

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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No. 1

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LOK SABHA

*Thursday, July 17, 1986/Asadha 26,
1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the short interval that has elapsed since we last met in the Budget Session has witnessed many a tragic event which included the passing away of Shri Jagjivan Ram who happened to be one of the Seniormost Member of this House. We had hardly got over the trauma of Shri Jagjivan Ram's death that we learnt four days later about the passing away of yet another sitting Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. This short period has also witnessed the death of seven of our former colleagues namely, Shri A. Vairavan Seruvai, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr K. L. Rao, Sarvashri Joginder Sen, Nand Kishore Das, C. H. Bhabha and Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo.

Shri Jagjivan Ram was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Sasaram Constituency of Bihar. He had been a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly and Constituent Assembly during 1946-50, Provisional Parliament during 1950-52 and continued to be a Member of this House from 1952 till his death without interruption. Earlier, he had

been Member of the Bihar Legislative Council and Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1936-40. Thus Shri Jagjivan Ram had the unique distinction of serving as a Member of the Central Legislature uninterruptedly for as long as 40 years.

Shri Jagjivan Ram held various portfolios in the union Cabinet continuously from 1946 till 1963 when he resigned under the Kamaraj Plan. He was re-inducted in the union Cabinet in 1966 and held charge of several important Ministries till 1979. He served as Deputy Prime Minister from January to July, 1979, and thereafter in the same year as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha whatever portfolio he held, Shri Jagjivan Ram left upon it the imprint of a skilful administrator and a shrewd judge of men and matters.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Jagjivan Ram actively participated in the freedom movement. He offered individual satyagraha and suffered imprisonment.

A dedicated political and social worker, he took part in the movement for social reform. His life was devoted to the upliftment of Harijans and other weaker sections of society. As the accredited leader of Scheduled Castes, he appeared before the Cabinet Mission in April, 1946. He participated alongwith Gandhiji in the anti-untouchability movement started by the latter. Babuji, as he was affectionately called, was a father-figure to whom the depressed and the suppressed looked for succour.

Keenly sensitive to the plight of agricultural labourers, he formed the Bihar Provincial Khet Mazdoor Sabha as early as in 1937. He also showed keen interest in the trade union movement and served as President of many workers' organisations,

Author of several works, he was conferred Honorary Doctorate Degrees by several Universities. A widely travelled person, Shri Ram was the leader of several Indian Delegations to various International Conferences. He was the Chairman of the Preparatory Asia Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation held in New Delhi in October-November, 1947, and Leader, Indian Delegation, 33rd Session of the International Labour Organisation, 1950, when he was also unanimously elected as Chairman of the Conference.

Shri Jagjivan Ram passed away at New Delhi on 6 July, 1986 at the age of 78 years. In his death, the country has lost an outstanding Parliamentarian, an eminent statesman, an astute administrator and above all a patriot who devoted his entire life to the service of the people.

Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Banka constituency of Bihar since 1985. He was also a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-83.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Singh took active part in the freedom struggle from an early age. An agriculturist and social worker, he evinced keen interest in the uplift of weaker sections of the society.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was first elected to the Bihar Assembly in 1952 and remained a Member for 10 years. Re-elected to the State Assembly in 1969, he was made a Minister the same year and held the ministerial post till 1975. First elected to Parliament in 1980, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was appointed Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers in 1983, but had to return soon to his State to take over as Chief Minister. In 1985, he was re-inducted as Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers. On his re-election to the Lok Sabha, he was appointed Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas in January, 1986.

An able administrator, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was known for his quiet efficiency. He took keen interest in trade union activities as well and served as the President of the All India Railwaymen's Union, Jhajha unit in 1949-50.

Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh passed away at New Delhi on 9 July, 1986, at the age of 59 years.

Shri A. Vairavan Seruvai was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Tanjore constituency of Tamil Nadu.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Seruvai was a veteran freedom fighter who took active part in the freedom struggle in 1942.

Shri Vairavan Seruvai passed away on 4 May, 1986, at the age of 67 years.

Shri Om Prakash Tyagi was a Member of the Fourth and Sixth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 and 1977-79 respectively representing Bahraich constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He had also been a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1972-77.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Tyagi actively participated in the Freedom struggle from an early age and suffered imprisonment. An active social worker, he led a relief team for the famine affected people of Bengal in 1943-44. Later in 1947 he organised several relief centres under the auspices of the Arya Samaj in Delhi and in many places in West Bengal for the help of refugees. He started a Dayanand Home for the East African Orphans at Nairobi in 1964 and an inter-caste marriage movement in 1971.

