

12.38 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we meet today (*Interruptions*) Please do not interrupt obituary references. May I tell Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu that I have not permitted him to speak?

*Interruptions**

MR. SPEAKER: 'How do I come in this picture? All Parties talking to each other, they may be retorting each other. Where does the Speaker come in? (*Interruptions*) You are interrupting even while I am on my legs. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*).

Hon'ble Members, as we meet to-day after an interval of almost two months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of some of our distinguished elders and friends during the interval.

All of us were deeply shocked to learn of the sad demise of Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari on the 25th December, 1972. Rare are the moments in the history of a nation when its people, irrespective of caste, creed, political affiliation or notions mourn the death of a man who had earned distinction amongst them. Rajaji, as he was popularly known, was a man who, by virtue of his sacrifices, simplicity and zeal of mission, became an institution by himself. He has been regarded as one of the outstanding statesmen not only in our country but in the world at large. Above all, he was first and last a great patriot.

Rajaji started his public life in 1917 when he was elected as the Chairman of the Salem Municipality. It was the entry of Mahatma Gandhi into the political arena that emboldened Rajaji to join the freedom strug-

gle. He joined the Satyagraha campaign against Rowlatt Act in 1919 and the Civil Disobedience movement in the following year. He suffered imprisonment many a time and came to be regarded as one of the trusted lieutenants and followers of Mahatma Gandhi.

His parliamentary career began in 1933 when he entered the Madras Legislature. Later he served as Chief Minister of that State from 1937 to 1939. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1946-47 and of the Provisional Parliament during the years 1950-52. He was a Member of the Interim Government during the years 1946-47 and Governor of West Bengal from August 1947 to June 1948. He was Minister without portfolio in the Union Cabinet between July and December, 1950, Union Minister of Home Affairs in 1950-51 and Chief Minister of Madras in 1952-54.

He acted as Governor-General of India in November, 1947 and later had the unique distinction of being the first and the only Indian to hold that office again from June, 1948 to January, 1950. His elevation to the highest office of the country was due to his distinguished services to the country and was a tribute to his outstanding capabilities. In recognition of his services to the country, he was awarded the highest honour of the land, the 'Bharat Ratna', in 1954.

In Rajaji's personality there was a unique combination of a politician, philosopher, intellectual, literateur, journalist and a man of letters. He was indeed one of the greatest leaders this country had produced. An altruist and an accomplished dialectician, he always had a formula to offer for even the most difficult and intricate problems that this country faced. He has left behind a great treasure of his

*Not recorded.

[Mr. Speaker]

political, philosophical and literary works which are an asset to this nation for all times to come. These works are the living embodiments of his sharp intellect, incisive logic, clear vision and courage of his conviction. He lived a full life and died full of honours.

I have also to inform the House of the sad demise of seven other friends namely, Dr. Shaukatullah Shah Ansari, Shri Bakar Ali Mirza, Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji, Shri G. D. Somani, Major General Himatsinhji, Shri Mahadevappa Rampure and Shri Jiyalal Mandal.

Dr. Shaukatullah Shah Ansari was a Member of First Lok Sabha during the years 1952—57 representing Bidar constituency of the then State of Hyderabad. Coming from one of the well-known families of India, he served the country in a variety of ways. He practised medicine till 1947 and later held a number of diplomatic assignments including Chairman of the International Control Commission at Laos. He was Governor of Orissa during the years 1968-71. He passed away at New Delhi on the 26th December, 1972, at the age of 65.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza was a Member of the Provisional Parliament during the years 1950-52 and of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1962-70 from Andhra Pradesh. A very affable and soft-spoken gentleman, he was an active parliamentarian. He represented India at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference at Istanbul and was also a Member of the Parliamentary Delegation to Russia and Mongolia. He was also a Member of the Commonwealth Observers Team to Guiana to observe and report on the elections in that territory and literary Adviser (Press) to the Government of Afghanistan. He passed away at Hyderabad on the 1st January, 1973 at the age of 73.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha

during the years 1967—70 representing Howrah constituency of West Bengal. He had served as Municipal Commissioner for Howrah for 10 years and had also been a Member of West Bengal Legislative Council during the years 1956-57.

He was a close associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and served imprisonment several times for participating in the freedom movement. As a Member of Lok Sabha, he used to take active part in the proceedings of the House. Outside also, he was associated with a number of educational, social and trade union activities. He passed away in tragic circumstances on the 7th January, 1973 at Howrah at the age of 65.

