

LOK SABHA DEBATES

First day of the Eleventh Session of the Fourth Lok Sabha
Vol. XLII]-

[No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 27, 1970/Sravana 5, 1892 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri Avedya Nath (Gorakhpur)
2. Shri Nirel Enem Horo (Khunti)
3. Shri Chandoolal Chandrakar (Durg)

11'03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of six of our friends, namely, Shri P. Govinda Menon, Shri D. Ering, Shri N. B. Maiti, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, Shrimati Leela Ray and Shri K. V. Ranga Reddy.

Shri P. Govinda Menon was a sitting Member of this House and the Minister of Law and Social Welfare. He had been a Member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament and Third Lok Sabha during the years 1947-1952 and 1962-1967. He had also been the Chief Minister of the erstwhile Cochin State during the years 1946-47 and that of Travancore-Cochin during 1955-56. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament in 1964. He held these offices with diligence, sincerity and great sense of devotion. He was a highly seasoned parliamentarian and made very useful contributions in the House and the Committees. As a man, he was quite unassuming and friendly with one and all. I recall his presence here in this House till the last day of the last session. He suddenly passed away at New Delhi on the 23rd May, 1970 at the age of 62.

Shri D. Ering was also a sitting Member of this House and Deputy Minister for Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation. He had also been a Member of the Second and Third Lok Sabha during the years 1961-67. He was a very promising youngman with pleasing manners. He has been snatched away by death at Shillong on the 21st June, 1970 at the age of 40 only.

Shri N. B. Maiti was a Member of Second Lok Sabha during the years 1957-1962. He had been a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for a long time and was also a Minister in the West Bengal Government during 1947-52. He passed away at Calcutta on the 20th May, 1970 at the age of 78.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was a Member of Third Lok Sabha during the years 1962-67. He was Minister of Rehabilitation during 1954-62 and Minister of Works, Housing and Supply during 1962-1967. Before independence, he had been the Minister of Finance in North-West Frontier Province during 1937-1945. He was a good administrator with strong convictions and was known for his boldness and straight forwardness. He passed away at New Delhi on the 4th June, 1970 at the age of 73.

Shrimati Leela Ray was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1946-47. She was a close associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and a prominent leader of the freedom struggle. She passed away at Calcutta on the 12th June, 1970 at the age of 70.

Shri K. V. Ranga Reddy was a Member of the Provisional Parliament during the years 1950-52. He had also been Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He passed away at Hyderabad on the 24th July, 1970 at the age of 79.

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 HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you just informed us we have lost two distinguished colleagues and two other respected persons who are not members of the present House but were familiar figures in earlier Lok Sabhas.

The House will miss Shri Govinda Menon's powerful voice. As Minister and parliamentarian, he was eloquent and commanded widespread respect. He came to hold the high office of Law and Social Welfare after a long record as a fighter championing the cause of States' people, the cause of labour and the cause of the under-privileged.

He made loyal friends but he did not fight shy of controversies. He never lost sight of the basic objective and he was dogged and resourceful in its pursuit. Reference has just been made by the Hon'ble Speaker to Shri Menon's contribution as member of the Constituent Assembly and Minister in Travancore-Cochin, as well as his work on several committees. He threw all his energies into whatever work he took up. We had evidence of this in the manner in which he piloted the Bank Nationalisation Bill. In spite of his ill-health he worked to the very last. He died in harness, but I am sure that he died with a sense of fulfilment.

Shri Ering's passing away was equally sudden and untimely. As member of the second and fourth Lok Sabhas, and Parliamentary Secretary and Deputy Minister, he proved his talents and made many friends. He was a fine representative of the spirit of NEFA, friendly, cheerful, earnest. He served the hill people of the entire country with all his heart. He was barely 40 when death claimed him, and a fine career was cut off, to the sorrow of all of us.

