Sher Shikari', 'Van Pashuon Ke Beech', 'Aakhet' and 'Adhbhut Shikar'. For 'Aakhet', he was honoured with Uttar Pradesh Hindi Academy Award.

Shri Yadendra Dutt passed away on 9 September, 1999 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 81.

Shri Dada Baburao Paranjpe was a member of Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha, representing Jabalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1982-84, 1989-91, 1996-97 and 1998-99, respectively.

A trader by profession, Shri Paranjpe was an active social and political worker. He served his constituency as Councillor, Municipal Corporation and then as Mayor from 1957 to 1975.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Paranjpe joined Azad Hind Fauj and fought for Independence under the command of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He saw action during the Second World War in 1944.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Paranjpe participated in the proceedings of the House. He was also member of various Parliamentary Committees such as Committee on Petitions, Committee on Defence and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

Shri Dada Baburao Paranjpe passed away on 27 September, 1999 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 77.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, we would now pay homage to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland, in the operations in Kargil this year. A war-like situation was thrust on us soon after a bold initiative taken by India for better relations with our neighbour Pakistan. Armed Forces of this country boldly faced the challenge, beat back and drove away the intruders in operations in one of the most difficult terrains in the world and under the toughest conditions.

We would place on record the gratitude of the nation to the heroes of Kargil and convey our deep sense of condolences to the bereaved families of the 540 brave soldiers. The nation will remember their supreme sacrifice with eternal gratitude.

We would also like to express our heartfelt and profound sorrow over two other tragic incidents - the railway accident in West Bengal and the cyclonic havoc in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

In the tragic rail accident on 2 August, 1999 when Guwahati-bound Awadh Assam Express collided head-on with the New Delhi-bound Brahmaputra Mail at Gaisal Railway Station in West Bengal, about 287 persons including 47 security personnel were reported to have died and several others injured.

In the other incident, about one hundred persons lost their lives, several injured and rendered homeless in the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa on 18 October, 1999. The cyclone also caused wide spread damage in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

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

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

13.16 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

Mr. Advani.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

13.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 9th June, 1999 issued by the President under clause (2) of Article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by him on the 10th February, 1999 in relation to the State of Goa, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 419(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 1999, under Article 356(3) of the Constitution. ... (Interruptions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution:

- (1) The Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 7 of 1999), promulgated by the President on the 1st July, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 4/99]

- (2) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 8 of 1999), promulgated by the President on the 21st July, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 5/99]

- (3) The Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 9 of 1999), promulgated by the President on the 28th July, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 6/99]

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

13.19 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fourth Session of Twelfth Lok Sabha and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 15th April, 1999:

- (1) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1999;
- (2) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1999; and
- (3) The Finance Bill, 1999.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fourth Session of Twelfth Lok Sabha and assented to by the

President:

- (1) The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1999;
- (2) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1999;
- (3) The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1999; and
- (4) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 26th October, 1999.

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, October 26, 1999/ Kartika 4, 1921 (Saka).