Shri G. D. Somani was a Member of First and Second Lok Sabha during the years 1952—62 from Nagaur-Pali and Dausa constituencies of Rajasthan. Coming from a noted industrialist family, he used to take active interest in the proceedings of the House, particularly on matters concerning industry. He was associated with a number of social, educational and religious institutions. He passed away at Bombay on the 8th January, 1973 at the age of 65. His son Shri N. K. Somani was a Member in the last Lok Sabha. We express our sympathies with him.

Major-General Himatsinhji was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly representing Indian Armed Forces during 1946-47 and of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during the years 1947-48 and 1950—52. He also served as a Member of the Union Constitution Committee. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1952 but resigned his seat on being appointed the Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He had also held the office of Deputy Minister of Defence during the years 1960—62. He passed away at Jaipur on the 9th January, 1973 at the age of 75.

Shri Mahadevappa Rampure was a Member of Second and Third Lok

Sabha during the years 1957—67 from Gulbarga constituency of Mysore. Earlier, he was a Member of the Legislative Council of Mysore and had served as its Deputy Chairman. A great organiser and social worker, he was associated with a number of educational institutions. He was a veteran parliamentarian and used to speak with vigour whenever he took part in the proceedings of the House. He passed away at Bangalore on the 5th February, 1973 at the age of 53.

Shri Jiyalal Mandal was a Member of the Second and Third Lok Sabha during the years 1957—67 representing Khagaria constituency of Bihar. Earlier he had been a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly during the years 1952—57. An agriculturist, he did constructive work for the removal of untouchability. He participated in the freedom movement of the country and suffered imprisonment. He was also associated with a number of social and educational institutions. He passed away at Saharsa on the 9th February, 1973 at the age of 58.

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 PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker Sir, each session of the House begins with a solemn act of homage to those who have left us. The inter-session period has taken a heavy toll of former colleagues.

The foremost amongst them in age, achievement and wisdom was Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. He was the last Governor-General and the first and only Indian to hold that office marking the triumph of our struggle

for Independence. He held many other high offices, but his eminence was not the kind that was derived from the offices he held. It came from within him, from his extraordinary, sharp and powerful intellect and his dedication to the cause not merely of India but of mankind. He served the Congress for nearly 40 years, and he founded the Swatantra Party. But no party could really contain him. He immersed himself in the great books of Indian civilisation and was an eloquent exponent of our culture. Through his deep concern for the great issues of mankind—the problem of war and peace, the problem of guarding moral values from material pressures—he was in fact a guardian of human culture.

Many in this House will also remember him as one of the greatest parliamentarians that our country has produced. The sweep of his intellect, his polemical power, and his profound understanding and sense of administrative and political problems, will remain a model for us and for those who come after us.

As I said at the time of his deeply-mourned death, we have lost not a person but a force.

Our condolences go to members of Rajaji's family and to those who were close to him, but the loss is not theirs alone.

Dr Shaikat Ansari began life as a distinguished medical man and later proved his mettle in national service, in diplomacy and administration. He came from a family which toiled with unceasing energy and gave all it had for the national cause. Dr. Ansari embodied in himself the finest values of our secular culture. I should like particularly to recall Dr. Ansari's work as our representative in Laos, Vietnam and Sudan, and as Governor of Orissa.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza had a brilliant academic career and was associated

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

early in his life with the trade union movement and in the fight against imperialism. He served Andhra Pradesh in many capacities and was a conscientious parliamentarian.

Shri K. K. Chatterji spent all his adult life in the thick of politics. A youth leader, a freedom fighter, a close associate of Netaji Subhas Bose, a trade unionist and author, he served Bengal and the country with tireless energy and intensity of feeling.

Shri Gajadhar Somani was prominent in the business world and was an active office-bearer of many institutions connected with trade and industry. He also supported a number of social service organisations. The House will remember the interest he took in economic matters.

Major-General Himatsinghji brought to Parliament deep knowledge of defence acquired through service in our Army. He earned high respect as Deputy Minister of Defence and later as Lieutenant Governor of Himachal. He was a fine and large-hearted man, deeply concerned for the welfare of others.