Shri N. B. Maiti was a member of the Second Lok Sabha. He served Bengal and the country for several decades with devotion and ability. He was one of those who through

their dedication to social work strengthened the fire of our nationalist movement.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was a veteran in our national life. He occupied a high place in the political life of the North-West Frontier Province and, in later years, of Delhi. He shouldered a stupendous burden as Rehabilitation Adviser soon after Partition and subsequently as Minister of Rehabilitation. He helped thousand and lakhs of people to find new homes and start new lives. The records of this House will bear testimony both to his administrative grasp and to the pungency of his contribution to the debates here.

Shri K. V. Ranga Reddi was an elder statesman leader from Andhra Pradesh. He played a prominent role in the movement for democracy within the State and was a member of the Constituent Assembly. Several social service institutions had the benefit of his guidance. I had the privilege of meeting him during one of my recent visits to Hyderabad and we saw that in spite of his poor health he seemed to be full of vigour and deeply interested in the problems of the State.

Shrimati Leela Ray was widely respected for the courage and devotion with which she worked for the nationalist cause braving many dangers. She encouraged and stood by a very large number of revolutionaries. Her work for women's franchise in Bengal and her intrepid services to organise relief at the time of Noakhali riots will be long remembered.

Mr. Speaker, may I request you to send the sympathy and condolences of this House to the families of these former colleagues of ours?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Opposition. I express our deep sense of sorrow at the sad demise of half a dozen distinguished Members of our Parliament.

As had been pointed out just now, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was a tower of strength to the representatives of Delhi and other parts of our country. And, when he served the refugees, he was also having very friendly relations with the people of Pakistan. He was one man who had the courage to say 'no' when it came to his mind. He was very honest, and for that he suffered the consequences as well.

Shri Nikunj Bihari Maiti was also one of the most powerful personalities of West Bengal and by his selfless work he rose to be a Cabinet Minister of West Bengal. Here also, in Parliament, he showed his mark, and all those who knew him personally knew that here was a forceful personality. Death has virtually deprived us of one of the best friends one can have.

Just as the demise of Shri Mehr Chand Khanna has orphaned refugees who have come from Pakistan or East Bengal, similarly, the death of Shri Nikunj Bihari Maiti has orphaned the people of Midnapore who are in a terrible plight these days.

Mr. D. Ering was also one of the colourful personalities coming from the north-eastern part of our country, as it is in the case of Mr. Menon, who came from the south-western part of our country. And both of them, as had been pointed out, served the nation in their own way.

Shrimati Leela Ray was known throughout the country, and more particularly in eastern India. As you yourself pointed out, Sir, she had the privilege of working with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and the nation understands the valuable services that had been rendered by Shrimati Leela Ray.

Shri K. V. Ranga Reddy was also a very powerful personality. He was ex-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and he fought throughout his life for improving the lot of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I request you, Sir, to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, death has made its melancholy contribution this time in a very large measure. A number of these friend, happen to be my personal friends.—Mr. Ranga Reddy, Mr. Menon and Mr. Khanna, and Mr. Ering too.

Mr. Ranga Reddy was a veteran leader of the Andhra people, more especially of Telengana. He never wanted Andhra Pradesh, but he was patriotic enough to agree to it under protest. And, when later on troubles arose, he raised his powerful voice in favour of the Telangana people. Though very old and ailing

at that time, he was able to stand up for the special demand of the Telengana people, for their own separate Statehood. He was a very honest Minister both after the achievement of Andhra Pradesh and before, and during the State people's struggle, he played a leading role. Although he did not know English, he carried on his ministerial functions through the medium of Urdu wherever he had to record his minutes. He established a very high reputation indeed for his ability and for his erudition.

Shri Khanna was a personal friend of so many of us. He was a tower of strength, as Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has said, to the Congress in the pre-Independence days. After he became Minister, he was not popular with many people, but he did his work in a very competent, able and self-confident manner.

