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Title: Reference regarding homage to the Father of Nation and martyrs who scarified their lives for the freedom of the motherland and 66th anniversary of dropping of atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it was sixty-nine years ago on this day, that is, the 9th of August, 1942 that Mahatma Gandhi launched the 'Quit India' movement to liberate our country from the shackles of foreign rule.

The 'Quit India' movement, which is one of the most defining moments in our Independence struggle, galvanized the entire nation.

On this occasion, we pay our respectful homage to the Father of the Nation and to all the martyrs who laid down their lives in the freedom struggle and rededicate ourselves to the high ideals for which they stood.

Hon. Members may also recall that sixty-six years ago, atom bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 6th and 9th of August, 1945 respectively, causing unthinkable human agony and misery. Thousands of innocent people lost their lives and millions were crippled in this catastrophe. The inhabitants of these cities are still suffering from the after effects of nuclear radiations.

On this occasion, let us reiterate our pledge towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This House extends its wholehearted support to all endeavours which seek to ensure global peace.

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

11.02 Â½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 121.

Shri Ponnampal Prabhakar – Not present.

Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav,

Now, hon. Minister.