Shri Mahadevappa Rampure was prominent in the Congress in the old Hyderabad State and later in Mysore. He was the founder and moving spirit of a large number of educational institutions in Gulbarga.

Shri Jiyala Mandal was drawn into the national movement while still in his teens. He devoted his energies equally to political activity and constructive work. He organised the *Kisans of Bakhtiarpur* and made a mark as a legislator both in the Bihar Assembly and in the National Assembly.

We mourn the loss of these colleagues, distinguished Indians. Sir, I request you to convey our sincere

sympathy and condolences to their families.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): On behalf of our Party, I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed here at the demise of the eminent statesman, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, and seven other ex-Members of Parliament, Dr Shaukatullah Shah Ansari, Shri Bakar Ali Mirza, Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji, Shri G. D. Somani, Major General Himatsinghji, Shri Mahadevappa Rampure and Shri Jiyala Mandal.

I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

श्री सरजू पांडे (गाजीपुर) : प्रध्वज महोदय जब भी हमरा सदन बैठता है, तो हम मरने वालों के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं। उस बार मरने वालों में कई तो खास तौर से मेरे मित्र थे जिन को मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से जानता था। उन की मृत्यु मेरे लिए बहुत दुःखदायी है।

जहां तक श्री राजगोपालाचारी का सम्बन्ध है स्वाधीनता संग्राम में उन की भूमिका से सारा देश परिचित है। इसलिए उनके सम्बन्ध में मैं कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ।

डा० शौकतउल्ला अंसारी मेरे ही जिन के निवासी थे और मेरे बड़े निकट के मित्र थे। इतना शरीर इन्सान और इतना बड़ा महानमानव मैंने आज तक नहीं देखा है।

13.00 hrs.

श्री बाकर अली मिर्जा साहब मेरे साथ सोवियत यूनियन गये हुए थे। वह बहुत ही अच्छे वक्ता थे, हिन्दू मुस्लिम एकता के प्रतीक थे और बहुत ही विशाल हृदय व्यक्ति थे। उन का निधन बहुत ही दुःखदायी है।

श्री कृष्ण कुमार चटर्जी के सम्बन्ध में मैंने अखबारों में पढ़ा कि उन्होंने बेकारी से ऊब कर आत्महत्या की। मैं नहीं जानता यह कहा तक सही है। अगर सही है तो यह हम सब के लिए बहुत ही दुख का विषय है। इस प्रकार के एक बड़े ही कर्मठ कार्यकर्ता का ऊब कर के आत्महत्या करना सचमच बहुत ही दुख की बात है।

श्री गजाधर सोमानी को भी मैं जानता हूँ हालांकि मुझे से पहले वे इस सदन में थे। वाकी जो सदस्य थे श्री महादेवपा रामपुरे और श्री जिया लाल ये मेरे साथ ही इस सदन में थे। ये तमाम लोग अब हमारे बीच में नहीं हैं। यह हमारे लिए महान दुखपूर्ण अवसर है। मैं इस अवसर पर अपनी ओर अपने दल की ओर से उन के प्रति समवेदना एकट हूँ और मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारी समवेदना उन के परिवार तक पहुंचा दी जाय।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वानियर) अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने दल की ओर से और अपनी ओर से सभी दिवंगत आत्माओं के प्रति विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि समर्पित करता हूँ और परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उन्हें सद्गति प्रदान करे।

राजा जी के निधन से आधुनिक भारत का एक ऋषि हमारे बीच से उठ गया। राजा जी विलक्षण प्रतिभा के धनी थे। उनका व्यक्तित्व समय-समय पर कसौटी पर कसा गया और अधिकाधिक उज्वल हो कर वह हमारे सामने निखरा। एक महान देशभक्त, योग्य प्रशासक भारतीय संस्कृति के ज्ञाता भारतीय दशन के व्याख्याता राजा जी न अज्ञानियों के महानतम पुरुषों में से नहीं जायेंगे। उन के निधन से हम पीढ़ी की पुरानी पीढ़ी से जोड़ने वाली एक और कड़ी टूट गई। राजा जी जीवन के

