

LOKSABHA DEBATES

LOKSABHA

*Monday, May, 3 1993/Vaisakha 13, 1915
(Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to express our heart-felt condolences on the very untimely and tragic death of President Premadasa of Sri Lanka. The brutal assassination of Shri Premadasa is a blow to Sri Lanka and to the efforts that he had been making to strengthen relations amongst countries in South Asia. It is also a blow to all of us in the sense that we were working very closely with him together. It is impossible for me even to believe that he would be separated from us within a period of hardly a fortnight because we had met in Dhaka at the SAARC Summit and later he had visited India, several places in Bihar of Buddhist interest in which he was taking very keen interest.

Sir, he rose from very humble beginning to become the Chief Executive of his country. All of us mourn his death. President Premadasa exerted himself to find a solution to the ethnic problem of his country. India wished him success in his attempt to resolve issues peacefully and meet the legitimate aspirations of the minority community.

I had the pleasure of several meetings with Shri Premadasa. During his official visit to our country last year and during the last Seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka recently I valued his friendship and sage counsel. My association with him goes back to 1981. In fact, in 1980 I had met him for the first time when he had come for the UN General Assembly Session and I had been there as a Foreign Minister.

Since then we have had a very good personal relationship, close personal relationship and we have had no occasion to have any difference of any kind, because his approach was one of poverty alleviation, etc., about which I shall say a word later.

He was a devout person. One of his valuable contributions has been Sri Lankan donation for housing for poor pilgrims in the sacred pilgrimage centres in India. He had only recently visited India to inaugurate the housing project.

President Premadasa's services to the SAARC will remain a monument to him. Till recently he was the Chairman of the regional organisation and devoted himself to strengthen its cooperative structures in particular, the fields of trade, social development and the welfare of women and children. Regional poverty alleviation was close to his heart and Sri Lanka chaired the SAARC Group that went into the problem and came out with many valuable recommendations.

I must also add here, Sir, that only last year he had mooted this idea, for the first time after so many years and he showed such dynamism that

within one year the report was ready, the association of so many experts from all the countries was achieved and we do have a succinct and good programme for poverty alleviation in the SAARC countries which I hope, it will be possible for us to implement. The SAARC report on poverty alleviation will remain one of President Premadasa's enduring legacies to SAARC.

I had the opportunity on several occasions, of discussing India-Sri Lanka relations with President Premadasa. I found him open-minded, receptive to suggestions and willing to change course for the sake of strengthening bilateral relations. He was a realistic and determined interlocutor and I will miss his presence in our joint efforts to strengthening India-Sri Lanka understanding, friendship and cooperation.

Very recently he gave a golden canopy an enclosure at the Samadhi at Bodhi Gaya and this was a gesture for the friendship and also our abiding relationship in the matter of Buddhism.

While mourning his loss and condoling with the bereaved family I would like to say wish the Acting President success in his efforts and the people of Sri Lanka and courage and steadfastness to overcome this tragedy and bring peace and prosperity to their beautiful country.

I once again on behalf of the Government on behalf of our party express my condolences.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Mr Speaker Sir once again violence has devoured a preacher of non-violence. The life of a tall personality of the Sub-continent has been cut short. A person who symbolised non-violence has sacrificed himself to quench the thirst of violence. Before it finds another victim it should be curbed. When I met Shri Premadasa for the first time he was the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. He was an amiable, peace-loving, balanced, soft-spoken person and a man of few words. He never made me feel that

I was sitting in front of a Prime Minister. He always left an indelible impression of his personality on others. The Hon. Prime Minister has rightly said that Shri Premadasa will always be remembered as a friend of India.

Mr Speaker Sir Shri Nana Saheb Goray has also expired. He was a very popular leader of Maharashtra. His contribution during freedom struggle, Samyukta Maharashtra Movement and as a forceful opposition leader and orator in Parliament has been quite significant. He was a committed leader. For him socialism was not a means to gain popularity but he struggled and made untiring efforts to bring a new social order in the society. I had the occasion to work with him in Parliament. For the last many years he had renounced active politics, but whenever we sought guidance from him he was ready to give it. We mourn his death.

I condemn the barbaric assassination of Shri Premadasa on my behalf and on behalf of my party and express deep sorrow on his death. I also pay my humble homage to Shri Nana Saheb Goray on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

SHRI RABIRAY (Kendrapada) It is a very sad day for our country as well as for Sri Lanka. The President of our neighboring and friendly country Sri Lanka Shri Premadasa is no more. Mr Speaker Sir Shri Premadasa remarked at the sixth SAARC Conference of which he was a host that violence and terrorism is the scourge of this region. I never knew that one day he would fall victim to this scourge of the region. Shri Premadasa's life has been a journey.

