

14.46 hrs

REFERENCE RE : PASSING AWAY OF SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO, FORMER PRIME MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with profound sadness, I am to inform the House that the former Prime Minister and former Congress President, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has passed away. His cremation and other things are being organized. There will be a Cabinet Meeting at 3.30 p.m. to express condolence and in the fitness of things, I would request the hon. Deputy-Speaker to adjourn the House. There would be certain ceremonials and other things. But, I think, in the given situation, we may have to give up formalities.

As today is the last day, you have to adjourn the House *sine die*. That is why, we have to give up the normal ceremonies which are associated with the normal adjournment of the House *sine die*. We can have *Vande Mataram*. Instead of giving any references of how many Bills and how much business we have transacted or instead of going through those rigmaroles, after *Vande Mataram*, the House can be declared as adjourned *sine die*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I think, we should stand for *Vande Mataram*. After condolence, we will stand for two minutes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please wait for just a couple of minutes. The Speaker is just coming. I am waiting for him. The Rajya Sabha has been adjourned.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय: शरद पवार जी, क्या आप कुछ बोलेंगे?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There will be an expression of condolence by standing in silence. Formal resolution and other things would be done in the next Session, because it cannot be done right now. We are just waiting for the hon. Speaker to come. He has just left. That is why, though it looks a little odd, yet we are just waiting for the hon. Speaker to come. In the fitness of things, we thought that it would be better that he should adjourn the House *sine die*.

डॉ. लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय (मंदसौर) : पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री माननीय श्री पी. वी. नरसिम्हा राव जी के दिवंगत होने की सूचना के बाद मेरा ऐसा मानना है कि हम सदन में कोई कार्यवाही न करें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That we have agreed. The House has agreed. Now, we are waiting only for our hon. Speaker.

श्री विजयेन्द्र पाल सिंह (मीलवाड़ा) : जब तक ऑनरेबल स्पीकर नहीं आते, 15 मिनट के लिए हाउस स्थगित कर दें।

14.50 hrs (Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, first, I will inform you officially.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with profound sadness, I am to inform that the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has expired this afternoon. The Union Cabinet is meeting at 3.30 p.m. to pass the condolence resolution and also to make arrangements for the State funeral to the departed leader.

Sir, in a situation like this, my most respectful submission to you would be that we can adjourn the House. As today is the last day and normally we have some ceremonies like giving an account of the business, thanksgiving to each other, but, perhaps, in the fitness of things, those ceremonies could not be observed. If you permit, the hon. Members can express their condolence by standing in silence for two minutes. Thereafter, by singing *Vande Mataram*, we can adjourn the House as it has been done in the other House. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are extremely sad to hear of the demise of one of the distinguished statesmen of this country who was our former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. He was an outstanding statesman. He was a Member of the House.

We sincerely mourn his passing away. I wish to associate with the hon. Leader of the House in expressing our deepest condolence on his demise.

May I request all the hon. Members to stand in silence in memory of the departed leader?

14.52 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

14.53 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

MR. SPEAKER: Now, *Vande Mataram* will be played.

(The National Song was played.)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

14.54 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.
