

sorrow. It has led to an increasingly volatile situation in our neighbourhood and the proliferation of external military presences in the region. We shall continue our work with others in the arduous search for peace.

56. Apartheid is a blot on civilization, repugnant to our commitment to the unity of the human family. Since Mahatma Gandhi's early experiments with truth in South Africa, the elimination of racial discrimination has been an integral part of our freedom struggle and as yet an unfulfilled mission of our foreign policy. Apartheid survives because of the economic and military sustenance which Pretoria receives from a few rich and powerful countries. The only way of ending this abomination without too much bloodshed is through comprehensive, mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. We have striven for this at the UN, Non-aligned and in Commonwealth forums. All Commonwealth countries, with one exception, agreed at the Vancouver Summit last October to intensify their sanctions against apartheid. The AFRICA Fund, which we conceived of as a practical measure of support, has received a gratifying response from countries all over the world.

57. The moves in Fiji to deprive people of their rights solely on a racial basis have caused deep resentment. Fiji's constitutional arrangements must ensure fair and just representation in Parliament for all communities.

58. We welcome the agreement signed in Guatemala by leaders of five Central American countries. We earnestly hope the agreement will lead to a just and lasting settlement ensuring the security, sovereignty and independence of all States of the region.

59. There has been substantial progress in our bilateral relations with the United States of America, particularly in the technological and economic fields. The Prime

Minister had wide-ranging talks with the US President. We continue to impress upon the United States the seriousness of our concern about the supply of armaments to Pakistan notwithstanding that country's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

60. India's relations with the Soviet Union have always been warm and friendly. The Delhi Declaration of November 1986 affirmed the common commitment of both countries to non-violence and peaceful co-existence. In the last three years, we have enlarged and enriched the content of our relationship. There has been an unprecedented increase in high-level visits, an unparalleled expansion of trade, and new dimensions and new vistas added in areas such as science and technology, further expanding our already wide-ranging cooperation. The mutual goodwill of our peoples has found spectacular expression in the Festivals held in the two countries. During the year, the Prime Minister of India visited the Soviet Union and the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union visited India.

61. Honourable Members, with the united endeavour of the nation we can meet with confidence the challenges that confront us and accomplish the tasks that lie ahead. We shall be faithful to the ideals and goals of our Republic. We shall place the national good above any sectional interest. I wish you all success in your endeavours in the year before us.

JAI HIND

12.56 hrs.

**OBITUARY REFERENCES
AND RESOLUTION ON THE DEMISE OF
KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, as

we meet today after an interval of more than two months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan; Shri M.G. Ramachandran; former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; two sitting Members and eleven of our former colleagues namely, Chaudhary Rahim Khan, Sarvashri A.G. Subburaman; David Munzri; Sofi Mohd. Akber; P. Ramamurti; Sonubhau Baswant; S.M. Banerjee; Hargovind Verma; Shyamaprasana Bhattacharyya; Ramavtar Shastri; C.D. Pande; Upendra Nath Barman; and Karpoori Thakur.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, endearingly called Badshah Khan or Bacha Khan by millions of his fellow Pathans passed away at Peshawar (Pakistan) on 20 January, 1988 at the age of 97 years. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom, he was aptly called Frontier Gandhi by our own countrymen.

The popularity he won, the influence and power he exercised over people have seldom been equalled by men who have kept themselves as sedulously away from the limelight, as he did.

Like many other of his time, he came under the spell of writings of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and opted to join the freedom struggle. In 1919, when Gandhiji started agitation against the Rowlatt Bill, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan took active part in it and was put behind the bars for six months.

In 1921, he started a national school in his native village, Utmanzai. The British Government regarded his efforts to start more such schools as subversion and sent him to prison for three years. In 1924, he settled down to social reforms amongst the Pathans through the school established by him. It turned out a number of fine men who later formed the nucleus of the celebrated Khudai Khitmatgars or the 'Red Shirts' who

had profound faith in Gandhiji's creed of non-violence.

In 1946, he was elected to the Constituent Assembly of un-divided India and on partition his membership was transferred to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. He abhorred the idea of partition of India. He delivered a speech in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan for which he was arrested and sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charge of sedition.

An apostle of peace and non-violence and a crusader for liberty and justice, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan continued to struggle even in his old age for what he considered the rightful claims of his people. A close associate of Gandhiji for over 27 years, he endeared himself to millions of our countrymen. He personified Gandhiji's ideals and throughout his long life, he remained unassuming in manners and ascetic in habits. By his simple life and devout actions, he epitomised the humanist way of life in all its aspects. A true servant of God, he was against the practice of untouchability in any form and campaigned for the emancipation of women and equal respect for all religions.

13.00 hrs.

He had a stint in journalism too. As early in 1928 he started a monthly called 'Pakhtoon' which became the mouthpiece of Khudai Khidmatgars - a nonviolent and non-political movement. Again in 1938, he started 'Das Roza' which lasted till 1945 when it was finally closed down. Through journalism, he infused the ideals of freedom among the people.