[*English*]

'From love cabin to the White House'

[*Translation*]

From humble beginning he rose to occupy the highest position of the land. This was probably the first such case in the history of Sri

Lanka He became the President of Sri Lanka by the dint of hard work, wisdom, and high quality of leadership. The real homage to him will be to fight against terrorism and violence and to create an atmosphere of non-violence in SAARC region of which he was a leader. On behalf of the Janata Dal I send my condolences to the bereaved family and to the people of Sri Lanka.

The great leader, a Socialist Movement thinker and a popular leader of our national movement Shri Goray has also died. Shri Goray fought to the last for establishing a socialist society in India. When I met him for the last time in Pune about a year back, he said that his last wish was to usher in socialistic and secular order as envisaged in our Constitution. He did not accept any national award till the end. You might be aware that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had requested the family to allow the funeral of Shri Goray with full State honours but they refused. The way the funeral of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan was performed in an ordinary and simple way, similarly the funeral of Shri Goray was also performed.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to his son and homage to the departed soul on my behalf and on behalf of all the socialists of the country.

[English]

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I associate with what has been said here. We are meeting today under the shadow of tragic and sad events that have taken place in the last two days. We mourn the loss of a tall, Asian statesman whose life has been cut short tragically and senselessly at the hands of an assassin.

President Premadasa played a leading role in SAARC. He tried hard for effecting regional co-operation amongst the South-East Asian countries and his was the life dedicated to the cementing of relations between different

countries and for the economic upliftment of the poor people of this region.

It is a matter of serious concern that this mindless terrorism has found another victim and has chosen a person, who was leading a country towards economic upliftment and for mutual co-operation amongst the countries in the area.

I believe now that it would be the duty of everybody every country in the SAARC to try to finish his unfinished task and that would be a tribute to his memory.

We convey our sincerest condolences to the members of his family and to the people of Sri Lanka in this hour of tragedy.

It was my good fortune to have known Shri N. G. Goray, a great freedom fighter, a well-known parliamentarian, educationist and also a diplomat. He made his mark in every sphere of activities in his life. He fought not only for the political freedom but also for the economic emancipation of the people of this country. It is not easy to find replacement of persons or leaders like Shri N. G. Goray.

I convey my sincerest condolence on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party to his family.

I am sure the path which he had treaded will also lead us to reaching the goal that we all set before ourselves.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of my Party associate with all in the House and with the Prime Minister in expressing the deep sorrow and anguish at the assassination of Shri Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka.

Shri Premadasa was trying for the cooperation of SAARC countries and also he was associated himself with India in eliminating terrorism in Sri Lanka. So while expressing our

condolence to his family, it has now become a great necessity on our part to find out the reasons of these terrorist and political assassinations which have come to stay in South-East Asia. Therefore, Sir, let us, while expressing our sorrow, take the oath that we will fight to end terrorism and violence in politics, thereby creating new conditions in this country, and that will be a true homage to Shri Premadasa. So, while I am expressing my heartfelt condolence to his family, I also feel our loss and feel our sympathy with the people of Sri Lanka who are being ceased away a leader of theirs.

Sir, Shri Goray was the leader of the Socialist Party in this country. We have on many occasions had unity with him and struggle with him, but since then he was a sincere patriot, who fought for a linguistic State in Maharashtra, and the formation of linguistic States which is the basis of strengthening Indian federal structure was one of the struggles in life along with his struggle for the suffering people and the exploited people. I also associate with others in expressing my condolence to his bereaved family. I also feel that we must act with the conviction and dedication with which Mr. Goray worked.

With these words, Sir, I again express my condolence and express my grief and the grief of the nation and our sympathy to Sri Lankan people and also promise that we fight to end terrorism in South-East Asia so that no other politician, no other Head of the State, is killed like this in future.

With these words, I thank you.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir the assassination of Sri Lankan President Premadasa was an immense and tragic loss not only for Sri Lanka, but also for the entire South Asia region. He has fallen a victim to the unmindful terrorism which we have to condemn. Since he became

the President of Sri Lanka, he has acquired reputation for ruthlessness and he has taken sincere steps to build up good relationship with India. It is difficult to believe that such a dynamic SAARC leader has been snatched away by the forces of violence which deserve to be condemned by all who believe in basic human dignity.

