

Title: Reference made to the passing away of Shri S. Sankarapandian (First and Second Lok Sabha) and Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament) passed on 8 October, 1999 and 31 October, 1999; and also made reference to the loss of many lives in the devastating cyclone in Orissa.

11.11 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of two of our former colleagues Sarvashri M. Sankarapandian and L. Krishnaswami Bharathi.

Shri M. Sankarapandian was a Member of First and Second Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1962 representing Sankaranayinarkovil and Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituencies of erstwhile Madras State.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Sankarapandian worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Sankarapandian worked for the welfare of the labour class and farmers and never lost any opportunity to put forward their problems before the House. He was a member of Estimates Committee from 1958 to 1960.

Shri M. Sankarapandian passed away on 8 October, 1999 at Puliangudi, Tamil Nadu at the age of 81.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi was a Member of the Constituent Assembly from 1946 to 1950 and Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952 representing erstwhile Madras State.

Earlier, he was a Member of erstwhile Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937 of the then Madras Presidency.

An active freedom fighter, Shri Bharathi was imprisoned for participating in Satyagraha movements in 1932 and 1940.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Bharathi was a member of All India Language Experts Conference during 1949-50 and member of Committee for Translating the Constitution into Tamil language in 1951.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi passed away on 31 October, 1999 at Chennai at the age of 95.

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

Hon. Members may recall that this House passed a resolution during the last session expressing deep sense of shock at the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh on 29 October, 1999. As the events have unfolded, the devastation has far exceeded any such calamity suffered by this country ever before. More than 10,000 persons have reportedly lost their lives and almost half of the population of Orissa affected in the tragedy.

We deeply mourn the loss of these lives.

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

11.13 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.
