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Title: Need to commemorate and celebrate the 19th of March as a day of sacrifice made by the soldiers of INA.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, today is a very red letter day, a red letter day for all patriotic persons of this country. There was a slanging match inside the House. There is also a match going in Australia between India and Bangladesh. But 70 years ago, people had marched thousands of miles to hoist the national flag in the main land of our country that was the 19th March in a place called Moirang in Manipur. It was the Indian National Army led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose which took up armed struggle against the imperialistic British *Raj*. They hoisted the first national flag in the main land. Of course, the national flag was hoisted in Lahore in 1930. The national flag was also hoisted in Port Blair after it was occupied by the Indian National Army. Yesterday, Vir Savarkar's name was mentioned here that it should be erected there in Port Blair in Andaman. Two names were given by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to those two Islands of Andaman and Nicobar. They were called 'Island of Freedom' and 'Island of Independence'. एक मुक्ति दीप है एक स्वतंत्रता दीप है। इस तरह का नाम उन्होंने उस समय दिया था। ...(*Interruptions*) As we said, they were 'Freedom and Independence'. In the mainland, the first national flag was hoisted on 19th March, 1944. It is being observed, of course, in Manipur. I hope, the Chief Minister of Manipur must be visiting today to pay his obeisance to those freedom fighters in Moirang which is situated on the banks of the beautiful fresh water lake of Manipur.

My question to the Government of India would be this. Are we observing this day at the national level? Has anyone remembers 19th of March, 1944? This day needs to be observed at the national level and also at the Capital. It is a red-letter day. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that 19th of March also should be observed as a red-letter day because one of the major incidents had taken place in 1944 during the Independence era commemorating the Indian National Army's struggle. That was the death knell or in the last nail on the coffin of the imperialist forces, the imperialist era. I would urge upon this Government to observe 19th of March as INA day by hoisting of the national flag in the mainland of this country.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Madam, it was a difficult terrain. बहुत दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ा था।... (व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim and all of you can associate with him. जो माननीय सदस्य एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, वे अपना नाम लिखवा दें। अच्छी बात में एसोसिएट करें तो अच्छा है।

SHRI PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): Madam, I would also like to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena, Shivkumar Udasi, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Rajendra Agrawal, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, P.K. Biju, M.B. Rajesh, Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Gaurav Gogoi, Adv. Joice George, Dr. A. Sampath, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shrimati Riti Pathak, Shrimati Bhavana Pundalikrao Gawali, Shrimati Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah and Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.