Shri Menon was one of our colleagues on the States people's front. But he made a very good contribution to the people of Kerala when they were struggling against their local princes. Even on the very last occasion when he had to make a speech here in this House, one could see, as I had observed to him on the very next day, how he was moved more by his passion for improving the condition of the people of the States than by the merits of the case that he was obliged to sponsor here, and when I mentioned it to him, he was good-humoured enough to say, 'After all, the past guides so many of our present actions'. It happened to work with him on the Public Undertakings Committee, and he was always cheerful and considerate about other people's views.

Shri Ering brought cheerfulness into this House. It was very difficult for anyone to remember that he was a minister at all or he belonged to the Ministerial party. He was so charming, so friendly and chummy with everyone. That such a young man should have been snatched away from us is one of the harshest things that death could have hurled at us.

Shrimati Ray was known to us all; she was a very dear colleague of Netaji.

Shri Maiti was also one of our colleagues and most respected in West Bengal and also by so many of us.

[Shri Ranga]

We mourn the death of all these friends.

श्री छटल बिहारी ब्राह्मण्येयी (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मृत्यु शरीर का धर्म है। लेकिन जब मृत्यु का प्रहार भरी जवानी में होता है और श्री एरिंग जैसे नौजवान हमारे बीच से उठ जाते हैं तब मुझे संस्कृत के कवि का वह कथन याद आता है जिसमें उन्होंने शरीर की तुलना एक पिजड़े से की है, ऐसा पिजड़ा जिसमें नौ द्वार हैं और उस पिजड़े में पवन का पक्षी निवास करता है। वह पक्षी कब उड़कर चला जायेगा कोई नहीं जानता। कोई कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता था कि श्री एरिंग की मृत्यु के रूप में हमारे ऊपर इतना क्रूर प्रहार होगा। कल तक वह हमारे साथ थे। आज हम उनकी स्मृति में अपनी श्रद्धांजलि समर्पित कर रहे हैं।

यही बात श्री गोविन्द मैनन पर भी लागू होती है। यद्यपि आयु में वह थोड़े बड़े थे लेकिन सक्रिय थे और अपने विचारों के प्रकाश में देश की सेवा में संलग्न थे। ये दोनों महा-नुभाव श्री गोविन्द मैनन और श्री एरिंग जीवन के आखिरी क्षणों तक काम करते रहे। मुझे बताया गया है कि यदि श्री गोविन्द मैनन डाक्टरों के विश्राम के परामर्श को मान लेते तो शायद मृत्यु टल जाती। लेकिन बिस्तर पर पड़े हुए फाइलें देखना, विश्राम के क्षण में भी काम करना, सचमुच में यह उस पीढ़ी का गुण था, जिसके व्यक्ति एक-एक करके हमारे बीच में से उठते जा रहे हैं और उस दृष्टि से हमारा सार्वजनिक जीवन अकिञ्चन बनता जा रहा है।

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना इस सदन में मंत्री के रूप में और सदन के बाहर सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित थे। वह पठानों के खेल से आते थे और हमने उनका पठानपन देखा, जिसका सम्बन्ध उपासना की पद्धति से नहीं, देश की मिट्टी से था। व्यवहार में, हाव-भाव में और आचरण में वह उसी तरह का दबंगपन दिखाते थे। उन्होंने अपना सार्वजनिक जीवन हिन्दू महासभा के सदस्य के रूप में प्रारम्भ किया।

देश की स्वाधीनता के पश्चात् वह भारत आये और विस्थापितों की यथा-साध्य सेवा में लगे।

श्री एन० बी० मंत्री को मैंने सदन के सदस्य के रूप में कार्यरत देखा है। शान्त और गम्भीर, वह पश्चिमी बंगाल की समस्याओं को राष्ट्रीय रंग-मंच पर उपस्थित करने का प्रयत्न करते रहते थे। श्रीमती लीला राय और श्री रंगा रेड्डी भी हमारे साथियों में से थे। उनके निधन पर आज हम अपनी हार्दिक संवेदना प्रकट कर रहे हैं और आप से अनुरोध करते हैं कि उनके शोक-संतप्त परिवारों तक हमारी भावनायें पहुँचाये।

SHRI MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you, the Prime Minister and Leader of the House and other colleagues in this House. On behalf of my Party, please convey our heart felt condolences to the members of the bereaved families of these friends.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North) : Mr. Speaker, every recess takes its toll of our colleagues, and this time it was a fairly long obituary list.

