

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 19, 1975/Magha
30, 1896 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR SPEAKER Hon Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri K Sivapppraghassan who passed away at Pondicherry on the 16th February 1975 at the age of 62

Shri Sivapppraghassan was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha from Pondicherry during the years 1963 to 1967. An educationist he took a prominent part for the merger of the former French possessions with India. He also worked for Harijan uplift and cultural advancement.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Memorandum submitted by Parliamentary Forum for SC & ST.

*21. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government on the memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes to the Prime Minister during the last Budget Session; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House, explaining the points raised in the memorandum and the position in regard thereto [Placed in Library See No LT 8908/75]

SHRI S M SIDDAYYA I find from the statement in regard to item No 2 as follows:

"The proposal of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for strengthening his organisation is being considered."

I want to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that the Commissioner earlier had 17 Regional Offices spread over the entire country to assist him to discharge his duty under the Constitution and they were abolished in the year 1967. Since then the Elavaperumal Committee which went into the matter as also the Parliamentary Committee have strongly recommended that these regional offices should be restored back. Otherwise the Commissioner will not be able to discharge his duties properly. When this question was raised on the floor of the House previously, the Minister concerned had given an assurance that whatever the Commissioner wants will be given as early as possible. In view of this assurance, may I know whether the