

Title: Reference made to passing away of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, (Member Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 23 August, 2000.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the sudden and untimely demise of one of our esteemed colleagues Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam.

Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Tiruchirapalli parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu. He was also a Member of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1996, and Twelfth Lok Sabha during 1998-99 representing Salem and Tiruchirapalli parliamentary constituencies of Tamil Nadu.

An able and eminent administrator, Shri Kumaramangalam served as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers and held various important portfolios. At present, he was holding the position of Minister of Power.

An active parliamentarian, he left no opportunity in giving voice to the problems of common man. He was a Member of Business Advisory Committee in Lok Sabha during 1989-90 and also Parliamentary Pay Committee during 1998. He also served as a Member of Consultative Committee, Ministry of Labour and Welfare.

He evinced keen interest in literature and authored a book *The Student Movement in India* and also wrote articles titled *The other side of Gravitation* and *The Nuances of Directive Principle*.

An advocate by profession, he was a well-known trade union leader. He always stood for the cause of welfare of the workers, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. He also made concerted efforts for employment of educated youth.

Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam died after a brief illness on 23 August, 2000 at New Delhi at the age of 48.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend, and I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जन्म के साथ मृत्यु जुड़ी हुई है, दोनों का अटूट नाता है। लेकिन क्या यह जरूरी है कि मौत इतनी उच्छ्वलता से आये? कल हमने जन्माटमी मनाई। गीता में भगवान कृष्ण ने कहा था कि मृत्यु पर शोक नहीं होना चाहिए। क्योंकि जैसे फटे हुए कपड़े बदलकर मनुष्य नये वस्त्र धारण कर लेता है, उसी तरह से जीर्ण-शीर्ण शरीर को छोड़कर नया जन्म लेने की तैयारी में मनुष्य होता है, उसमें शोक कैसा, क्या यह बात सही है?

कुमारमंगलम की उम्र ही क्या थी? कल तक हमारे बीच में थे, आज नहीं हैं। जैसे बिना बादलों के बिजली गिरती है, उसी तरह से उनका निधन हुआ। वे केवल राजनीतिक प्राणी नहीं थे। यद्यपि राजनीति में सक्रिय थे, विचारों के आधार पर जब परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता थी, तो उन्होंने परिवर्तन भी किये, लेकिन सबके ऊपर उनका जो सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाला व्यक्तित्व था जिसमें चेहरे पर मुस्कान रहती थी और किसी से कठोर बात कहने में संकोच होता था, वे कुमारमंगलम जी हमारे बीच में नहीं हैं। वे संसदीय पटु थे, अच्छे वक्ता थे, कुशल संगठक थे, अच्छे वकील थे। उनका बहुमुखी व्यक्तित्व था। अभी उन्होंने और लंबा रास्ता तय करना था। लेकिन कभी-कभी कारवां में दुर्घटना हो जाती है, मंजिल पर पहुंचने से पहले ही साथी बिछड़ जाते हैं। आज ऐसी ही स्थिति है।

हम सब उनके प्रति अपनी विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं और उनके परिवार वालों के साथ अपनी संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं। रंगा हरेक रंग में जीवित रहेंगे, यह मेरा निश्चय है।

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rangarajan Kumaramangalam was snatched from our midst when we saw that he had many, many years ahead of him. Now, suddenly, he is no more. This is a grievous loss. It is a reminder of our own mortality. It is a reminder of our vulnerability to forces over which we have no control.

Since our families have known each other for three generations and I myself had known Ranga for many, many years, the loss is a personal loss as well. I grieve for his young wife; I grieve for his young children.

Ranga's warmth of manner will remain the enduring image of him. He had an exceptional ability to reach out with genuine affection and to grasp every outstretched hand. This naturally brought him a countless number of friends and therefore my sympathies extend to them as well.

Although Ranga dies before he reached the age of 50, he packed into his political and legal career more activities and more achievements than many others. As a student in the Delhi University, he was among the founders of the NSUI, the student wing of the Congress Party. He was also extremely very active in the trade union movement.

Following in the wake of his distinguished father and grandfather, he entered Parliament 20 years ago. I think, but for one intervening Lok Sabha, he was elected and re-elected again to Parliament from Salem and from Trichy. His Parliamentary skills soon attracted and brought him high recognition. My husband was particularly fond of him.

