

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 5, 1995/Agrahayana 14, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the passing away of one of our colleague Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane.

Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Ichalkaranji constituency of Maharashtra. Earlier he had been a Member of Sixth to Ninth Lok Sabha representing the same constituency during 1977-1991.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Mane was an active political and social worker. He took keen interest in the promotion of education and served as President of K.V.R. Shinde Shikshan Sanstha, Shahu Sanstha and Bharat Education Sanstha.

During his long parliamentary career, Shri Mane served on Committee on Petitions, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and was a member of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri Mane took keen interest in the proceeding of the House.

Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane who had been ailing for the last few months, passed away on 4 December, 1995 at Kolhapur, at the age of 67 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The Prime Minister (Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao) : Sir, yet another colleague of ours, a sitting Member of this House, has left us last night. It is with a very heavy heart that I rise in this session to pay my respectful homage on the passing away of Shri Rajaram S. Mane, a sitting Member of this House.

Shri Mane was an experience Parliamentarian and

had been elected to the Lok Sabha four times in the past. He was closely involved with the Panchayati Raj institutions and had also held the position of President, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur. He had a literary bent and was involved in the promotion of education also. In his death we have lost an experienced and knowledgeable person in the field of Panchayati Raj and a very good colleague.

I wish to place on record the deep sense of personal loss and grief felt by the nation and by all of us at the sad demise of Shri Mane.

May his soul rest in peace!

[Translation]

Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee (Lucknow) : I associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by you and the leader of the House regarding Late Shri Mane. The popularity of Shri Mane is proved from the fact that he was elected to this House for the 5th time. He was associated with various institutions in his Constituency. He had been the President of Zila Parishad also. He had deep interest in literature.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, passing away of hon. Members of this House, one by one, has shocked us. We can do nothing except praying to God that the departed soul may rest in peace. Please convey our deep condolena to the bereaved family.

Shri Sharad Yadav (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Late Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane was a very senior Member of this House and I associate myself with what has been said by the hon. Prime Minister, Atalji and your goodself about him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is continuously the fourth day, when distinguished Members of the House have passed away one after another. The hon. Member, whose death we had condoled yesterday was shot at cruelly which resulted in his death. Due to the death of these hon. Members, the House could not carry on its business during the last four days. While paying my tributes to Mane ji and other deceased Members of this House, I would like to submit that Four important day of this Session have been lost in paying tributes. Sometime or the other, we will have to ponder over the fact that we can carry on business of the House while paying our tributes and standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of departed souls, who were actively involved in politics, and fulfill their dreams. Moreover, there are so many festivals and holidays observed in our country. We have changed the old tradition of the House also which more

healthy. On this occasion, I would like to submit that my heart also feels hurt on the death of our colleagues for the last three days but we will have to ponder how to avoid the loss of valuable days of the Session and attend to the problems of crores of people of this country. Therefore, Sir, we should set a tradition under your directions that in case of death of a Member we may pay our tributes and regards to him by observing one minute silence. In this way, we can send a good message to the country that when this August House unanimously pays tribute to the departed Member and carry on its business, it is equally important to paying tribute to him by adjourning the House. We can rather pay him a good tribute by accomplishing his tasks and dreams.

The demise of Maneji has shocked his family and us as well. He was a prominent colleague of us. I myself and on behalf of my party pay tribute to him and pray that family may be able to bear this loss. I beg your pardon for saying so. I could not stop myself from saying so because it was a very important issue. With these words, I thank you and pay my tribute.

Shri Nirmal Kant Chatterjee (Dumdum) : Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I associate myself with that has been stated by you, by the Leader of the House and by the Leader of the Opposition.

It seems that the mortality rate among the Lok Sabha Member is outpacing the mortality rate of the country. However that may be, he was obviously a person of great popularity as underlined by his four successive electoral successes. He was also very close to the people as indicated by the fact that he was the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad. We have lost a valued colleague and we pay our respects to him. We deeply mourn his death and offer our condolences which you may kindly convey to his friends and family.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker Sir, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do on these occasions expect to express our grief and condolences. Mr. Mane had been here. This was his fifth term and that in itself, is the evidence of the fact that he was a very popular representative of the people of Kolhapur which he represented and we just now heard of all the multifarious public activities and social work with which he was closely associated. I cannot claim to have known him personally but I would fully respect his memory and pay homage to the work that he did as a Member of this House and outside.

I share the views expressed by my colleague Shri Sharad Yadav that we should establish a convention. As a matter of fact, it was there and it was an established convention which would not require this House to have such frequent interruptions of its work but we have no-

body to blame but ourselves of the fact that we departed from that convention. I also feel that the sorrow of grief that we feel should not be measured in proportion to the adjournments of this House. We can satisfy ourselves with a proper Condolence Resolution in addition to the references which you, from the Chair of course, will always make on behalf of the whole House and that should be done.