अन्तिम क्षण तक सतत कर्म करते रह, विश्वासों पर अडिग छड़े रहे। मतभेद पर परदा डालने का उन्होंने प्रयत्न नहीं किया। उन की लेखनी और वाणी में बड़ा व्यंग्य था लेकिन विरोधियों पर कभी उन्होंने घटिया आरोप नहीं लगाए। कभी किसी की प्रमाणिकता पर सन्देह नहीं किया। आखिरी दिनों में इस बात को स्वीकार कर के कि मतभेद की गुंजाइश है वह अपने विश्वासों पर अडिग छड़े रहे और उन्होंने अमहमति के स्वर को जो लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक है बल प्रदान किया। राजा जी के निधन से हमारा मार्बंजनिक जीवन अकिंचन हो गया। उन को कभी शायद ही हम पूरी कर सकें।

मैं उन के माथ अन्य महानुभावों के प्रति भी अपनी विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि एक बार फिर समर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) Mr Speaker, Mr Rajaji's death is the greatest loss to the country which cannot be compensated. That intellectual giant the only living example of simple living and high thinking is no more with us.

There is no subject on earth which has escaped his attention. One could disagree with his views, but not with his logic. One could question his opinions on various problems, but not his sincerity of purpose. The nation in general and Tamil Nadu in particular will miss the advice and writings of that erudite scholar for ever.

On behalf of my party I request you to kindly convey our condolences to the bereaved family of Rajaji and the other colleagues of ours.

श्री इशामनन्दन मिश्र (बेगुमराय) अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज यह कोई औपचारिक कहना नहीं होगा कि हम एक गहरे शोक की छाया में झकटते हुए हैं। भारतीय आकाश

[श्याम नन्दन मिश्र]

से आऽ नक्षत्र विलीन हो गए और उन में से एक नक्षत्र तो प्रकाश के पुंज की तरह सूर्य की तरह था । मुझे प्रायः सभी व्यक्तियों की निकटतम रूप से जानने का मौका मिला था ।

मैंने इस सदन में राजा जी को काम करते हुए देखा था और मुझे यह भी याद है कि जुन से बिना मिले हुए भी मैं उन का विशेष रूप से स्नेह-भाजन बना था । आज जब बहुत दरवाज खटखटाने पड़ते हैं तो उस समय की याद आती है कि मैंने कभी भी राजा जी के समीप जाने की हिम्मत नहीं की । लेकिन फिर भी उनका आशीर्वाद और वरदान मेरे सिर पर था ।

मेरे जैमा असीत दर्जों का व्यक्ति राजा जी जैसे महामानव के बारे में कुछ कहे यह एक दुस्साहस होगा । लेकिन जैसा कि संस्कृत के एक कवि ने कहा था कि वाणी की भी उपयोगिता तभी होती है जब बड़े विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों के बारे में कुछ कहा जाय, नहीं तो वाणी विफल हो जाती है । इसीलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि आज राजा जी के बारे में कहना कुछ अपनी वाणी का औचित्य ही साबित करना है । राजा जी की जिन्दगी वैसी थी जिस को सफलता या असफलता नहीं छू पानी थी । वह एक सच्चे कर्मयोगी थे जिस में असफलता की कितनी भी लहरें आएँ लेकिन राजा जी की जिन्दगी को वे झकझोर नहीं सकती थी और मानवता ने भी उन की जिन्दगी को सफलता और असफलता के मापदण्ड से नहीं मापा था । उन के मरने के बाद जितनी भी श्रद्धांजलियाँ हुईं उन में यह कहा गया कि वह एक महामानव थे और मानवता उन से गौरवान्वित होती थी ।

मैंने एक व्यक्ति से अग्रेजी में बातें करते

हुए कहा था :

He was one of the dizzy heights of humanity.