I believe Ranga was one of the first few to comprehend Rajiv Gandhi's vision of progress in the 21st century being

driven by the new information technology.

As Cabinet Minister of Power in two successive Governments, he distinguished himself as a dynamic Minister, a Minister with innovative and bold ideas. His was a restless mind, constantly in search of new solutions.

It was his inquisitive spirit and his readiness at all times to enter into a democratic debate, which would remain with us as an everlasting memory of a young man who had so much more to offer to the country.

Therefore, we mourn Ranga's passing away. Once again, on behalf of the Congress Party and on my own behalf, I extend my deep-felt condolences to the grieving family and to his large circle of friends and supporters. Thank you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is extremely sad and heart-rending that we should be standing here to mourn the passing away of another of our brightest young politician who has left us only yesterday.

In the beginning of this Session, we mourned the passing away of Shri Rajesh Pilot, another young politician, from whom the country expected a lot, as we did from Ranga.

Sir, it is a personal loss to me and to many others, I am sure. He used to always call me his uncle, whenever we met. Particularly during his tenure as the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, he really showed remarkable ability to carry the Opposition with him. I had opportunities of interaction daily, but there was never any occasion when we had any misunderstanding. He could persuade others to go along with him. This and his deep commitment to parliamentary democracy made him so successful.

I remember, a number of years back, when I was actively practising in the Calcutta High Court, I got a telephone call from him, from Chennai. I did not know him then. He said, "You have won a case in Calcutta, where the workers have been given wages for the strike-period, because the Court held that the strike was justified and legal. I have a similar problem here; and so, would you send me a copy of that judgement?" I asked him, "Who are you?" He gave his identity. Of course, I knew his father very well. That is his commitment to help the workers who are in trouble. He was a well-known trade unionist. Like this, memories are coming back.

Of course, since he was elected to Lok Sabha in 1984, we have had numerous meetings. He used to come to my house very often, because of our personal relationship. Although, belonging to an illustrious family, which had followed a particular path of politics or political ideology, he changed his views recently. But that did not sever the relationship between us or between any one of us in the House or even outside.

I remember, only about a fortnight back, we met. When I was going out from Gate No. 4, I met him and he was a cutting a joke. He said, "*Maama*, you are still putting on weight." I asked, "What happened to you? You are not seen here these days."

But he did not mention that he was so unwell. A young leader with a tremendous prospect has been snatched away at the prime of his life. I felt – I said this yesterday also – that the country is poorer because our innings is already over and we have to depend on the young people with patience, drive, imagination, commitment, sincerity and transparency to lead this country where we wish to reach. They can deliver the goods to the people of this country who are waiting for us to perform. It is extremely sorry that we have lost him. It is very very difficult to fill the void. I am extremely sorry for the family. His wife, Kitty, is a member of the profession. I particularly convey her and to her children my own and my party's sincere condolences. I am sure, not only Parliament but also the whole country is grieving on the untimely passing away of this young man with a brilliant mind, active and committed to serving the nation and the common people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join you, the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in conveying my own and my party's sincerest condolences on the tragic event that had happened yesterday.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD): Sir, in a month's time we have lost two very young promising young leaders. This is a big loss for the nation. Kumaramangalam was a dynamic leader of immense potential. He fought many political battles during his career and won most of them. But he could not win the last battle. I feel that we are defeated in his failure to win the last battle. The nation was defeated. When I was Union Minister of State for Power, we drafted a Common Minimum Action Plan for power sector. That was an Action Plan which was endorsed by all Chief Ministers. In that context, I had the occasion to meet hon. Rangaji on various issues of reforms in the power sector. He had not only vision but also necessary dynamism to achieve things. Sometimes, he looked very controversial. It is because he was a performer. He spoke and acted in the interest of the country. In my opinion, it is only performers who get into controversies. Sir, as Speaker, you have also witnessed that Rangaji was an ever-smiling and able person who made friends cutting across party lines. The demise of Ranga is a loss to Andhra Pradesh in particular and to the nation in general. The best tribute that we can pay to Ranga is to carry forward the

momentum of reforms pursued by him.

On behalf of me and on behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I convey my heart felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray God to give them necessary strength to withstand this serious loss.