Shri Tyagi also took keen interest in the uplift of the tribal people. A widely travelled person, Shri Tyagi was author of several publications.

Shri Tyagi passed away at New Delhi on 10 May 1986, at the age of 74 years.

Dr. K. L. Rao was a Member of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1962-67, 1967-70 and 1971-77 representing Vijayawada constituency of Andhra Pradesh. He served as Minister of Irrigation and Power in the Union Cabinet for a number of years.

A world renowned authority on structural engineering, Dr. Rao served as Member

(Designs and Research), Central Water and Power Commission and was responsible for designs of many large dams in the country including Hirakud, Nagarjunasagar etc. He proposed the 'National Water Grid' popularly known as the Ganga-Cauvery Link to solve the national problem of drought and flood.

A widely travelled person, Dr. Rao held several positions in various capacities, both at national and international levels. He served as Vice-President of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering and as Chief Engineer in Andhra Pradesh. He was the recipient of President's prize on three occasions for the best papers published in the Institution of Engineers (India). He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1963.

Dr. Rao passed away at Hyderabad on 18 May 1986, at the age of 84 years.

Shri Joginder Sen was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Mandi constituency of Himachal Pradesh.

An able administrator, Shri Sen served as India's ambassador to Brazil. He was a former ruler of the erstwhile Mandi State.

Shri Sen passed away at Mandi on 16 June, 1986, at the age of 82 years.

Shri Nand Kishore Das was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1946-52 from the State of Orissa. Earlier, he was a Member of the Bengal and Orissa Legislative Council during 1927-29.

A veteran public man, Shri Das took active part in the freedom struggle. An able parliamentarian, he served as the Deputy-Speaker of Orissa Legislative Assembly in 1936.

Shri Das passed away at Cuttack on 28 June, 1986, at the age of 91 years.

Shri C. H. Bhabha was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during 1948-49 from the State of Bihar. Earlier, he served as a

Minister in the interim Government in 1946 and again as Minister in the Union Cabinet during 1947-48.

Shri Bhabha was connected with banking for many years in various capacities. He also served as Chairman of the National Shipping Board. A widely travelled person, he was the leader of the Indian delegation to the World Trade Conference at Havana in 1947.

Shri Bhabha passed away at London on 29th June, 1986 at the age of 76 years.

Shri Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo was a member of the Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1957-67 representing Keonjhar constituency of Orissa. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly during 1949-57.

Shri Bhanja Deo served as Revenue Minister of the erstwhile State of Keonjhar from August, 1945 to June, 1947 and thereafter as its Chief Minister till December, 1947.

A person of high erudition, Shri Bhanja Deo was a member of Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London. A widely travelled person, he had the distinction of being nominated as fellow of Royal Economic Society and Royal Society of Arts, London. He served as a member of the Senate of Utkal University since its inception till February, 1948. Shri Deo was also associated with Orissa State Red Cross Society.

Shri Bhanja Deo passed away on 9th July, 1986 at the age of 74 years.

We have also learnt with deep regret the death of Mr. Le Duan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. I hope this House will join me in conveying our deep sense of grief over the loss which the Vietnamese people have suffered.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the passing away of Babuji, the nation has suffered a loss. He was amongst the tallest in his generation—first as a freedom fighter and then as a builder of modern India. With over 50 years in public life, he has done a

tremendous service for our nation. He commanded respect from all sections of our society. He was not limited just to Bihar or to Harijans; he was a leader of India. His personality, his mastery of expression, his formidable political and parliamentary skills, his administrative capability all led to the building and structuring of India, of bringing our societies together, of joining our country and strengthening our country. Through his career, he held many demanding portfolios and he did tremendous work in any area that he was in. This House will remember and miss his vision, his vast experience, his never-failing humour and humanity.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey our condolences to his wife, Shrimati Indirani Devi Ram, Shrimati Meira Kumar and other members of his family.

Another sad loss, just a few days after Babuji's passing away, was that of Shri Chandrasekhar Singh. His illness was detected late and at too advanced a stage for any substantial cure. He was a person of sterling worth, solidly dedicated to the country's service. His work as a Minister in the Centre and as Chief Minister in Bihar has earned him widespread respect. His administrative capability and his sharp mind will be missed. There were many more years of service ahead for him and we send our sympathies to Shrimati Manorama Singh and the other members of his family.