वह मानवता की बैसी चोटियों में से बे जिन की तरफ सिर उठाने से सिर चकरा जाता था । ऐसी चोटियों में से वह थे । इसीलिए तो किसी उर्दू के भायर ने कहा है कि ऐसे इन्सान खाक के परदे में घासाली से नहीं उभरते हैं । आकाश बहुत दिनों तक तलाश करता है तो ऐसे इन्सान खाक के परदे से उभरते हैं । राजा जी वैसे ही व्यक्ति थे जी हमारे बीच में आए थे । वह हमारे भीष्म पितामह और जनक की परम्परा के व्यक्ति थे । लायनाल फिल्डन ने तो यहां तक कहा था कि वे आज के जमाने के सब से बड़े व्यक्ति थे । मैंने भी अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए राजा जी के प्रति कहा था कि अगर सभी नक्षत्रों के प्रतिनिधियों का सम्मेलन होता और पृथ्वी को भी अपना कोई प्रतिनिधि भेजने का सौभाग्य होता तो राजा जी से बढ़ कर हम कोई प्रतिनिधि नहीं चुन सकते थे । ऐसे वह थे । राजा जी के जीवन ने जिस तरह की बातें देखी थीं, जिस तरह की परिस्थितियों में भूमिका अदा की है भूमिका बहुत कम व्यक्तियों ने अदा की है । 93-94 सालों तक भीत की छाती पर खड़े रह कर मुस्कराना और आखीरी सांस तक दिमाग में थोड़ी सी कमजोरी न आना यह एक बड़े जीवन की कहानी है । राजा जी जीवन के प्रारम्भिक काल में भी दमा से ग्रस्त हुए थे । उस के बाद भी 94 साल तक की जिन्दगी निभाई । तो जरा गौर कीजिए कि वह कैसी जिन्दगी थी । मैं समझता हूँ कि राजा जी की जिन्दगी एक बड़ पुण्य, सयम और आत्म-बल सब की परिचायक थी और उन की जिन्दगी में ज्ञान, कर्म और भक्ति की त्रिवेणी बहती थी । उनका जीवन कोई शुष्क ज्ञान का जीवन नहीं था । वह श्रद्धा से भोत प्रोत, भक्ति से भोत प्रोत

जीवन था और उस ज्ञान को भी कर्म में परिणित करने का उन में एक अद्भुत सकल्प था । मैं तो समझता हूँ कि इस सदन के सिद्धद्वार पर जो राजा जी ने कहा था उसको कहीं अंकित करना चाहिए या इस सदन में अंकित करना चाहिए । नहीं तो सेन्द्रल हाल में, केन्द्र कक्ष में अंतिम अंकित करना चाहिए जो उन्होंने लोक-तंत्र के सदर्थ में कहा था । उन्होंने लोक तंत्र के सदर्थ में वही शब्द कहे थे जो तिलक ने परतन्त्रता के सदर्थ में कहे थे ।

राजा जी ने कहा था :—

“A dumb people and a deaf government cannot make democracy, do not make democracy.”

लोक मान्य तिनक ने हम को वह महामन्त्र दिया था :

“Swaraj is our birth-right.”

इन दोनों वाक्यों को हम एक ही कक्ष में रखने हैं, इन को कहीं पर दर्ज किया जाना चाहिए और मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार और संसद् के लोग इस में एक राय होंगे कि सभी सासदों को बराबर यह बात याद दिलाई जाये कि “गूंग जनता और बहरी सरकार दोनों मिल कर लोक-तन्त्र नहीं बनाते” । इस को हमें कहीं पर रखना ही चाहिए ।

यों, अष्टम महोदय, बचपन की ऊषा और जवानी की दोपहर और बुढ़ापे की शाम तो चलती ही है, मगर जितनी स्वाभाविकता से राजाजी के जीवन का क्रम बढ़ा और आखिर में चल कर निस्सीम में विलीन हो गया, उतनी स्वाभाविकता हम लोगों ने न देखी और न पढ़ी । इतनी स्वाभाविकता—जैसा कि अभी माननीय बाजपेयी जी ने कहा—ऋषियों के जीवन

के अलावा कहीं और देखने को नहीं मिलेगी । मैं राजा जी के बारे में और ज्यादा क्या कहूँ, मगर इतना आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ—राजा जी के परिवार के प्रति सवदना तो हम जाहिर करेंगे ही, लेकिन राजा जी का जीवन हम को बराबर प्रेरणा प्रदान करे, इस के लिए सरकार के स्तर पर संसद् के स्तर पर भी कोई कार्य जरूर होना चाहिए, क्योंकि राजा जी ने जैसी जिन्दगी बिताई, जिस तरह की सादगी की जिन्दगी थी, उस को आज भी हम लोगों को—चाहे हम संसद् में हों या सरकार में हों—बराबर याद रखना चाहिए । राजाजी ने तीन ही सेट कपड़े रखे थे, हर दिन अपने कपड़ों को साफ किया करते थे । जिस को आज राष्ट्रपति भवन कहते हैं, उन दिनों उस को गवर्नर जनरल हाउस कहा जाता था । उस गवर्नर जनरल हाउस में जब वह 200 वर्षों की परतन्त्रता के बाद आये, तब भी उन की जिन्दगी पर वहाँ की रानीया हाबी नहीं हो पाई—यह राजाजी थे । अध्ययनशील ऐसे थे कि वहाँ आ कर उन्होंने सारी शैक्सपीयर पढ़ डाली ।