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्भल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री पी.आर. कुमारमंगलम जी का निधन इस देश के लिए, सदन के लिए और हम सबके लिए बहुत ही दुखद है। श्री पी.आर.कुमारमंगलम एक योग्य, प्रतिभावान और समझदार नेता थे।

दूर से मेरा ज़रूर सम्पर्क रहा। लेकिन संसदीय कार्य मंत्री के रूप में सदन में बहुत मौके आए। वे जिस क्षमता, सहजता, व्यवहार कुशलता और सबसे मिल-जुलकर रहते थे, उससे राजनैतिक दूरियों को कम करने में बहुत मदद मिलती थी। उनमें विशेष क्षमता थी। उनमें योग्यता और सबको साथ लेकर चलने की जो क्षमता थी, उससे लगता था कि वे देश की राजनैतिक उंचाइयों पर जाने वाले देश के नौजवान थे। हमारे देश के लिए यह बहुत बड़ी क्षति हुई है। आज हम सब दुखी हैं। मैं कुछ देर से लखनऊ से आ चुका था। जब हम यात्रा में साथ चल रहे थे तो मैं देख रहा था कि चाहे कोई भी दल, वर्ग या समाज हो, सभी चर्चा कर रहे थे और दुखी थे। अपने-अपने तरीके से हर क्षेत्र में उनकी प्रशंसा हो रही थी। अभी उनकी राजनैतिक उम्र बहुत बड़ी थी। वे देश की सेवा के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते थे लेकिन नहीं निभा सके। हम आपके माध्यम से हमारी ओर से और समाजवादी पार्टी की ओर से उनके परिवार के प्रति पूरी संवेदना पहुंचाने की प्रार्थना करते हैं।

श्री चंद्रशेखर (बलिया, उ.प्र.) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री रंगराजन कुमारमंगलम हमारे बीच नहीं रहे, यह सारे राष्ट्र के लिए और विशेष रूप से संसद के लिए एक बड़ी भारी विपदा है। उसको हम किस तरह सहन करेंगे, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि सहन करने की विवशता है। श्री कुमारमंगलम एक युवक थे। उनसे राजनीति में, संसद में बड़ी आशाएं थीं और कार्य क्षेत्र के बाहर भी उन्होंने राष्ट्र की राजनीति में अपना एक स्थान बना लिया था। वह आशा इतनी जल्दी समाप्त हो जाएगी, इसकी हमें अपेक्षा नहीं थी। श्री कुमारमंगलम के जाने से जो स्थान रिक्त हुआ है, उसे पूरा करना कठिन होगा। उनकी स्मृति को मेरी श्रद्धांजलि, उनके परिवार के प्रति मेरे संवेदना।

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders.

Each one of us sitting here in this august House is feeling that we have lost a personal friend. This feeling is prevailing with thousands and thousands of people outside this House. Shri Ranga had tremendous ability to make friends. I knew him as a Trade Union leader. During my tenure as the Labour Minister of this country for seven years I had many occasions to interact with him and to argue with him because he used to come with the problems of the working class. He used to come to my office with a large number of delegations. He had such a persuasive power that most of the time I had no choice but to concede his demands.

I remember one particular occasion when Shri Ranga came with a delegation of about fifty workers. He had a very long list of demands. We had three hours of marathon negotiations. After three hours of negotiations, arguments and counter-arguments, I was shocked when he asked, "Mr. Sangma, may I withdraw all my demands? Will you please allow me to take back this memorandum?" In my tenure as the Labour Minister, that was the only occasion when a Trade Union leader withdrew the demands on the spot after three hours of negotiations. Such a reasonable man was Shri Ranga.

He was dynamic, he was young, he had tremendous capacity to articulate his views and in a period of three months" time after Shri Rajesh Pilot left us, the country has lost a very bright young politician. I deeply mourn his demise. On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I would like to convey through you to the members of the bereaved family our heart-felt condolences.

