

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 1, 1971/Asadha 10,
1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Death of Soviet Cosmonauts

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): The true spirit of science is the spirit of sacrifice and search for knowledge. The exploration of outer space has re-awakened in all of us a sense of wonder. Whether the cosmonauts belonged to the Soviet Union or to the United States of America, we have regarded them as representatives of all mankind. We have felt personally involved in their Journey, following their every move, sharing the anxiety of their families and of their country. We have felt exhilarated by their achievements.

The tragedy of the death of the Soviet cosmonauts, Lt. Col. Georgi Dobrovolsky, Flight Engineer Vladislav Volkov and Test Engineer Viktor Patsayev is all the greater because it happened at the very end of a successful exploration. As the House knows, they spent a record number of 23 days aboard the Salyut, the 25-tonne orbiting laboratory launched on April 19th. The experiment was a success. They gathered very valuable information, and

even though they themselves are not here to share in it, we know that it was a contribution to progress.

May I request you, Sir, on behalf of this House to express our deep sympathy to the Soviet Union and especially to the families of these gallant and courageous young men ?

MR. SPEAKER: I associate myself personally and on behalf of this House with the feelings of grief and sorrow expressed by the Prime Minister on the tragic incident, the death of the three cosmonauts of the spaceship Soyuz-11—Cosmonauts Georgi Dobrovolsky, Vladislav Volkov and Viktor Patsayev. They were on a mission of immense scientific knowledge, and their end came just at a time when they had almost accomplished their mission. This is a loss not only to the Soviet Union and people, but to the entire mankind. I am sure the House will join us in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Government and the people of USSR.

We may stand for a while to express our sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

बिहार में फसलों को हुई क्षति की जांच करने वाले अध्ययन दल का प्रतिवेदन

*841. श्री राजाबतार झास्त्री : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने बिहार में असाधारण वर्षा के कारण रबी की फसल