

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam Speaker, on behalf of our leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi and the DMK Party, I join the other leaders in conveying our condolences to the family and the people of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela was a great leader. He had been a strong fighter against apartheid. There is a saying in Tamil; Saint Thiruvalluvar has said: "*pirapokkum ella uyirkum*" which means all men are born equal. That is the tenet of a civilized society for which Nelson Mandela had to fight and had to be in prison for about 27 years.

The real respect we pay to him is by continuing his mission of fighting against apartheid, fighting against denial of civil rights to society, ethnic society, religious society or linguistic society wherever they are denied of such rights conveyed to the majority in a civilized world.

Our great leader of the Dravidian movement Thanthai Periyar, E.V. Ramasamy also died at the age of 95. He was always fighting to ensure equality for depressed and oppressed in the Indian society.

Dr. Nelson Mandela had also breathed his last at the age of 95. Such stalwarts change the world. Such stalwarts give respect to humanity. Such leaders give respect to mankind. Such leaders ensure social justice in all respects, be it woman or man. So, it is our mission to see, to ensure that no society in this civilised world is deprived of its rights whether in India or in Sri Lanka or in other countries.

With these words, I, on behalf of the DMK Party, join the other leaders in conveying our condolences to the family of departed leader.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, I rise to convey, on behalf of my party, my condolences to the family of Dr. Nelson Mandela and to all the people of South Africa. Dr. Nelson Mandela fought throughout his life against the exploitation, injustice and apartheid policy which was being pursued by the colonists. He was in jail for 28 years.

Madam, I got the opportunity to visit that Robben Island. You can compare it with our Andaman Island. Our freedom fighters were sent to Andaman Island and torture was perpetrated against those freedom fighters. It is also known as Kalapani. In Robben Island I have seen this small cell and I was surprised as to how could such a great man stay within that small cell.

Madam, Nelson Mandela is not only the leader of South Africa but he is the leader of exploited mass of the entire world. He fought against the apartheid policy, exploitation and injustice. After his release and after that apartheid policy was defeated, he came to our country and to our city of Kolkata. Thousands of people gathered to receive such a great leader.

The death of Dr. Nelson Mandela is not only the loss to the people of South Africa but to the entire exploited people of the world. In our country inequality, discrimination and exploitation is continuing even after 66 years of Independence. Our greatest tribute would be to pledge today that we will follow the path, the struggle that was led by Dr. Nelson Mandela throughout his life. When the apartheid policy was defeated a democratic Government was set up. After the elections, the South African National Congress and the South African Communist party together have been running the Government. Since then, there is a coalition government and the problem of the people of South Africa is being solved.

Madam, Dr. Nelson Mandela was the greatest friend of our country. So, the death of Nelson Mandela is the greatest loss for the people of our country also.

Madam, on behalf of our Party, I pay tribute to Dr. Nelson Mandela.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I stand here today to express my heartfelt condolences. On behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, I extend my condolences to the family of Dr. Nelson Mandela and also to the people of South Africa.

God has been kind to us that we have seen such stalwarts walking on this earth fighting non-violently to establish peace and to destroy the scourge of apartheid. Nelson Mandela's fight against racism, again apartheid will be a source of inspiration for human civilization.

At this moment, I recall the non-violent struggle of Lech Walesa of Poland who fought against a very oppressive government. We also remember the fight against an autocratic government of Philippines when democracy triumphed because of non-violent struggle.

India has all along stood with the people who have fought against apartheid, fought against racism and fought against discrimination. The struggle against oppression, against apartheid and against satanic forces was the call of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He believed in non-violence not only in his speech but also in his action.

When Gandhiji was shot here in Delhi in 1948, many people paid condolences and homage to him. The best which I can remember today came from the great Scientist, Einstein. His words were: "People who will be in dismay may think that whether such a person had actually walked on this earth." The similar sentence can also be said today that in posterity, in future many people may wonder whether such a person like Dr. Nelson Mandela had actually walked on this earth.

With these words, I express my condolence.

श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी (रायबरेली): Madam Speaker, with the passing away of Dr. Nelson Mandela, the world is deprived of the luminous presence and a Radiant Spirit. Through the long years of his struggle for South Africa's Freedom, freedom from oppression, racial prejudice, inequality and poverty, Nelson Mandela redefined the meaning of 'courage, sacrifice and forgiveness.'

Over the 10,000 days he spent in a brutal prison, sacrificing 27 years of his life for the freedom of his people, his courage never wavered nor did his conviction that his cause was just and true. He emerged from his long incarceration with not a trace of bitterness or vengeance in his heart, only a renewed determination to erase the little legacy of apartheid, break down the barriers of hatred and distrust between Whites and Blacks and unite South Africa's people in a climate of reconciliation and harmony.

Nelson Mandela always led from the front but like a true leader, he had the gift of taking others along with him. His own courage was almost superhuman yet he had the gift of inspiring others to acts of extraordinary heroism as well.

Like a true democrat, he voluntarily renounced political power and office after serving for five years as President of South Africa even though his country pleaded with him to stay as President for life.

In his retirement from public life, 'Madiba' continued to be a figure of inspiration, support and hope for oppressed and marginalised people all over the world. His spirit remained indomitable and undimmed till the very end, so did his moral authority shining bright like a guiding star in a troubled world.

'Madiba' was a beloved figure in India. We felt deeply honoured that after his release from prison, India was one of the first countries he visited in 1990. He was awarded the *Bharat Ratna*, the highest honour that India can bestow because we loved him and revered him. Because like the Mahatma, who had inspired him, he was a leader who belonged to all humanity, a towering beacon for all who cherished freedom, democracy and social justice.

Today, I join millions of Indians in mourning his loss. We feel bereft as though we have lost a beloved father. We will be forever grateful that such a one, as he, walked this earth of ours.

On behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I express my deep felt condolences to Madiba's family and to the people of South Africa.

श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी (रायबरेली): Madam Speaker, with the passing away of Dr. Nelson Mandela, the world is deprived of the luminous presence and a Radiant Spirit.

उत्सव के कार्यक्रमों में शामिल होकर दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से देशभर में प्रसारित होकर लोगों के बीच जागृता फैलाने में मदद करेगा।

इन्होंने कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से लोगों को जागृत करने में मदद करने का उद्देश्य रखा है।

MADAM SPEAKER: On a personal note, today I remember with a heavy heart my visit to South Africa seeing the tiny cell of Nelson Mandela for 27 years in Robben Island prison and finally meeting the legendary hero himself. For me that visit was like a pilgrimage from which I draw strength till today. It was the most inspiring journey of my life. Physically he is no more with us, but his ideals of human rights and equality live on as our guiding light.

The House wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Mandela, the Parliament, the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa.

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

11.47 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 9th December 2013 at 11 a.m.

11.48 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Monday, December 9, 2013 / Agrahayana 18, 1935 (Saka)