I was also thinking on whether it would be possible to start a practise. Obviously, it is not a guarantee against this kind of a mishap but to some extent, it can be a safeguard if we can start the practise that every Member of the House should have a medical check-up. I know that this is done in some countries and it is compulsory that you have a medical check-up every year, not that this is a guarantee against fate but it would, in some cases, help people to have some sort of early warning signals. We lose many people. It may be due to heart attack and we are told that he had no history of heart trouble and had no previous attack—and all that. It is necessary that there should be a medical check-up on these things. I hope that you will consider this point also.

As far as Shri Mane is concerned, I, on behalf of myself and party, express my sincere condolences on his demise and request you to convey our sorrow to his bereaved family.

Shri P.G. Narayanan (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the death of Mr. Rajaram Shankarrao Mane, a sitting Member of this House, we have lost a well-experienced colleague. He was only a good and mature politician but also a good social worker. He took special interest in literature. The services rendered by him for the oppressed and down-trodden are appreciable.

Sir, the death of Shri Mane is a great loss to us. On behalf of All India ADMK, I convey my heartfelt condolences and tributes to the bereaved family.

[Translation]

Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maneji was a senior Member of this House. He was popular leader of farmers of Maharashtra and a social worker. About 20 years ago, I had attended a public meeting in Akola on his invitation. At that time, I had assessed his popularity among the people and the faith the people had reposed on him. It is a fact that he was suffering from severe asthma. Ultimately he had to leave for heavenly abode. I myself and on behalf of my party pay tribute to the departed soul and express my condolences to the bereaved family.

Shrimati Lovely Anand (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have once again assembled today in a condolence meeting. One by one, we have been losing our hon-

Members. It is a matter of great sorrow and concern. We are bereaved over the sad demise of Maneji. It is true that he was a very popular leader. He had been elected to Lok Sabha for five times. I do not have much information about him. I, myself and on behalf of my party express condolence to his family. May God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to his family to bear this loss.

Shri Chittra Basu (Barasat) : Sir, I join you and the Leader of the House and other distinguished Member of the House in expressing our sorrow and grief at the demise of hon. Member of this House, Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane. As you have correctly pointed out that he represented the feelings, the hopes and the aspirations of his constituency and was elected five times to this House to serve the people of his constituency well. We, on behalf of this House express our grief and sorrow and express our condolences for him. I request you to kindly convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

Shri E. Ahamed (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League, I also join in paying our homage and our deep felt condolences to the bereaved family of our dear colleague, Shri R.S. Mane.

[Translation]

Shri Mohan Rawale (Bombay-South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maneji was very good at heart. He was our colleague. On behalf of Shiv Sena, I pay homage to him. Shiv Sena associate itself with the Congress Party, which has lost four of its members in succession.

Mr. Speaker : The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

(The Member then stood in silence for a short while.)

Mr. Speaker : There are two suggestions given. One is about developing a convention when a colleague of ours is no more with us; and the second relates to the regular check-up of all the Members. In consultation with the Members and in agreement of all, we will decide as to what we should do we will take a decision.

In the meeting of the Leaders, it was decided that we may adjourn today and to make up the time lost, we must sit in the Lunch interval also and one hour after 6 p.m. everyday so as to get about 26 hours to complete the business which is before the House.

With this, I declare that the House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 6th December, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

*121. **Mohammad Allashraf Fatmi :**
Shri Arjun Singh Yadav :

Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) the various types of public Distribution System operating in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide ration to urban poor people at cheaper rates than that the rural poor people; and

(c) the amount spent on Food Subsidy during 1994-95 and the amount of additional subsidy required for the same?

The Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Shri Buta Singh) : (a) to (c) As per present policy of Central Government, there is only one type of public Distribution System (PDS) in the country. However, in order to improve the functioning of the PDS in backward regions of the country, about 2446 blocks have been covered under the Revamped Distribution System (RPDS). In the blocks covered under RPDS, States have been advised to ensure availability of 20 kgs of foodgrains meant for distribution in RPDS areas to States/UTs at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices (CIPs) which are Rs. 50/- per quintal lower than the CIPs for the PDS. These specially subsidised CIPs are not applicable to urban agglomerations within the RPDS blocks in non-tribal majority States.

Central Government has no proposal to formulate any scheme for providing ration to urban poor at cheaper rates than are applicable to rural poor.

The total amount of food subsidy (including sugar) during 1994-95 was Rs. 5100 crores as per Revised Estimates. A budgetary provision of Rs. 5250 crores has been made for food subsidy for the year 1995-96.

IMPORT OF PULSES

*122. **Shrimati Giritja Devi :**

Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Pulses imported during the current financial year till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on this so far; and

(c) the name of the countries from where these Pulses have been imported?