राजाजी ने ईश्वर को जब अपने जीवन की चादर मुपुर्द की है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बैसी ही चादर मुपुर्द की जिस पर कोई धब्बा नहीं था, निष्कलक, निर्मल चादर जो ईश्वर ने उन को दी थी, उसी को उन्होंने मुपुर्द किया । इस से बढ़ कर हमारे लिए और कोई सन्तोष की बात नहीं हो सकती है—हमारे जीवन में ऐसा व्यक्ति आज नहीं रहा ।

हमारे कुछ और भी साथी थे, जिनके बारे में मैंने कहा है कि मैं उतने दिनों से संसद् में हूँ, सभी लोगों को जानने का मौका मुझे को मिला था । रामपुरे साहब इतनी छोटी जिन्दगी में हम को ऐसे छोड़ कर कैसे चले गये—यह समय में नहीं

[श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र]

भाया। जैसे ही श्री जियालाल मण्डल थे जो कल तक हम से बातें करते रहे। हम एक ही संस्था के थे, कन्धे से कन्धा मिला कर काम करते थे। जब दो तीन दिन पहले यह समाचार मालम हुआ, मैंने आप के कार्यालय को उस की सूचना दी तो यह लगा कि बिन बादल बिजली गिर पड़ी। हमारे और सभी साथी राष्ट्रीय जाग्रत में; राष्ट्रीय जागरण में, भावात्मक कता में बढ़े अग्रणी थे और हमारा देश और समाज उन को बराबर याद रखगा। मैं अपनी तरफ से, अपने दल की तरफ से इन सभी व्यक्तियों के प्रति हार्दिक श्रद्धांजनी अर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, with profound sorrow and grief, I associate myself and the Swatantra Party with the sentiments expressed in this House by the various Leaders of the Parties and yourself at the passing away of Chakravarty Rajagopalachari, the founding father of the Swatantra Party.

When he was most wanted in this world, this world has lost an elderly statesman, a giant among intellectuals and foremost among Mahatma Gandhi's associates, known as his conscience-keeper and the authentic interpreter of his conscience.

He dominated the Indian political scene for nearly seven decades. Most part of the twentieth century of this country's history has been inter-woven by his various activities. He took a leading part in the freedom movement. He championed the cause of the down-trodden. He always fought for the preservation of the fundamental rights and democratic values which we had the privilege of learning at his feet and for which the Swatantra Party always stands.

A man of strong conviction, when he differed from his colleagues, he did not hesitate to go out from the orga-

nization and propagate his very ideas for which he stood for

At the ripe old age he had the clarity of vision and started the Swatantra Party to fight the growing totalitarian socialistic tendencies in this country. He could easily analyse, dissect and diagnose and find a remedy for any intricate problem. With his razor-sharp intelligence he had a vision to see twenty five years ahead. He had a sharp mental acumen and his masterly exposition of the various intricate problems in the simple language of the masses and his contribution of articles in the *Swarajya* on current topics will not be available to us.

In office and out of office, in prison and outside, he devoted himself to the study and exposition of the various Indian classics like *Bhagwat Gita*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Kuran*.

A versatile genius, a born leader who never followed anybody without conviction, a great fighter who could not be cowed down by any opposition, he gave up his most lucrative legal practice in his young days and joined the mainstream of the national struggle and he courted imprisonment several times.

As an administrator, he had a firm grip of various intricate problems. In 1937, as the Prime Minister of Madras, he first introduced prohibition and to make good the loss, he introduced the Sales Tax which contributes the major share of revenues of the various States today. He had the courage to abolish food control and rationing and has proved that all these artificial barriers lead to shortage.

Though not in the Congress, he was called to take part in Delhi and Simla talks during Sir Stafford Cripps and the Cabinet Mission's visits to this country. A life full of service to the nation and the world and to the humanity, he is no more. He was a man among men of his era who dedicated his heart and soul for the uplift of humanity.