श्री राशिद अलवी (अमरोहा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से इस तकलीफदेह मौके पर अपने अफसोस को जाहिर करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। यह दुनिया बिल्कुल रेलगाड़ी की तरह से है। इसमें सफर कर रहे मुसाफिरों को खुद यह मालूम नहीं है कि किस किस स्टेशन पर उतर जाना है, किसको कब चले जाना है, इसका अहसास हममें से किसी को भी नहीं है।

सेशन शुरू हुआ था तो राजेश पायलट जी के लिए हमने अपने ख्यालात का इजहार किया था, अपनी तकलीफ का इजहार किया था। अब सेशन खत्म होने जा रहा है तो इस मुल्क के एक और नौजवान लीडर कुमारमंगलम साहब के बारे में इजहार-ए-अफसोस करने के लिए हम खड़े हुए हैं। मुझे याद है कि राजेश पायलट साहब ने भी कहा था कि अभी तो मेरी राजनीति बहुत लम्बी है, अभी बहुत वक्त है, अभी जिंदगी में बहुत मवाके आने वाले हैं। कुमारमंगलम साहब भी एक दिन प्रधान मंत्री जी के आफिस से निकलते हुए मुझसे कह रहे थे कि अभी तो हमारे पास राजनीति करने के लिए बहुत वक्त है। अब तो यह कहते हुए डर लगने लगा है, अगर हममें से कोई यह कहे कि हमारे पास बहुत वक्त है, हमें नहीं मालूम कि हममें से किसको कब जाना पड़ जाये।

वे एक जहीन आदमी थे, उनके पास शराफत, जहानत, जकावत ये सारी चीजें थीं। मैंने उन्हें देखा है कि जब उनसे स्वालात किये जाते थे और बाज औकात उनके पास स्वाल का मुनासिब जवाब नहीं होता था तो वे अपनी जुबान में उबूर की वजह से, अपने चुनिन्दा अल्फाज की वजह से, अपनी कॉम्पिटेंस और अपनी जहानत की वजह से मुश्किल स्वालों के बीच से हंसते हुए निकल जाते थे, जिस्से उनकी कॉम्पिटेंस और उनकी जहानत का अंदाजा होता था।

मैं अपनी और अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से उन्हें खिराजे अकीदत पेश करता हूँ। इसके साथ-साथ मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि उनके इन्तकाल के मौके पर तरह-तरह की बातें अखबारात के अन्दर आई कि उनका ट्रीटमेंट ठीक नहीं हुआ है। मुझे इस बारे में कोई ज्यादा जानकारी नहीं है, लेकिन अगर हिन्दुस्तान के एक कैबिनेट मंत्री के बारे में इस तरह किया जा सकता है कि उनका इलाज ठीक तरीके से न हुआ हो तो एक गरीब आदमी के लिए तो इस मुल्क के अन्दर बहुत दुश्चारी होगी। मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि इसकी तरफ त्वज्जह दें और इसकी इन्क्वायरी करायें और देखें कि क्या ऐसा तो नहीं हुआ है कि उनको इस तरीके से किसी अस्पताल में नजरअंदाज किया गया हो। मैं आपसे दरखास्त करता हूँ कि मेरी तरफ से और मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से हमारे अहसासों उनके परिवार तक पहुंचाने का कट करें।

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of myself and AIADMK, I associate myself with the views and sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and other Party Leaders expressing their grief over the sudden death of our friend, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam.

I know him for the last 20 years in Chennai High Court. I know his father. Sir, Shri Rangarajan is popularly called as 'Ranga' or 'Rangarajan' in Parliament. But in our legal circle, in Chennai High Court, we used to call him 'Thambu'. He was an able labour lawyer and a fighter for the labour class. He, unitedly with his wife, was fighting for the labour community in the Chennai High Court and other labour courts. When he entered politics, he used to say that one must be clean and steady in one's thinking and in taking decisions.

Sir, he was always smiling. Nobody can forget his smiling face. As a strange coincidence, in 1995, my name and Shri Rangarajan's name were debated by the full Chennai High Court for designation as Senior Advocates and we were designated on the same date. I telephonically contacted Shri Rangarajan from Chennai and told him that he had also been designated as Senior Advocate along with me. Then, he said that he was advocating the cause of the labour community and that he would spend his life, if any, only for the welfare of the depressed and labour class. So, we have lost such a personality at a young age. Destiny has snatched away Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam from the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

He was fast in his movement, thinking and behaviour. He never minced matters and wherever he was, he had no enemy at all.

In 1998, when he was asked to contest from Salem, he said that he preferred to contest from Trichy. My leader conceded to his demand by seeing the smiling face of Shri Rangarajan. Thus, he was able to catch up the mind and affection of everybody. Everybody had adored him. We have lost an able and young administrator, an able parliamentarian and a future leader of the country.

I also mourn his death, along with you, Sir, and other leaders and I express my heart-felt condolences to Shrimati Kitty Kumaramangalam who is also an advocate.