Dr. K. L. Rao was a distinguished engineer whose stamp is there on many of our major hydro-electric projects. As a parliamentarian and Minister, he contributed greatly to the country's development. His interest in education and social welfare, in what we are ourselves now looking at, the human resources development, will be missed. Andhra Pradesh and the country have been deprived of a great leader.

Through you, I would also request you to send our condolences to the families of Shri Seruvai, Shri O. P. Tyagi, Shri Joginder Sen, Shri Nand Kishore Das, Shri C. H. Bhabha and Shri Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo.

We have also learnt of the death of Mr. Le Duan, the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party. He was a

great revolutionary, architect of reconstruction in Vietnam. He was a very good friend of India. I had met him when I was in Vietnam last year. He had visited India in 1984. His death will be a loss to India and to Vietnam.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiments of the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister and, I share the sorrow of millions of our countrymen who today feel bereaved by the passing away of Babu Jagjivan Ram.

Babu Jagjivan Ram strode the country's political scene for more than 40 years and he left his foot-prints wherever he worked, whichever Department he handled and he will be remembered for several decades to come for his efficiency, for his dedicated work, honesty and service to the down-trodden.

The best way to remember a great leader like Babuji is to remember the values he cherished and the services he rendered to the millions of our down-trodden people. Today, when we see the atrocities being committed on weaker sections, we feel ashamed. All of us are going to die. We are not going to die a second time. But I feel Babu Jagjivan Ram will die every day if the atrocities on Harijans and the weaker sections continue in this country. Today is the day when we should dedicate ourselves to the cause of protecting the weaker sections of the society.

I am reminded of the earlier days of the first Parliament of which I was a Member when Babuji was a Minister, a young Minister. We used to observe him, watch his performance. I still remember the days, the way in which he was answering questions, not taking shelter under technicalities, like several other Ministers in those days used to do. He used to give information more than what was asked for. The way he performed, the way he spoke, inspired us all. Once, I remember, the great Shri Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, on whose side I was sitting on that seat and when I wanted to interrupt Babuji while he was speaking, he held my shirt and said "Young man, don't interrupt him, because you cannot afford to interrupt that man. You can

interrupt even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru but not him". That was his contribution. I also remember the private conversation once he had with some of us when he said, "If and when this country is going to accept a Harijan Prime Minister, young man, he is the man who is cut out to be the Prime Minister of this country". That is how he described him and his prophecy had almost come true. Even though the country was prepared to accept him as Prime Minister, the people were prepared to accept him but the political exigencies came in the way. I am sure that had he been the Prime Minister of this country, the history of this country would have been quite different.

Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I pay homage to the memory of this great soul who strode in the political scene like a colossus for 40 years. I also condole the death of Dr. K. L. Rao. He was a great Engineer; I condole the death of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, who was a great administrator, intellectual and scholar. I pay my homage to many of those ex-Members who expired during this period.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the death of Babu Jagjivan Ram marks the end of a generation, a generation to which he belonged, the generation of true Gandhijites. Hailing from a very humble social backdrop Babuji played a very active and notable role in the political activity of our country for over half a century. Even during his student life, he took active part in organising movements for the upliftment of the downtrodden and for the social change. When he was a student of the Banaras Hindu University, he organised the scheduled castes to protest against social discrimination. He was also a prominent leader in the freedom struggle. He was imprisoned several times by the British imperialists. He showed concern for the downtrodden and socially discriminated sections of our society. Whenever there was any injustice, he never faltered or hesitated to come out with protest—whether he was in the Government or outside the Government. Throughout his life, Babuji tried to awaken the poor Harijans, weaker sections of our society, from the slumber and to make them aware of their rights. But the

irony of fate is still such in our country that social injustice, the untouchability and discrimination exist against which Babuji fought throughout his life. The best way to pay homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram is to fulfil his dream, his dream for a social change, his dream for bringing an end to social injustice and untouchability.

Sir, the loss of Comrade Le Duan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam is not only the loss of the people of Vietnam but it is a loss of the working class and the democratic people of the world. Comrade Le Duan fought throughout his life against imperialism; he led his country against imperialism and with Comrade Ho-Chi-Minh the revolution in Vietnam was successful and the Vietnam people could throw out the imperialist forces.