His trip to the United States to impress upon President Kennedy on non-proliferation of nuclear armaments had a tremendous impact.

Contemporary history has given him a prominent place not only as a freedom fighter but as the first Bharat Ratna and the first and last Indian Governor-General and a statesman of rare order. He never ran away from responsibility. He acquitted himself as a very able administrator, first as the Prime Minister of Madras in 1937, then as Governor of the problem-ridden and famine-stricken Bengal, then as Governor General in the aftermath of partition, then as Home Minister in post-independent Cabinet and then again as Chief Minister of Madras State in 1952, after the Congress debacle in that State.

Sir, the last of the Romans, the great Titan has passed away and we join the nation in mourning at his great loss and we send our condolences to the bereaved family, and at the same time, Sir, we re-dedicate ourselves to the noble ideals which we learnt at his feet.

Sir, regarding the various colleagues of ours, I express our condolences on behalf of my party. Dr. Shaikatullah Shah Ansari was the Governor of my State and he was very affable in nature, he was true to the tradition, and in a very difficult period of Orissa's history, he worked with great distinction.

Mr. Bakar Ali Mirza was a freedom-fighter and a very good friend of mine. He was a prominent Praja-mandalist and he helped in the integration of the Hyderabad State in this country.

Shri G. D. Somani was a prominent industrialist, a philanthropist and an extremely religious man. I did not have the personal acquaintance with the others, but, at the same time, I, on behalf of my party, offer my condolences and I request you to pass them

on to the members of the bereaved family. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contal):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I associate myself in expressing our deep respect for Rajaji and the other former Members of this House and also in paying our condolences to their bereaved family.

Sir, there is no word adequate enough to pay our tribute to the great contribution of Rajaji and to his great personality. Rajaji lived to the very fullness of his life, with a purpose,—not common, but uncommon, not only for our generation, but for many generations to come. Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari was known popularly as Rajaji. Indeed, he was a king among the people of our country. He had monarchical stature as one of the profound thinkers of our country, as a philosopher, as an erudite scholar,—not only so, but as a man who was a true Indian,—a true Indian in his thinking, in his living, in his everyday behaviour. He will be remembered not only by our generation, but for generations to come. He was one of the giants among the leaders of the freedom struggle of our country. He was also one of the rare architects of freedom of our country after we attained our independence. Not many people live beyond their deaths but Rajaji will be remembered not only by our generation, as I have said, but by posterity for many centuries to come.

I pay my respectful tributes to the memory of one of the wisest men India has ever produced in this era of ours.

I had the privilege to know Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji. He was member of the Forward Bloc and had close association with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was a very fiery type of freedom-fighter and had been with Netaji in jail for many years.

[Shri Samar Guha.]

I do not know what happened to him. He was suffering from an incurable disease, and the tragic way he ended his life is a real shock to all of us who know him very closely.

He was a very emotional man; he was a very sentimental man. Perhaps something happened to him as a result of which he ended his life tragically.

I had the privilege to know Shri Bakar Ali Mirza in the last Lok Sabha. He was a very simple man, an amiable man but very firm in his ideological conviction.

I did not know Dr. Ansari, but his name was known to all of us. Particularly, I remember those days of Partition when the communal storm created wavering tendencies among many freedom-fighters in our country, but he remained a patriot and he remained an Indian and braved all the storms of communalism in those days.

To other former Members of the House whom I did not have the privilege to know personally, I pay my respects and express our condolences to their bereaved families.

श्री जामुंदत बोटे (नागपुर) .
अध्यक्ष महोदय, नेताजी के साथी, स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के एक महान सिपाही श्री कृष्ण कुमार चटर्जी, भारत के भूतपूर्व जनरल श्री सी० राजगोपालाचारी, डा० शौकतुल्ला शाह असागी, श्री बाकर अली मिर्जा, श्री जी० डी० सोमानी, मेजर जनरल हिम्मतरसिंह जी और श्री महादेवप्पा रामपुरे—इन सभी दिवंगत नेताओं को, हमर आत्माओं को मैं अपने संगठन फार्वर्ड ब्लाक की ओर से विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ ।

SHRIMATI M. GODFREY (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): I wish to the sentiments expressed by you and associate myself and my group with

the House and by the Leader of the House and the other Members who have spoken, in regard to our revered Rajaji who not only endeared himself to every Indian but endeared himself to every human being.

