

11.01 hrs.

Title: References made to the 59th Anniversary of "Quit India Movement" launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and 56th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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

Fifty-nine years ago, on this day, Mahatma Gandhi gave the call to launch the 'Quit India Movement' to put an end to the colonial rule. The firm determination with which the entire nation stood behind the Father of the Nation, resisting the might of the imperialistic forces with the twin tools of *ahimsa* and *satyagraha* ultimately compelled them to leave the country.

With pride and gratitude, we pay respectful homage to the memory of all those patriots who laid down their lives and to all those who underwent untold sufferings for the cause of independence of their motherland.

The hon. Members may also recall that Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two Japanese cities were annihilated by dropping of atomic bombs on 6th and 9th 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 living monuments of this drastic and irrational human action.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us of the importance of elimination of nuclear weapons to ensure perpetual peace and harmony among nations. Sincere and objective oriented approaches are essential for preparation and implementation of treaties and covenants aiming at a world, free of nuclear weapons.

To ensure that there are no more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis, we should lead the world through non-violent path. We should whole-heartedly support all the endeavours in this direction. We should also build our will and determination to oppose all forces that work against human peace and prosperity.

The House may now observe a minute's silence in memory of the freedom fighters and the victims of atomic holocaust.

11.03 hrs.

(The Members stood in silence for a minute.)