डा. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने, सदन के नेता ने, विपक्ष के नेता ने और अन्य नेताओं ने जो महान दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति शोक उद्गार व्यक्त किए हैं, हम सभी उसके साथ हैं। प्रकृति की अजीब विडम्बना है कि आज स्वाल नम्बर 1 और 2 के सम्बन्ध में कुमारमंगलम् साहब उत्तर देते। हम बराबर सदन में उनसे जूझते थे और आज फिर जूझते। लेकिन वह मौका हाथ नहीं आया। कुमारमंगलम् साहब मृत्यु से जूझते-जूझते कल पराजित हो गए, और कल ही जन्माटमी थी। कहते हैं कि इलाज ठीक ढंग से नहीं हुआ, उसके बाद भी दादागिरि की कि सरकार को कागज-पेपर नहीं देंगे, मेडिकल काँसिल को देंगे।

सरकार के मंत्रियों की यह दुर्दशा है तो आम लोगों का क्या होगा? ये सब बातें वह पीछे छोड़ गये हैं। बिहार में बिजली के संबंध में उनसे स्वाल जवाब हुआ था। कंसलटेटिव कमेटी में भी मैं उनके साथ सदस्य था। उन्होंने वचन दिया था कि बिहार में बिजली का मामला हम अलग से पूरी तरह आपके साथ बैठकर करेंगे लेकिन वह दिन अब आने वाला नहीं है। बिजली का क्या होगा और देश में जो बिजली संकट है, उसे दूर करने के लिए वह बराबर सक्रिय रहते थे। बिजली का क्या होगा, यह चिंता का विषय है। ठीक है माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि मृत्यु सत्य है और भगवान कृष्ण का उपदेश भी है कि शोक करना ठीक नहीं है लेकिन जिस समाज में हम हैं, जब अपने बीच से कोई उठ जाता है तो दुख अनिवार्य हो जाता है और सम्पूर्ण सदन शोकाकुल है। इस महान दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि व्यक्त करते हुए आपसे प्रार्थना है कि सदन की ओर से और सभी पार्टियों की ओर से शोक संवेदना उनके परिवार तक भी पहुंचा दी जाये ताकि उनका परिवार इस घोर विपत्ति का सामना कर सके और दुख से निवारण पा सके।

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with an unbearable sorrow and a heavy heart, I express my grief over the most unfortunate and untimely demise of our beloved friend Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. The very news of his sudden ailment and his struggle for life at the AIIMS did strike us like a thunderbolt from the blue. As the most ebullient and dynamic person who made a remarkable contribution to democracy; an able Parliamentarian who proved his talent and capabilities as a Minister with his marvellous performance, he became the dearest of one and all cutting across party lines. He was a tireless fighter, a dedicated crusader for the cause of the labour, for the cause of the poor and the downtrodden, and for the cause of democracy. For friendship, he was an example to others. He had his own vision. He had his dreams. The success of his outstanding performance was contributed by factors like meticulous planning, clear-cut thinking, perfect wisdom, tireless hard work, commitment to the conviction which he cherished and above all his humanitarian spirit.

He hailed from a family of rich tradition – *Kumaramangalam Zamin*. His grand-father the late Dr. Subbarayan was a Minister of the then Madras Presidency and also a Minister in Pandit Nehru's Cabinet. His father the late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was an outstanding barrister. He served as a Minister in Shrimati Indira Gandhi's Cabinet and his sudden demise in the air crash was a rude shock to the whole country. Had Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangam lived, he would have reached some more dizzy heights. But the cruel and merciless hands of death

has snatched him away from us.

We all know that life is transient. The great poet Thomas Gray in his poetry "*Elegy written in a Country Churchyard*" stated: "We are all going but to the grave." So, life is transient. Rabindranath Tagore said: "Life is a tiny bubble before the silence of the Infinite." But when someone, who is near and dear, passes away, we are in tears. Today, the hon. Prime Minister has lost a trusted follower. The BJP has lost a strong lieutenant. My State, the State of Tamil Nadu, has lost a genuine and noble public servant. This Parliament has lost a good Parliamentarian. I have lost a personal bosom friend.

My heart goes to the beloved wife of Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and his beloved son and daughter. I pay my humble homage and tribute to the young, dynamic leader whose memory will be ever green in our minds.

On behalf of the Marumalarchi DMK and on my own behalf, I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of the family. .

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

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