Sir, I condole also the deaths of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Shri A. Vairavan Seruvai, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr. K. L. Rao, Shri Joginder Sen, Shri Nand Kishore Das, Shri C. H. Bhabha and Shri Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo. Through you, Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxists), I convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the death of Babuji, the veterans of the freedom struggle, one by one, are disappearing from the country and we are seized with the painful reality that the surviving links with the pre-independence days are almost snapped.

Sir, I had the honour and opportunity to watch the performance of Babuji for an uninterrupted period of 15 years, and his parliamentary performance, administrative ability, clarity of vision and, above all, his warmth for the socially oppressed in the country were something which was remarkable. Those of the Members who had heard Babuji for several years in this House must have seen that, whenever Babuji spoke in this House, he spoke not a word less, not a word more; there was no superfluity of words. He would be very precise and sharp in his criticism and in his elucidation. Once I had said while participating in a debate that Babuji had the precision of a scientist in his

expression and the refinement of an artist whenever he spoke. And his speeches were always heard in this House by Members belonging to both sides with rapt attention because they always felt that he introduced some dimension which was missing in other speeches.

His administrative ability was remarkable. Permit me to share with this House my personal experience. When I entered the Cabinet for the first time, I went and asked Babuji, "Babuji, what is the cardinal principle that every Minister must follow?" He said, "Remember, the relationship between a bureaucrat, an expert official, and the Minister must be properly grasped"; he said, "You must realise that an expert official is there to assist you and guide you; he is not supposed to rule you; and the moment you forget that, you become a rubber-stamp in the Government and the bureaucrats rule; please take care that this does not happen". I think, that was the crux of the problem.

When I remember Babuji, I am reminded of a small book which the former Prime Minister of U.K., Mr. Attles, had written. Mr. Attles had said: "Whenever any Minister takes charge of his Ministry, the bureaucrat in the Department, within 24 hours, decides as to what is his attitude to the Minister: if he finds that he is a Minister who rubber-stamps every draft that is put before him, in that case that Minister goes down the drain, but if he applies his mind, then he is able to guide the entire Department". That is what Mr. Attlee had said. I think, this particular message contained in Mr. Attlee's writing was personified in the working of Babu Jagjivan Ram. He had a remarkable sharpness in his views. He had a lot of warmth for the socially oppressed. I may say here that on a number of occasions Babuji had expressed this view. If there was a message of one leader he was obsessed with very much, it was that of Abraham Lincoln. While criticising the social orthodoxy, Babuji used to quote Abraham Lincoln and say: "It might be in your interest to be our masters; but how is it in our interest to be your slaves?"

That was the message that guided Babuji all through his life:

Everyone said that he was a national leader. But the tragedy of our life is that even the national leaders who are born out of a particular caste and community, particular sections of the population, forget that they are national leaders.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very pathetic incident that took place in this very House. I had initiated a discussion on atrocities on Harijan at Pipra. Babuji had participated in that debate. When he was speaking in this House he expressed the anguish and agony of his heart by quoting an incident of his life. He said, "They call me a national leader, they call me a national integrator; but when I went to Varanasi to unveil the statue of my old warm colleague, Shri Sampurnanand, and after I returned from that place, many so called holy Brahmins put the holy water of the Ganges on the statue of Sampurnanand because I was an untouchable and probably the sanctity and dignity might have been destroyed and in order to sanctify that statue they put the Ganga Jal." One of the veterans—I don't want to name him—got up and said, "Babuji I share your anguish and agony" and in Hindi he said: "*Main aapke paer chhune ke liye tatyaaar hun.*" (I am ready to touch your feet.) In the sharpest repartee he said: "*Meray paer itne saste nahin hein.*" (My feet are not that cheap). People felt humiliated by his remarks. These were the pangs of an anguished heart which had suffered certain things.

He used to make an interesting interpretation of what is called the dynastic rule. He said, "Why do you talk about the so called dynastic rule? We have suffered the agony of the dynastic rule." And he said, "When people are born in a particular caste they have to suffer in silence because they are born in that caste. This is what I call the dynasticism and nobody is worried to destroy this." That was the anguish in his mind. He talked like that on a number of occasions.

During the Bangladesh war, very few had realised that a lot of credit for the strategy that was planned and for the victory of the Bangladesh war and the manner in which he planned the defence strategy goes to Babuji.

