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Title: The Speaker made reference to the sad demise of the H.E. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister and the Founding Father of Singapore. She also made reference to the passing away of Smt. Rano M. Shaiza, member of 6th Lok Sabha and Shri Ghufuran Azam, member, 7th Lok Sabha. Madam Speaker also made further references to loss of lives of a number of persons in various accidents in India and Abroad.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is with profound sadness and grief that the House has learnt of the passing away of H.E. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister and the Founding Father of Singapore. The House expresses its deepest sympathies, heart-felt condolences and its solidarity to the Government, the Parliament and to the people of Singapore for this great loss.

I have also to inform the House about the sad demise of two former Members Smt. Rano M. Shaiza and Shri Ghufuran Azam.

Shrimati Rano M Shaiza was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha representing the Nagaland Parliamentary Constituency of Nagaland. Smt. Shaiza was a Member of the Committee on Petitions during the Sixth Lok Sabha. An educationist by profession, Smt. Shaiza was associated with a number of women, children and youth associations and strove for spread of education.

Shrimati Rano M. Shaiza passed away on 1st April, 2015 in Kohima at the age of 86.

Shri Ghufuran Azam was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha representing the Betul Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Azam also served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha for two terms.

An active social and political worker, Shri Azam worked for the upliftment of the backward and downtrodden sections of society. Shri Ghufuran Azam passed away on 2 April, 2015 in Mumbai at the age of 72.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleagues and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, 58 people are reported to have been killed and over 150 others injured when Dehradun Varanasi Janata Express derailed near Bachhrawan in Uttar Pradesh on 20 March, 2015.

Hon. Members, in a natural calamity more than 16 people are reported to have been killed and several others injured in floods caused due to heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir on 1 and 2 April, 2015. The floods also affected the livelihood of several people and caused large-scale destruction and devastation of property, crops and cattle in the State.

In another tragic incident, 13 para military personnel were killed in four separate extremist attacks in Sukma, Kanker and Dantewada on 11, 12 and 13 April, 2015.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on these tragedies and attacks which have brought pain and suffering to the bereaved families and wishes the injured a speedy recovery.

Hon. Members, further as you are aware on 2 April, 2015 in a barbaric terrorist attack in the precincts of the University campus at Garissa in north-eastern Kenya, 148 persons, mostly students, were killed and 79 others were injured.

We condemn this cowardly terrorist act in the strongest terms possible. We stand in solidarity and sympathy with the bereaved families and the injured and convey our heart-felt condolences to the Government and the people of Kenya.

We also urge international community to redouble its commitment to fight the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

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

11.03 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

...(Interruptions)