

Title: References made to the 58th anniversary of the "Quit India Movement" launched on 9th August 1942 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and paid homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the motherland. Also made references to the 55th Anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Further references made to the passing away of Shri S. Nijalingappa (Member Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament and First Lok Sabha)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the nation observes today the fifty-eighth anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement'.

Fifty-eight years ago, on this day the clarion call given by Mahatma Gandhi roused the entire nation to launch Quit India Movement to attain freedom from the foreign yoke. The Father of the Nation exhorted the young and the old and the rich and the poor to 'do or die' for freedom of the country.

The people of the country stood united behind our brave leaders who put freedom of the nation above everything including their lives.

The Quit India Movement shook the very root of imperialistic rule in the country and ultimately led to the realisation of much cherished dream of millions of Indians – a free India.

With pride and gratitude we recall the sacrifices of all the freedom fighters, and pay respectful tribute to the memory of those patriots.

The hon. Members may also recall that Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two Japanese cities were destroyed by dropping of atomic bombs on 6th and 9th of August, 1945. Thousands of people were killed and millions maimed, depicting to the world how dangerous could be the insensible use of atomic weapons. The survivors of the nuclear holocaust are haunted by its after effects of radioactivity even today.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki stand as grim reminders to the world's conscience that weapons of mass destruction should never be used. If the world does not recognise the importance of elimination of nuclear weapons, people in the new millennium will not be able to live in peace. The principles and treaties that are aimed at reducing and eliminating nuclear arsenals and other conventional weapons of mass destruction should be universal, non-discriminatory and re-assuring of justice, equality, prosperity and peace for all peoples of the world.

The tragedy caused by the atom bombs should make us all, more compassionate, just and affectionate and wise to make human life better and peaceful in the world.

To ensure that there are no other Hiroshimas and Nagasakis, we need to keep up our struggle to make this world non-violent and peaceful. We should whole-heartedly support all the endeavours in this direction. We should also oppose and resist all destructive activities with all the might and will at our command.

Hon. Members, I have also to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri S. Nijalingappa.

Shri S. Nijalingappa was a Member of Constituent Assembly from 1948 to 1950 and Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952 and First Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1956 representing Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituency of Mysore.

An able administrator, Shri Nijalingappa served as Chief Minister of erstwhile Mysore for four times during the period from 1956 to 1968.

Earlier, Shri Nijalingappa was a Member of Mysore Legislative Council during 1937-38. He served as President of Constituent Assembly of Mysore.

An advocate by profession, Shri Nijalingappa was an active social and political worker. He was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked for the formation of States on linguistic basis. He devoted himself to the decentralisation of industry and development of villages and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He was the grand old man of Karnataka and the architect of the enlarged State. As a veteran freedom fighter, Shri

Nijalingappa was imprisoned for two years for participating in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

Shri S. Nijalingappa passed away on 8th August, 2000 at Chitradurga, Karnataka at the age of 98.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect in memory of the freedom fighters, victims of atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Shri S. Nijalingappa.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)