Babuji is no more with us today. I think, you can say, his life was a life of missed

opportunities and shattered dreams. He almost came to the brink of Prime Minister-ship. When he was almost producing the majority, it was declared that the Parliament was dissolved and the dream was shattered. Therefore, I say that there was a slip between the cup and the lip and his was a life of lost opportunities and shattered dreams. The dream is shattered. I may say that his life was a life of shattered dreams. Even when he is no more with us, I say, there is a dynamic law of nature and that is that materials get destroyed, matter gets destroyed; but the dreams always survive. I am sure that even when Babuji is no more, the dream for which he lived and died will survive and only when we are able to move on the wings of such sacred dreams, I think we will be able to build an integrated nation.

Sir, I also join you in paying my homage to other valued colleagues. I had the opportunity to meet Shri Chandrashekhar Singhji only three days before his death. I told the president of my party after meeting Shri Chandrashekhar Singh that he had lost the will to survive and will to live. He was a knowledgeable person. He understood what it meant to have cancer of the liver at the final stage. Therefore, he knew that he was already at the brink of death. He had lost the will to survive and when he died, it was the following up of the loss of will to survive, So he died.

There are so many other friends, about whom you have referred. I pay my homage to them.

In the end I will refer to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Vietnam as a nation represented a symbol of freedom and it proved that the will to be free is more powerful than the atom bomb. The energy released by freedom is more powerful than the nuclear energy. That was the lesson that Vietnam gave. He represented a party and a movement which symbolised this particular message. I am sure even when he is dead, this message will survive. In the nuclear age it is only that memory that will be able to give the strength and vitality.

I offer my homage to all those colleagues and through you we convey to the members of the bereaved families our condolences.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palayam) : Sir, the nation has lost India's political stalwart and a doughty champion of the down-trodden. As regards his personality there was quiet confidence, balanced and clear vision. He had a robust sense of reality, an uncommon courage of conviction, sweetness of temper affability combined with firmness of purpose.

Babuji always maintained a very good relationship with Tamil Nadu. We always remember him as Babuji. His name is also synonymous with the down-trodden. Coming under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad early in his public career Babuji imbibed the great quality and characteristic of simplicity and devotion to service. He battled all the social evils. In his demise progressive forces had lost a very great champion. On behalf of my party, Sir, we respectfully pay our homage to his memory and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

With regard to Chandra Shekhar Singh, for several years Mr. Singh was a journalist and retained his link with journalism even after joining the Union Cabinet. He was also an active trade unionist and devoted considerable time to building up an organisation of Beedi workers. He served the country with earnestness and dedication and earned the esteem of his colleagues and the people at large. We also express our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family of Chandra Shekhar Singh and to others also.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Hon Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party I share the views expressed by the Hon. Prime Minister and also you about the sad demise of Babu Jagjivan Ramji and others. Babu Jagjivan Ramji was a great son and a great leader of India. He was the champion of the rights and self-respect of the weaker sections and the down-trodden.

Sir, Babuji was not only a human being but he was also an institution. He served the country during the grave crisis and severe challenges of history and proved himself to be a successful administrator and a true son. Sir, I pay my deep respect and homage to the departed soul.

I also express my deep sorrow at the death of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singhji who was snatched from all of us by the cruel hands of death.

I also pay my deep homage to Shri Seruvai, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr. K. L. Rao, Shri Joginder Sen, Shri Nand Kishore Das, Shri C. H. Bhabha and Shri Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo.

I also pay my respect and homage to great leader of Vietnam, Mr. Le Duan.

May God bless them with deep rest and respect in heaven. May God inspire us to follow the great deeds of these great leaders.

SHRI ATA UR RAHMAN (Barapet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join this House on behalf of the A. G. P. in mourning the loss of our revered and great leader, Shri Jagjivan Ram. We had already come to know that he was nearing his end and he was ebbing away into eternity. The news was only a confirmation of that we had heard. This is indeed an irreparable loss which the country will not be able to stand, particularly those who were closely connected with him—I mean the millions of down-trodden of his tribe. He had a small beginning from the dust of Bihar and he rose to such a height that his calibre, his potentialities were taken note of by people specially when he had gone to Calcutta for studies—in those days, almost everybody in the Eastern Region would go to Calcutta for higher studies—and there he was found out by the then leaders of Bengal who said, “Here is a man coming to save India, particularly the down-trodden people”. After that he came back and he climbed the leaders of politics and in doing so he rose so fast and to such height that people became suspicious. *It reminds me of the great Iqbal’s poem—*

*Khudi ko kar buland itna keh har
taqdir se pahle*

*Khuda bande se khud puchhe bataa
teri raza kya hai*

This is what had happened then. When he became so big that people around him and some of his colleagues became so suspicious as to what he was upto. Whatever has been

said about him is indeed something which he deserved. But mere words will not serve his memory, it is action which would serve his memory and he would always be remembered for what he fought for.