A Titan of our freedom struggle, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan spent nearly 36 years of his precious life in various jails for the sake of his ideals. Amnesty international chose him the 'Prisoner of the year' in 1962, for having spent a long period of his life in various

prisons of the sub-continent both before and after partition. He was awarded the 'Nehru Peace Prize' in 1969. Last year he was honoured with the 'Bharat Ratna', the highest award of the land.

With his passing away India has lost a good friend, one of the stalwarts of our freedom struggle and the world a messiah of peace in this strife-torn-world. We pay our tributes to this great leader whose memory will fill our hearts for ever.

Shri M.G. Ramachandran, popularly and affectionately called M.G.R., died in harness as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at Madras on 24th December, 1987, at the age of 71 years.

A seasoned politician, Shri M.G. Ramachandran was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council in 1962 but resigned from its membership in 1964. He was again elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1967 and remained its member till his death. He became the Chief Minister of the State in 1977 and adorned that Chair for over a decade.

An able administrator, Shri M.G. Ramachandran made far-reaching reforms in the State Administration. He abolished the Revenue Board and the system of village officers. He introduced a massive free mid-day meal scheme to benefit poor children and destitutes. The scheme received wide approbation. It was during his Chief Ministership that the Telugu-Ganga project to provide drinking water to the city of Madras was put to shape. By introducing many other welfare schemes, he endeared himself to the rural poor and down-trodden.

Shri M.G. Ramachandran was a man of the masses and he held an enormous sway over them. A veteran patriot, he stood for the unity and integrity of the country. He was the co-architect of the historic Indo-Sri Lanka

Accord to end the ethnic trouble in the island nation. 'Bharat Ratna', the highest award of the land, was posthumously conferred on him for his services to the people.

With the passing away of Shri M.G. Ramachandran, the nation has become poorer. The country has lost a great statesman and patriot and the State of Tamil Nadu an ardent champion of the down-trodden. We pay our respectful homage to this great departed leader.

Chaudhary Rahim Khan was a sitting member of this House from Faridabad constituency of Haryana. Earlier he had been a member of Haryana Legislative Assembly during 1967-72, 1972-74 and again 1982-84. He had also served as a member of Council of Ministers in the State of Haryana and held various important portfolios.

An agriculturist, political and social worker, he was associated with several cooperative marketing societies and other social and educational institutions in various capacities. He served in the Indian army and rendered valuable service in Burma during the second world war for which he was awarded a war medal.

Chaudhary Rahim Khan passed away at New Delhi on 18 December, 1987 at the age of 65 years.

Shri A.G. Subburaman was a sitting member of this House representing Madurai constituency of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, he had been a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha.

A businessman by profession and a social worker, he worked for the uplift of the weaker section of society.

He evinced special interest in the development of handloom and powerloom textile units in his home State.

He took keen interest in sports activities and had been serving as President of Tamil Nadu Football Federation since 1983.

Shri Subburaman passed away at New Delhi on 7 February, 1988 at the age of 58 years.

Shri David Munzni was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Lohardaga constituency of Bihar.

A political and social worker, Shri Munzni worked for the welfare of the down-trodden. He was associated with several social organisations and advocated the cause of industrial labour. A widely travelled person, he represented India in the World Conference of Moral Re-Armament at Caux in Montreaux in 1950.

Shri David Munzni passed away at Delhi on 3 December, 1987 at the age of 63 years.

Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber was a member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 from the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, he had been a member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly during 1941-46.

A social worker, Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber took active part in the spread of co-operative movement. He was associated with several social organisations in various capacities.

Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber passed away at Sopore on 14 December, 1987 at the age of 84 years.

Shri P. Ramamurti was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Madurai constituency of the erst-while State of Madras. He had been a member of Rajya Sabha for two terms in 1960 and 1977. Earlier he was a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952-57.

A seasoned parliamentarian, Shri Ramamurti made valuable contribution to the debates particularly in matters relating to welfare of the working class. He was always heard with respect. He served as Leader of the Opposition in the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1953-57.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Ramamurti was drawn into freedom struggle while he was still a student and suffered imprisonment for several years.

A well known trade unionist, political and social worker, he was responsible for organising industrial workers in the then State of Madras and held prominent positions in the trade union movement. He was also associated with Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras for several years.

Shri P. Ramamurti passed away at Madras on 15 December, 1987 at the age of 79 years.

Shri Sonubhau Baswant was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Bhiwandi constituency of Maharashtra. Earlier, he had been a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67.

An agriculturist, Shri Baswant also took active part in trade union activities and held prominent positions in trade union organisations. A well known social worker, he worked for the development of cooperation and agriculture.

Shri Baswant passed away at Bombay on 16 December, 1987 at the age of 73 years.

Shri S.M. Banerjee was a member of Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing Kanpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of Second, Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1957-62, 1962-67 and 1967-70 respectively.

A dynamic trade unionist and brilliant parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution to the debates particularly on matters affecting workers' interests. He lost no opportunity to ventilate the grievances of the working class inside and outside the House. He took active part in trade union movement and was associated with several trade union organisations in various capacities.

