

12.14 hrs.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

[*Egnlish*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, today is a very historic day. The Indian national Army under the supreme command of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose crossed the Burma-India border and planted the tricolour on Indian soil. This was announced by him on 21st March in Burma. In remembrance to this courageous and patriotic act which led to the independence of this country, I wish the whole house refer to that event and we may have some reference from the chair; all the hon. Members can join, in silence, to the memory of the martyrs who laid down their lives. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. speaker, sir, I thank my friend Shri Saifuddin Choudhury for remembering INA in parliament on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. It is also important that reference has been made by Shri Saifuddin Choudhury. We have never considered as INA as an army of rebellions. At that time also it was discussed that how INA should be graded keeping in view the discipline of the army. People of the country honoured INA soldiers for their patriotic act under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose so it is but natural to remember them on its 50th anniversary.

Mr. speaker, Sir, it will be better if you also join us on this occasion.

SHRI SHARED YADAV: (Madhepura): Mr. speaker, Sir, I not only support the

proposal presented by Shri Saifuddin Choudhury but also like to mention that Netaji was the hero of our freedom struggle especially a symbol of animation for youth. Even today he inspires us. He had been a commander in freedom struggle. He was not only a commander but before that he was also associated with the then congress party. After Gandhiji, he was a leader equivalent to hon. Jawaharlal Nehru. It is the day of entering INA in to India under his leadership. He also played an historical role during the congress leadership contest in Tripuri. Our country had been in a different position if that political direction would have continued.

Therefore, it is an important day for Netaji and INA soldiers who laid their lives under the leadership of INA to lead this country towards the glorious period of freedom struggle. So I would like to say that while expressing your views, you should present a proposal to this effect to express gratefulness towards the martyrs.

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I wholeheartedly support the proposal raised by Shri Saifuddin Choudhury. It is a sacred day in the sense that the Indian personnel under the Indian National Army, under the leadership of great leader Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose touched the sacred soil of our motherland. From there, they marched on to Imphal, Manipur and hoisted the flag of Azad Hind government. That is an important chapter in the freedom movement of our country.

On behalf of the House, I think, You, as the Speaker, should make a reference to this so that it may get further importance and significance. In this connection, through you, I want to appeal to the Government of India

that I had been to Imphal. I had seen many graveyards were there in memory of the Japanese soldiers who were fighting at that point of time. But it is a matter of great regret that there is no memorial for those INA soldiers who laid down their lives on the soil of Manipur during the historic fight at that point of time.

There is a proposal from the Japanese Government to have another memorial in memory of their soldiers who laid down their lives during the second world war. It is for the Government to decide whether they will allow the Japanese Government to raise their memorial. But unfortunately there has been no such proposal from the side of our Government to raise any memorial in memory of those INA soldiers who laid down their lives during the fight.

I appeal to the Government to make certain concrete proposals to raise memorials in memory of the soldiers of the Indian National Army who laid down their lives during the most bitterest struggle in our independence movement.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY [Jagatsinghpur]: Sir, in our struggle for freedom, there were many events and many contributions which are matters of history and which helped our country to achieve freedom. The struggle that was launched by the INA under the supreme commander, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is another memorial event. So, I join with others and I think it will be in the fitness of things for you also to join us and silence is observed in the House to pay respect to those who have sacrificed their lives in the event under the leadership on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM [Inner Manipur]: Sir, it will be proper for us, particularly this House, to show our gratefulness

to those who laid their lives for us. It is a fact that Netaji Subhash incited the people of Manipur to rise against the British and the many freedom fighters, who later become the soldiers of the Indian National Army in Manipur joined him. Now, I would like to refer that Azad Hind flag was hoisted in Manipur and there is a memorial for that. The office of Shah Nawaz Khan is still preserved there. So, I join in requesting you to refer it as a memorial day and it will be a mark of gratefulness shown to those who have dedicated their lives for the independence of our country.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, I join the House in paying my tribute to the heroes of the Indian National Army and the supreme leader, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. As Mr. Saifuddin has perfectly said, he had a long and distinguished career in the freedom struggle of our country even before he founded the Indian national Army. His followers have made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of Indian Freedom. So, it is in the fitness of things that a reference is being made in this House on the 50th anniversary of their crossing the Indian soil. We have a memorial and some functions are held there annually.

But the suggestion made by Mr. Chitta Basu will definitely be considered and we will see what more can be done in this respect. I, on behalf of the Government of India, would like to pay my highest and most respectful tributes to the martyrs of Indian freedom and the supreme commander, Netaji Bose and I would like this occasion to be remembered throughout the country in an appropriate manner. Sir, if you think it fit, you might like to echo the sentiments of the House by your observations.

MR. SPEAKER: On the 50th anniversary of the historic event, the House would like to pay homage to the memory of the martyrs of the Indian National Army. The people of India recall and shall recall in future their sacrifice with pride and great gratitude. Let us please stand in silence for few moments in the memory of the martyrs.

12.25 hrs.

The Members stood in silence for two minutes.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

12.27 1/2 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPEAKER
SITTING OF LOK SABHA ON 29TH AND
30TH MARCH, 1994

**Sitting as Lok Sabha on 29th and 30th
March, 1994.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that at the meeting of Leaders of Parties/Groups, it has been decided that the House may sit on Tuesday the 29th and Wednesday the 30th March 1994, to discuss the final act embodying the results of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Yesterday, when we were discussing about the proposed sittings of the House on 29th and 30th March, 1994, we did not have the informa-

tion in respect of the G-15 summit Meeting which is going to take place in Delhi on 28th and 29th March 1994. The prime minister and the other concerned Ministers will be busy with the G-15 summit meeting on these days. We have already welcomed the decision to have the sittings of the House on 29th and 30th March 1994. It may please be considered whether a little adjustment in the dates is necessary. Other wise, if these dates were to be accepted without any change, would it be all right if the Ministers who are involved in the G-15 summit meeting were to be absent from the deliberations here? If this is not acceptable, some adjustment in the proposed dates may be necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): MR. SPEAKER, Sir, I think that the proposed sittings of the House on 29th and 30th were fixed on the advice of all of us. The meeting mentioned by Shri Shukla was fixed quite earlier. During discussion the presence of hon. Prime Minister and commerce Minister would be needed, but Shuklaji has not told about the alternative proposal in this regard?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told that at the time of the meeting I had no information to this effect and I think that the same was not with the hon. Leaders of opposition at that time. I got this information today and so I am bringing it to your notice. The presence of commerce Minister and other Ministers will be essential during the meeting, so it is better if dates of the proposed sittings of House could be adjusted. Otherwise the debate will be held on the these dates fixed earlier and Ministers will attend the House when they will get time. It was essential to inform the House in order to avoid any