In fact, he was not only a national leader, but he was a national monitor for the down-trodden. He not only took interest in what was happening around but he took interest in every aspect of administration also as some of the speakers who preceded me have said. He had a deep insight. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has said about his part in Bangladesh war. Well, I had also seen him for a very short stint in my life when he visited our place. In those days, of course, the Ministers travelled by road. I escorted him from the district boundary to the headquarters of the town and on the way we passed through tea gardens. He asked “what are these small small bushes?” I told him that these were the tea gardens. He asked me “Can I go and see them?”. He went unannounced and saw the tea gardens and he also went and saw a great part of the labour quarters and he was horrified and took the Manager of the tea gardens to task. Anyway, that is how he took interest in matters which concerned the Scheduled Castes.

Well, we are indeed in need of such leaders and Mother India needs this kind of leaders as personified in the personality of Shri Jagjivan Ram. But shall we have them? Will all leaders be so outspoken as he was? We are indeed mourning for him and for the other leaders—I may mention their names—such as Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Shri A. Vairavan Seruvai, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr. K. L. Rao, Shri Joginder Sen, Shri Nand Kishore Das, Shri H. C. Bhabha and Shri Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo

May I have your permission also to mention the name of ex-Member of Parliament from Assam, Shri Purna Sharma, who died about a fortnight ago. We wish peace for all these departed souls.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, I share the feelings expressed by the Leader of the House as well as the leaders of the various other parties.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was really a very successful character in certain ways. His pretty success in a way establishes this fact that given the will and the opportunity how self-respect of the down-trodden can be fully established before the world. Therefore, that is one of the contribution that he made through his personal example.

It has already been said that he was not a leader of the down-trodden alone, he was also a national leader. I fully share that idea also.

While paying my homage to the memory of Babuji, I would like to take this vow to continue the fight for liberating the down-trodden and also keeping our country united. These are the two legacies which we shall have to fight for.

I also pay my homage to the other leaders, whom all have given proper homage.

About Shri Chandra Shekhar Singhji, I would like to mention that it was really impossible to understand when we always talked to him that he was bearing burden of such illness inside him. He had a lot of courage which needs to be appreciated. I pay my homage to him as also to other ex-Members of this House.

Lastly, I would like to pay my homage to late Le Duan, leader of Vietnam. He was really a true inheritor of the virtues of great Ho CHI Minh. His courage, self-respect, modesty and simplicity show how a real communist he was.

I also express my sympathy to the bereaved families on my personal behalf and on behalf of the Communist Party.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, I wish to share the sentiments expressed by your good-self, Leaders of the House and many other Hon. Members.

An assessment of a historic personality like Babu Jagjivan Ram will have to be left to the historians because there are many aspects of his life which we seldom under-

stood; there are many contributions which we did not understand. But it could be truly said of him that he was one of the greatest figures of this century that this country has produced, because in a very different way he differed from Mahatma Gandhi, Father of our Nation, under whose inspiration he came into public life, all the other great leaders of this century like Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhash Chander Bose or Sardar Patel. Here was a man, who did not share the social background, here was a man, who not only fought for the right, of under-privileged, but had the privilege of establishing these rights under the statutes of a free and independent India. He consistently fought for his rights, whether he was in office or whether he was out of office or whether he was on the treasury benches or in the opposition. Here was a man to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude. But for him, I do not know whether many of the social legislations which this House had undertaken would have ever been made possible. He was not one of those who acquired distinction through his office, on the contrary he lent distinction to the offices he held. Sir, for many of us who had the privilege of so being associated with him for nearly two decades or more, have not only lost a sage counsel, but it could be said that he was a *Bhishma Pitamaha* of Indian politics and in his loss, not only the under-privileged had lost a great champion but the nation's loss is also immense. This House will miss his measured eloquence to which a reference has been made. He scaled magnificent heights on occasions, whenever occasions demanded and the House will miss the senior-most Member.