We all miss Shri Govinda Menon who died virtually in harness, something which, I believe, most of us also would like to do. We miss him because of the qualities of which he gave abundant evidence, an alert mind, a certain amount of intellectual curiosity and considerable parliamentary capacity.

The death of Shri Ering, as my hon. friend Shri Vajpayee, pointed out is something even more excruciating because he was so young, so cheerful, so full of life and vitality. Those whom the Gods love die young, they say, but it is a kind of proceeding which men cannot be expected to approve.

Shri Maiti was a member of the Second Lok Sabha and we had known him not only as a colleague but as a vigorous participant in the freedom movement, coming as he did particularly from that area in Bengal, namely Midnapore, which has produced a very large number of freedom fighters.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna had a variegated and colourful life, and we knew him here as a good friend, a person with whom it was a pleasure to sit down for a while, and a man who did possess nearly outstanding capabilities in certain respects.

Shrimati Leela Ray had the distinction of having become in her own lifetime something of a legend in Bengal and as an associate of Subhas Chandra Bose she has left a mark in our freedom struggle which would not be easily obliterated.

Shri Ranga Reddy was another stalwart from Andhra Pradesh. All these friends of ours having departed, I should like you to convey on behalf of my party our sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Madurai) : Mr. Speaker, this time the obituary list has been rather unusually long; some of these persons I had known personally, rather intimately and some, not so intimately. But they were all eminent in their own spheres, and I should not like to make an invidious distinction between one and another.

Therefore, while associating myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by you and the Leader of the House, I request you to convey the condolences of my party to the bereaved families.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, भूतपूर्व और वर्तमान सदस्यों में से हमारे छः साथी हमको छोड़कर चले गये हैं। एरिंग साहब के निधन पर हम सभी लोगों को विशेष अफसोस इसलिए है कि वह आनन्दी और हंसमुख व्यक्ति भी थे और जवान भी थे। श्रीमती लीलाराय का नाम बंगाल के क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। वह नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस की अनुयायी थीं। 1952 के बाद समाजवादी आन्दोलन में हम सहयोगी बन गये थे।

श्री गोविन्द मेनन इस सरकार के एक प्रमुख मन्त्री थे और यह सदन जानता है कि विभिन्न वाद-विवादों में वह सरकार का पक्ष बड़ी योग्यता के साथ रखते थे। 1967 के चुनाव में जब

कांग्रेस पार्टी के सभी उम्मीदवार केरल में हार गए, तब अकेले श्री गोविन्द मेनन ही थे, जो उस समय भी जीते थे। श्री गोविन्द मेनन केवल कानूनी मामलों में ही नहीं, सामाजिक सुधार के मामलों में भी काफी दिलचस्पी रखते थे। जब हम उनके पास हरिजन-आदिवासियों के मामले भेजते थे, तो वह उनमें व्यक्तिगत रुचि लेते थे। मुझे याद है कि आखिरी दिन एक सामाजिक सुधार वाले विधेयक—स्पेशल मैरिज एक्ट में संशोधन वाले विधेयक—को करवाने हेतु वह देर तक लोक सभा में बंटे थे। उसी तरह पिछले वर्ष फारेन मैरिजिज बिल को भी, जो एक असेंसें राज्य सभा और लोक सभा के सामने पड़ा हुआ था, पास करवाने के लिए उन्होंने बड़ी मेहनत की। गोविन्द मेनन साहब के निधन से न केवल सरकारी दल की, बल्कि पूरे सदन और देश की हानि हुई है।

श्रीमती और श्री रंगा रेड्डी के बारे में मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करूँगा कि हमारे ये जो छः सहयोगी चले गये हैं, उनके शोक-संतप्त परिवारों तक आप हमारी संवेदना पहुँचायें। मैं फिर एक दफा अपनी ओर से और अपने दल की ओर से उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, during the past few years it has not been possible for Lok Sabha to commence its session without having to bemoan the death of some of our colleagues. Today we are reminded, therefore, of Gurudev's description of the inexorable law of life—death is abroad and children play.