On behalf of AIADMK, I convey my sincere condolence to the people of Sri Lanka and his bereaved family.

I also pay my tribute and my homage to Mr. Gore. I convey my condolence to his bereaved family, Sir.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express deep condolences on behalf of our Telugu Desam Party over the tragic death of Shri Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka, who was a good friend of our nation, by the forces of violence. We strongly condemn these forces which have earlier snatched away one of our beloved sons of this country Shri Rajiv Gandhi and now Shri Premadasa. I appeal to the Government to take all the steps in cooperation with other countries to put an end to these forces of violence.

Sir, we also express our deep condolences over the death of Shri N.G. Goray who was a great socialist, who stood all his life for the socialist ideals and has dedicated his entire life for the achievement of socialist goals in this country. I thank you for giving me this opportunity and I join others in expressing our condolences.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we are reminded of Nana Sahab Goray many of us here and thousands and thousands of political activists in the country feel a personal loss, not just a bereavement of the family. It is a bereavement of a great move-

ment and of the country as a whole. He was very kind to me ever since I entered Ferguson College in 1940 and since then I have been one of his very ardent admirers. He has taken us to task many times, including on the 9th of August, 1992, but every word of his woozed sincerity, earnestness and patriotism.

Sir, he was a person who could be taken as an exemplary to the younger generation, not only to the younger, perhaps to the older generation also. He had a many splendoured personality, a great freedom fighter in his own right, one of the great exponents of the socialist movement, Goa freedom fighter and a labour leader. There was hardly anything which he did not touch and touched so effectively that he made an impact particularly in areas where poverty alleviation and the concept of equality are concerned.

Sir, we miss him very much today. On behalf of my party and on behalf of myself I would like to express my very deep condolences to his family and perhaps to all of us who feel that we have lost a great leader, a great friend.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I share the sentiments expressed by hon. Prime Minister and other hon. Leaders. It is very sad and painful for this House to receive the news about the passing away of the President of Sri Lanka Shri Ranasinghe Premadasa on Saturday, 1 May, 1993. The brutal manner in which he has been killed is not only tragic but a stigma to the whole civilized world. Such acts of violence are indeed a setback to the efforts aimed at bringing peace and harmony in the sub-continent and the rest of the world.

Shri Premadasa after two terms as Prime Minister under President Shri J.R. Jayawardene was elected President in December, 1988 and was sworn in the Second Executive President in January, 1989.

68 years old President Premadasa's long

and distinguished career in the service of the people of Sri Lanka and South Asia as well as the International Community would be long remembered.

We condemn the terrorism with all the force at our command, within the country as well as across its borders.

We express our profound sorrow and grief on the passing away of President Premadasa and stand by the people of Sri Lanka in this hour of their grief.

Shri N. G. Goray was a Member of Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing the Poona constituency of erstwhile state of Bombay.

He was also Mayor of Poona. He also served as a Member of Rajya Sabha.

Shri Goray was a renowned social worker, freedom fighter, distinguished writer, secularist and a diplomat.

He actively participated in the freedom movement in 1930, 1932, and 1942 and was imprisoned several times. In the post-Independence era, he led the Satyagraha movement in Goa liberation struggle in 1955 and was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment by the Portuguese military court.

He was a crusader against communal hatred and worked for fostering communal harmony.

A man of vision and scientific temper, he fought throughout his life for the values of non-violence and equality based on the synthesis of Marxism, Buddha and Gandhiji.

He had many works in Marathi to his credit. He also translated the autobiography of Jawahar Lal Nehru.

He ably served the country in Britain as

High Commissioner

11.30 hrs.

He passed away on May 1, 1993 at the age of 86 at Pune

I am sure the House will join me in conveying out heartfelt condolences to Shrimati Premadasa and other members of the bereaved family of the late President, Government of Sri Lanka and the Parliament and the friendly people of Sri Lanka. Our condolences would also be conveyed to the bereaved members of the family of our colleague Shri Goray

The House may stand in silence for a short while to pay homage to the memory of the deceased

11.30 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

[English]

MR SPEAKER Before we adjourn for the day, I would like to inform the House that the business listed for today would be transacted tomorrow, as per practice, Hon Minister of Agriculture would reply to the discussion on Demands for Grants of his Ministry at 5 P M and Guillotine would be applied in respect of all the outstanding Demands for Grants at 6 P M and then we take up the Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill and sit late for this purpose

The House is adjourned to meet again at 11 00 AM on Tuesday the 4th of May 1993

11.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday May 4 1993/Vaisakha 14 1915 (Saka)

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