Sir, I pay my humble tributes to this great Leader whom we shall all miss in the days to come and also join you in paying tributes to other colleagues some of them who were Members of this House and the earlier House - and also the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Hon. late Le Duan who was a close associate of Ho Chi Min.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today in the morning I received a list of those Hon. Members of this august House who have died and in the

first name in the list is that of Babu Jagjivan Ram. In my humble opinion, Babu Jagjivan Ram was not just an individual but had become an institution in the sojourn of his life. I had an occasion to see him for some time in the seventh Lok Sabha. He remained Member of this Parliament continuously and in the Eighth Lok Sabha also, he took the oath as an Hon. Member of this House. Since that time till his death, the image of his personality cast in my mind has been that he was an institution in himself. I remember that when he used to enter the House through that door, eyes, of all the Hon. Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, remained riveted on him till he occupied his seat. Babuji did not attend the session of the Parliament very often, not because he had no interests in the discussions held in the Parliament, but he used to come on special occasions. During the Seventh Lok Sabha, I had an occasion to hear him once or twice. I remember that his speech was like constructing a wall beautifully brick by brick. The record of the House will bear testimony to this. Babu Jagjivan Ram never came across the need to correct any part of his speech. He used to speak after weighing his words well. Whatever he spoke was always aimed at unity and integrity of the country. I feel much grieved on his death.

I fully share from the depth of my heart the feelings expressed and homage paid by the Hon. Prime Minister and other Hon. Members of the House. I have just said that Babu Jagjivan Ram spoke very less. Whenever he used to sit here, I was reminded of a couplet.

*Khamoshi mani-e dard kidar-gufstan nami
aayad*

Its Urdu translation is :

*Khamoshi guftagu hai bezabani hai zaban
meri*

That is why his presence here for few moments was an honour to this august House. In the passing away of this institution, I, my Party and the people of the country feel much grieved.

I am also grieved to hear the death of Shri Chander Shekhar Singh, whom I knew personally. I feel that he has died in youth

because span of life has now increased. His death at the age of 59 years is a matter of great sorrow. I knew him as a thorough gentleman. He had full sympathy for the backward classes. While paying my homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram, I did not make a mention of the backward classes. I feel that Babu Jagjivan Ram was like a Panchayat or the highest court for backward classes. It is a separate thing that cases were not filed in that court but it was a place where one could submit one's grievances. I had observed Shri Chander Shekhar Singh also. He felt much concerned for the poor of the country. In his death I have suffered a personal loss. Regarding other Hon. Members, who have passed away, I share the grief of the bereaved families.

[*English*]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : I join the House in paying homage to the departed dignitaries. The leaders of various Opposition parties have given their true homage to the departed souls.

Shri Jagjivan Ram was called, with love, as 'Babu'. 'Babu' means father. Actually, he has to be called 'Babu', and his name should remain 'Babu'. This is the respect shown to him by Indian people.

India has lost one of its eminent and truest sons. The poor people, and the down-trodden here have lost their truest friend and guide. His love for the country and its people was unique. He was a statesman. He was the hope and light for the socially and economically backward people of India. So, the socially and economically backward people are now in the dark. They do not know what to do, and to whom to express their anguish, and as to who will guide them, because Indian politics is still based on casteism. He was very much against this casteism, and politics based on caste and communal thinking.

This true son of India is no more. I express my sincere homage to this departed soul, and request you to convey the condolences which I am expressing on behalf of my party and myself, to the bereaved family.

One thing more : the two dignitaries happen to be in Bihar. So, Bihar is now in the dark, leaderless. Bihar has been able to produce such a national leader as Jagjivan Ram and also, at the same time, Chandra Shekhar Singh Babu who is also no more. So, Bihari people must be very much aggrieved, and very much in sorrow. So, I join the Bihari people also in their grief. Once again, I request that my homage be conveyed to the bereaved families.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today several Hon. Members have paid their homage to those Hon. Members and Shri Jagjivan Ram who have passed away.

There is no doubt in it that Babu Jagjivan Ram had a special place and status. In the freedom struggle, he served the country to the best of his ability. There are no two opinions about it that he did much for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. We are all aware of this.

He is no more with us. In the last session, I saw Babu Jagjivan Ram standing with trembling hands in the lobby. I went to him and brought him here.

Doubtlessly, Babuji had a special status and much has already been said in this connection. The Hon. Prime Minister and other Hon. Members have spoken about his qualities. I pay homage to him on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

I also pay homage to Shri Chander Shekhar Singh and other deceased Members on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

[English]

DR. A. K. PATEL (Mehsana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I rise to pay tribute to Jagjivanji and other members who passed away during the recent past. Jagjivanji was not only a leader of a particular section but he was a national leader. He was born in Bihar in a poor family, and in spite of adverse atmosphere

and condition, he stood out because of his individuality. He studied in Bihar. He fought for the cause of India's independence. He was attracted by Gandhiji and Malviyaji. He was called to Banaras University for education. Thereafter, he finished his education in Calcutta ; and instead of joining the government job which his family members wanted him to join, he joined the national cause ; he fought for the Quit India Movement and was sent to jail several times. He was in active politics for a period of 50 years.