I would also like our condolences to be sent to the bereaved members of the families of all our other colleagues who had passed away during the last few months, and particularly, I would like to tell them that we all pray for repose to their departed souls in heaven.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF (Periakulam): The demise of Rajaji is a great loss to the nation. He was the most eminent politician and a pioneer Gandhian leader. Even before our Constitution made untouchability an offence, he was the first man who had the guts to allow Harijans into the Meenakshi temple at Madurai, while he was the Premier of the then Madras State during 1937—39. As the first Prime Minister of the undivided Madras State, after the introduction of the Provincial Autonomy Act, he introduced prohibition in his own district Salem in Tamil Nadu.

During the period when inter-caste marriage was considered as a horrible one, he bravely gave his daughter Lakshmi in marriage to Shri Devdas Gandhi, son of Gandhiji. Thus, he was the first man in every respect.

His works on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita and Tirukkural are considered as finest literary pieces for our future generations. No doubt, he was a devout Hindu but at the same time, he was the best friend of the minority communities such as Muslim and Christians.

I offer my condolences with deep sorrow to his bereaved family and to the families of the other departed ex-Members, on behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Bangalore): Sir, we have come to count Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation and Prophet of freedom. If the analogy could be carried a little further, as every Prophet had apostles, he had, in my opinion, four apostles, Nehru, Patel, Rajendra Prasad and Rajaji. These were the four persons who faithfully followed Mahatma Gandhi and gave strength and content to the freedom movement.

As some of my radical friends use the word, Rajaji was for a long time the "theoretician" of Gandhi and his ideas. There are personalities who enhance the stature of one's country, and Rajaji was one such. Apart from many of his achievements to which this House has testified, he was even a model so far as the Opposition is concerned, when he founded the Swatantra Party and acted as the spokesman for the Opposition; the dignity and sweet reasonableness with which he did his work is one of those achievements given to very few people.

Many a time when we are in opposition, we become irritable. We become what is called over-enthusiastic in earning the approbation of the people. But even here, Rajaji exercised what it called the detachment described in the Gita and showed how a perfect opposition mind could work.

Sir, my appeal to you, and through you, to this House, is to have a fitting memorial for him in this capital city of ours. These four apostles of Mahatma Gandhi must find their proper place in the heart of the country, that is, the capital, always to inspire the coming generations with the high ideals for which they worked and died.

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK (Puri): I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed here and pay a personal tribute to

Rajaji. I came into contact with Rajaji when I opposed him. When I was a student of Ravenshaw College, I greeted him with black flag. But he met me with love and affection. This was in 1941 when he was opposing the Congress and the Quit India movement. Again in 1946, when an unknown young boy, was elected to the Orissa Assembly, he sent me a telegram from Madras congratulating me, saying 'Young man, remember me'.

Again in 1949, as the Governor-General of India, he was camping in Puri. I had an opportunity of meeting him then along with a few others. Shri Asaf Ali was then the Governor of Orissa. He had invited us to dinner. Then I had the courage to ask him 'Rajaji, you are the apostle of non-violence. You are a follower of Gandhiji. How could you confirm the death sentence on those who murdered Gandhiji?' Immediately, he said: 'Yes, I expected this question. I was then puzzled what to do. Followers of Gandhiji from all over the world sent me telegrams not to confirm the death sentence, except his youngest son Devadas, whom I have spoiled by giving my daughter in marriage. I was feeling shy. I sent for Devadas and got all the writings of Gandhiji. From those writings, I found that when Swami Shraddhanand was murdered and the culprit was hanged, Gandhiji did not say anything. That led me to confirm the death sentence'.

His was a great mind and it cleared various things from conflict in regard to non-violence and all that. I have no words to express my gratitude to Rajaji.

Dr. Shaukatullah Ansari was Governor of Orissa. I had the pleasure of working with him for three years. He was a great nationalist. I had the opportunity of meeting him several times when he was Governor. He used to think of the

[Shri Banamali Patnaik]

past He was very sorry that India was partitioned He used to tell me how Mr Jinnah liked to influence him But he told me ultimately that Pakistan could not last and it would be soon dismembered And during his lifetime we could see that Pakistan was dismembered

I do not know the others, but I pay my homage to all of them

MR. SPEAKER: The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

13.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday February 20, 1973/Phalgun 1, 1894 (Saka)