No one thought that Ering so full of life and so full of promise would be so quickly struck down by death. Those of us who came to know him learnt to like him because he was a living rebuttal of some strange theories now and then popping up their ugly head in the country, that there are some ethnic groups which do not belong to the mainstream of India and therefore secession is advisable.

[Shri Nath Pai]

One had only to meet Mr. Ering to see the hollowness of this sinister kind of claim.

Mr. Govinda Menon was, I think, the first Law Minister this Government had and who was the first man to take the Law Ministry seriously. He brought all his talent and skill to defend very often the very indefensible steps of this Government, but everything he did, he did with great dignity, great conviction and great sincerity. I am a fairly old man in this House, Mr. Speaker, and I have observed many Law Ministers come and go. I do not think anybody regarded the law portfolio as anything excepting a stepping-stone to some better favour to be conferred by the Prime Minister subsequently. Mr. Govinda Menon was the first man to take the Law Ministry very seriously and the law portfolio very seriously and he gave the best in him to this portfolio. It was indeed, as Prof. Mukerjee said, that he died in harness discharging his duties to the very last.

Mr. Mehr Chand Khanna had died at a ripe age having had a very distinguished record of service to this country. We saw him in this House functioning with great efficiency and competence. It was not always possible for us to agree with what he had to say, but it was always a pleasure to cross swords with him. So far as I remember, he loved combat and he brought an aplomb to the way he had to give answers or to defend the Government.

In Mr. Maiti and Mr. Reddy we have lost equally distinguished sons of the country.

I would like to conclude my tributes by specially making a reference to Shrimati Leela Ray. She symbolised the best in Indian womanhood. She was among the remaining few representatives of that great tradition of revolution which ultimately ushered the dawn of independence. Some of us, as Shri Madhu Limaye pointed out, had the honour of having respected and admired her from a distance and later on had the rare privilege of working with her in the socialist cause. When it was not appropriated so lightheartedly, and when it was a very difficult and very dangerous thing to embark upon the cause of socialism, Shrimati Leela Ray was among the very few dauntless and courageous

souls who held the flag aloft. I join the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and my other colleagues in paying my homage and tribute to these departed colleagues and offering our sincerest condolences to the members of their families.

SHRI N. C. CHATTERJI (Bardwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my duty on behalf of the Independent Parliamentary Group to join the Prime Minister and other leaders and offer our sincerest condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. P. Govinda Menon. He had a remarkable record. At a very early age he became a member of the Cochin Legislature. The next year he was appointed a Minister, and ultimately he became the Chief Minister. When the Travancore-Cochin State was formed he took a very prominent part in the activities of that State. Then he came here and rendered service to the Government, I am perfectly sure that everybody will agree that there were very few men who could compete with him in really pressing a case. I had seen him in court, and I tell you honestly that if it was enough to put a thing in three sentences, he would never go in for the fourth. It is a great loss and we wish to convey our sympathies to the members of his bereaved family.

With regard to Mr. Mehr Chand Khanna, I would like to say a few words. The first time I met him was in the Bhagalpur jail. Dr. Moonje, myself and Mr. Khaparde were arrested in connection with the mass Satyagraha and taken to that jail. In the next cell, when I went in, I found a Pathan, and I asked him, "Who are you? Are you a Pathan?" He immediately said "I am a Pathan." I asked, "What is the Pathan doing in Hindu Maha Sabha?" He stood up and said, "I am a Hindu Pathan and I am trying to do what you and others are doing in Bengal." Then I said he must be Mehr Chand Khanna. On the first of January next year we were still in jail. We found that the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, Mr. Gokhale, was made a C. I. E. Shri Mehr Chand Khanna asked me to ring him up. I rang him up from the jail. ~~Imme-~~

diately the Commissioner came out of the bathroom and rushed to the phone.