Real tribute to Jagjivanji will be eradication of atrocities on the Harijans and untouchability from this country, which still prevails today, which is known to everybody.

I also pay tribute to Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh and other members who passed away during the recent past.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULEMAN SAIT (Manjori) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join you, the Prime Minister and other leaders of the opposition in expressing grief and sorrow at the very said demise of Babu Jagjivan Ram and other prominent former Minister and members of this august House.

As far as Babuji is concerned, he was an illustrious son of India and his passing away is an end of an era. Just now, the Prime Minister rightly pointed out that he was not only a freedom fighter but builder of modern India. This is really the position of Babu Jagjivan Ram. He was a shining Star on the political horizon of this country, and he held sway for half a century in every field, particularly political and social field. Such personalities are not born always ; they are born only once in a century.

*Hazaaron saal nargis apni
benami pe roti hai,*

*Bari mushkil se hota hai chaman mein
didaawar paida.*

Such was the personality of Babu Jagjivan Ramji. It is really an irreparable loss to the entire nation.

As far as other former Minister and members of this august House are concerned, I feel sorry at their demise and I say that by their very sad demise India has gone poor.

With these words, I request you to convey our sympathy to the bereaved family members of Babu Jagjivan Ramji, Chandra Shekhar Singji, Dr. K. L. Rao and the other Hon. Members of this august House.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my D. M. K. Party I associate myself with the feelings expressed here. Sir, Shri Jagjivan Ram's service to the nation as a warrior for independence is highly noteworthy. He was a doyen among Indian Parliamentarians. He was not only a freedom fighter, but also a forerunner who fought to release the Harijans from the clutches of the caste fanatics. As you said, he was a Minister for twenty-three years and Deputy Prime Minister for a short while. He could have become the Prime Minister also, but he did not get that opportunity. India would have been further honoured had a leader of the Harijans adorned the august office of the Prime Minister of India. Dr. Ambedkar gave the Harijans the political vigilance. Babu Jagjivan Ram gave them social progress. Both of them are very great leaders, but they are no more. Now, the Harijans lost a great leader.

On behalf of my DMK Party I convey my sympathies to the millions of the depressed classes of the country and to the bereaved members of the family of Babu Jagjivan Ram.

My condolences and sentiments also go out to the families of Messrs. Chandra Shekhar Singh, A. Vairavan Seruvai, Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr. K. L. Rao, Jogender Sen, Nand Kishore Das, C. H. Bhabha, and Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo. My condolences are also there to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim): Mr. Speaker, I share the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and Honourable Members in paying homage to the memory of Shri Jagjivan Ram, who

was endearingly called 'Babuji' by the people of this country. No words are enough to describe the qualities of head and heart of this great son of India who is no more now. He was no doubt a champion of the down-trodden and above all a protector of the oppressed and suppressed people, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. It was this quality which endured him to the people of this land. The passing away of this dominant political figure at this critical juncture is indeed a great and irreparable loss to the country.

I, on behalf of my Party, the Sikkim Sangram Parishad, pay my respectful homage to this great and noble soul of this country and offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

I also condole, the sad demise of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh and other honourable Members and pay my respectful homage to them and pray to God to give courage to the family members to bear this loss.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the homage paid in this House today. Shri Jagjivan Ram was an eminent leader of the country and he had become the centre of hope for Harijans. Hon. Prime Minister and other hon. Members of the House have expressed their feelings of grief and sorrow. Opposition leader Shri C Madhav Reddy observed that had he become the Prime Minister of India, the history of the country would have been quite different. I would like to submit that if we make a beginning from Andhra, we shall start new history and it would be a good idea. Similarly, I share the feelings expressed by other hon. Members and express my condolences over the death of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh and others who have passed away, and pray to God to bestow courage upon the bereaved families to bear the loss.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As expressed by the whole House we mourn the loss of these

friends and we will convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

12.11 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned as a mark of respect to the deceased to meet again tomorrow, the 18th July, 1986 at 11.00 A.M.

12.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 18, 1986/Asadha 27, 1908 (Saka)
