

ties and has strengthened economic cooperation.

59. The state visits which I undertook to Ukraine, Turkey and Hungary in July, 1993 were a manifestation of our desire to consolidate our cooperative ties with these countries.

60. During the year we had wide interaction with countries in sub-Saharan Africa including visits at the level of President and Prime Minister from Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We have noted the positive developments in South Africa and look forward to the early establishment of majority rule there.

61. India continues to play an active role in shaping the global agenda on issues pertaining to political and security matters, economic and social development, human rights, environment and population. In the various meetings of the United Nations, the Non-aligned Movement or other international bodies on these issues, we have taken a lead in articulating the specific concerns of the developing countries with a view to promoting a global consensus.

62. 1993 was a year of consolidating the gains of the economic reforms and the political initiatives of the Government. We entered 1994 with the optimism of accelerating our pace of economic growth, strengthened by a reassuring verdict of the people in favour of reforms and against the forces of communalism.

63. I am confident your debates and deliberations in the course of this session and beyond will take the nation forward in fulfilling the aspirations of the people. I

commend you to your tasks and wish you all success.

Jai Hind

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister to introduce two of his Ministers.

13.09 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I have to introduce two of my colleagues, Shri Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Dr. C. Silvera, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

13.09 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as we meet today after an interval of more than one and a half months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of our former colleagues namely Sarvashri R.S. Arumugam, M.A. Hannan Alhaj, Dr. N.N. Kailas, Shri T.D. Muthukumarasami Nayudu and Shri Shiv Ram Rai.

Shri R.S. Arumugam was a member of the Second and the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1957-62 and 1967-70 representing Srivilliputhur and Madras Tenkasi Parliamentary constituencies respectively.

He was also a member of Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952-57 and 1962-67.

A devoted social worker, Shri Arumugam took special interest in the rural welfare and upliftment of depressed and other backward classes of society. He was the Vice-President as well as General-Secretary of Madras State Depressed Classes League during 1953-59. Later he served as the Member of Central Advisory Board for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1959-62. He was also a member of Senate of the University of Madras.

An active parliamentarian, he served as the member of various Committees during his membership in the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha.

Shri Arumugam passed away on 3 January, 1993 at Rajavallipuram at the age of 74 years.

Shri M.A. Hannan Alhaj was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha. He represented Basirhat parliamentary constituency of West Bengal during 1977-79.

A political and social worker, Shri Alhaj participated in the Quit India Movement and was imprisoned for a number of times. He launched an agitation for the release of I.N.A. personnel; took part in the relief work organised by Mahatma Gandhi at the time of communal disturbances in the wake of partition following Independence of the country and also took part in the Peasants Movement in West Bengal.

He was the Founder and the Rector of the Academy of Islamic Studies and the

Founder Member of the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature. He was the Editor of Bengali Magazines "Daman" and "Pragati". He had special interest in the fields of culture and sports.

An active parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the parliamentary proceedings.

Shri M.A. Hannan Alhaj passed away on 22 September, 1993 at Calcutta at the age of 64 years.

Dr. N.N. Kailas was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha. He represented Bombay South Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra during 1971-77.

Earlier he was a member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly from 1952-59 and later he was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during 1959-67. He served as a Deputy Minister in the Government of Maharashtra and held the portfolios of Public Health, Cooperation and Education during 1957-60 and 1965-67.

A veteran freedom fighter, Dr. Kailas participated in the Quit India Movement and was arrested in 1942.

A medical practitioner by profession, Dr. Kailas was a Member of various medical associations. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly "Bharat Medical Journal" and was Member of the Bombay University Senate and Medical faculty.

He was the recipient of the Medical Council of India's Dr. B.C. Roy National Award in 1969 for outstanding socio-medical service.

A man of varied interests, Dr. Kailas was the organiser of the Annual All India "Kavi Sammelans" and "Urdu Mushairas" at Bombay.

Dr. N.N. Kailas passed away on 8 February, 1994 at Bombay at the age of 84 years.

Shri T. D. Muthukumarasami Nayudu was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62. He represented Cuddalore Parliamentary constituency of the erstwhile Madras State.

Earlier, he was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952-56.

He was a social and political activist. He was always a supporter of co-operative movement. He took keen interest in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha.

Shri T.D. Muthukumarasami Nayudu passed away on 9 February, 1994 at Cuddalore at the age of 93 years.

Shri Shiv Ram Rai was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha. He represented Ghosi Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1977-79.

Earlier, he was a Member and the Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957.

An agriculturist, he took active part in the Indian Freedom Movement.

An active political and social worker, Shri Shiv Ram Rai served as the President of the Azamgarh District Council. He also served as the President of the Farmers' Association.

He actively took part in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Shiv Ram Rai passed away on 11 February, 1994 at Azamgarh at the age of 93 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and, I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

13.14 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kapil Dev has enhanced the prestige of the country by creating the world record.
(Interruptions).

13.17 hrs.

RE: INCREASE IN PRICES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES OF COMMON USE BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EVE OF BUDGET SESSION

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you