A widely travelled person, Shri Banerjee took keen interest in classical music, fine arts and sports.

Shri Banerjee passed away at New Delhi on 25 th December, 1987 at the age of 68 years.

Shri Hargovind Verma was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Sitapur constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Later, in 1980 he was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

A well known social worker, Shri Verma worked for village uplift. He was associated with several social and educational organisations in various capacities.

Shri Verma passed away under tragic circumstances at Sitapur on 15 January, 1988 at the age of 51 years.

Shri Shyamaprasanna Bhattacharyya was a member of the Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 and 1977-79, representing Uluberia constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly during 1957-62.

An active political worker, he was associated with Sree Sangha, a revolutionary party of West Bengal.

He evinced keen interest in the uplift of

agriculturists and served on many peasants' organisations in various capacities.

Shri Bhattacharya passed away at Andul in Howrah district, West Bengal on 16 January, 1988, at the age of 83 years.

Shri Ramavatar Shastri was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 representing Patna constituency of Bihar. Earlier, he had been a member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 and 1971-76 respectively.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Shastri suffered imprisonment for several years for his participation in the freedom movement. A dedicated social worker, he worked for the uplift of the down-trodden. A political worker and a trade unionist, he served several trade union organisations in various capacities.

A journalist by profession, he was the author of several articles on Socio-political subjects. A widely travelled person, he served on the Executive Committee of Indo-GDR Friendship Association for several years.

An active parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions to the debates. He served on the Committee on Estimates during 1969-70. He also served on various Joint and Select Committees of Parliament.

Shri Ramavatar Shastri passed away at Patna on 26 January, 1988 at the age of 68 years.

Shri C.D. Pande was a member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during 1952-62 representing Naini Tal constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Provisional Parliament during 1950-52.

A well known social worker, Shri Pande took keen interest in the establishment of

educational institutions and served them in various capacities. He was Private Secretary to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during 1937-39.

Shri C.D. Pande passed away at New Delhi on 25th January, 1988 at the age of 82 years.

Shri Upendranath Barman was a member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during 1952-62 representing Cooch Behar constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1947-50 and 1950-52 respectively. He had also been a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly during 1936-45.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Barman was associated with several educational institutions in various capacities. An able parliamentarian, he served as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Petitions. He also served on the Panel of Chairman in Lok Sabha. He held office as Cabinet Minister in the then Government of Bengal during 1941-43.

A widely travelled person, he was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Commonwealth Conference held at London in October, 1948. He was also leader of the Indian Delegation to International Rice Conference in Rangoon in 1950.

Shri Barman passed away at Jalpaiguri on 7th February, 1988 at the age of 89 years.

Shri Karpoori Thakur was elected to the Sixth Lok Sabha from Samastipur constituency of Bihar in 1977 and remained its member for a brief period till 24th December, 1977 when he resigned his seat to head the Council of Ministers in the State of Bihar. Earlier, he had been a member of the State Assembly from 1952 and played a prominent role in his home State. He served the

State as Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Education and Finance in 1967 and as Chief Minister during 1970-71. He was a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar at the time of his death.

A veteran freedom fighter, he took an active part in the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942 and was imprisoned for a long period. A dedicated social worker throughout his political life, he fought incessantly against corruption and the exploitation of the poor. He championed the cause of the down-trodden and the weaker sections of the society. He took active part in Bhoodan, Gramdan and Sarvodaya Movements. He also evinced keen interest in Khadi and Village Industries development.

An active trade unionist, he served as Chairman of various trade union organisations for several years. An educationist, he was the founder of several educational institutions and served them in various capacities. A widely travelled person, he was India's delegate to the International Union of Socialist Youth Convention held at Vienna and was also a member of the delegation to Yugoslavia. Shri Karpoori Thakur had special interests in music, particularly, in classical music.

Shri Thakur passed away at Patna on 17th February, 1988 at the age of 69 years. His demise has left a void which would be difficult to fill.

With the permission of the House, may I move a special resolution?

I now place before the House the following resolution which the House may adopt unanimously :-

"The Lok Sabha expresses its profound sorrow at the passing away of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, popularly known as Fron-

tier Gandhi or 'Badshah Khan'. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was a Titan among the legions who fought for the country's liberation from foreign yoke. He shared with Mahatma Gandhi an unshakeable faith in truth and non-violence. A true servant of God, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan started a unique movement called 'Khudai Khidmatgars'. Unswerving in his patriotism, he abhorred the idea of vivi-section of the country. With his passing away, we have lost one of the greatest stalwarts of our freedom struggle and a 'Messiah of Peace' in this strife-torn world. Above all a truly noble soul, his name will always adorn the pages of our history. The like of him are rarely seen on earth in flesh and blood.

This House conveys its deep

condolences to Khan Wali Khan and other members of the family as well as to millions of his admirers and followers in the Indian sub-continent."

I think the House agrees with the resolution unanimously.

Now, the Members may stand in silence for a short while.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11 O'clock, on 23rd February, 1988.

13.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 23, 1988/Phalguna 4, 1909 (Saka)