His first word was, "Sir, I am sorry I wish we could change places. I said, "I do not want to talk to you. Mehr Chand Khanna wants to talk to you." Mehr Chand took up the telephone and said, "What is it you are saying?" He said, "Sir, I wish we could change places." Mr. Khanna said, "It is very impertinent. I am a senior Commander. How do you, a junior Commander of the Indian Empire aspire to be in the Central Jail at Bhagalpur? You should be sent to some district jail."

The tragedy came on the partition of India and Bengal was flooded with refugees. He was sent by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Calcutta and I had the privilege to have him in my house as my guest. He did phenomenal work and I helped him in establishing contact with the refugee population. When he became Rehabilitation Minister, he did a remarkable thing. He took his office down to Calcutta and started functioning from there. Sir, Bengal today is passing through critical times. From 1st January up till now more than 1,50,000 people have been pushed out of East Pakistan and they have come here. They are in a very very bad plight. I appealed to the Minister, Mr. Sanjivayya, that he should follow the example of Mehr Chand Khanna, open an office in Calcutta and come down here for a few days. I am happy to tell you that Mehr Chand Khanna's example had also inspired our present Rehabilitation Minister. He sent down some big officers and they have established some contact with the local Government. I hope something better will be done. This is a great loss and a great tragedy. But I tell you, the uprooted humanity in independent India will remember Mehr Chand Khanna for his services to the country.

I join with the other friends in offering my condolences in the other cases, especially Mrs. Ray, who was a great freedom fighter. I hope, Sir, you will pass on our sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.

श्री प्रकाश और शास्त्री (हाफुड़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री गोविन्द मेनन की राष्ट्रीय और सामाजिक सेवाओं से देशवासी और यह संसद अच्छी तरह परिचित है। परन्तु उनके राष्ट्रीय

जीवन के लिए कुछ इस प्रकार के भी योगदान थे जिनसे अधिकतर लोग बहुत कम परिचित थे। मुझे उनके साथ विधि मंत्रालय की एक दो उप-समितियों में कार्य करने का अवसर मिला और उसके आधार पर मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि विधि मंत्रालय में जो हिन्दी का कार्य प्रारम्भ हुआ है विशेष रूप से सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों के जो निर्णय हिन्दी में प्रकाशित होने प्रारम्भ हुए हैं या संसद में जो मूल रूप में हिन्दी में विधेयक प्रारम्भ होने की तैयारियाँ थीं, इस सम्बन्ध में श्री गोविन्द मेनन का योगदान निश्चित रूप से भारत के इतिहास का विषय बनेगा। मैं यह भी चाहूँगा कि श्री गोविन्द मेनन ने जो यह कार्य प्रारम्भ किया था उसको उनके उत्तराधिकारी श्री हनुमन्तैया बड़ी खूबी के साथ निभायेंगे।

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना हमारे देश के एक इस प्रकार के नेताओं में से थे कि जो परेशानी के काम को जानबूझ कर अपने कर्घों पर लेते थे लेकिन बड़े आनन-फानन उसको निपटाते थे। विभाजन के बाद हमारे देश में जो शरणार्थी आए, श्री खन्ना ने मंत्री के रूप में भी और एक समाज सेवी के रूप में भी उनकी सेवाएँ कीं और मैंने निकट से देखा कि इस प्रकार के उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण काम को लेने के बाद भी कभी उनके चेहरे पर परेशानी की झलक नहीं आई। हमेशा प्रसन्न ही वह दिखाई देते थे।

हमारे तीसरे मित्र श्री डी० एरिंग जिनका इस अल्प आयु में देहावसान हुआ, उनके निधन से हम सभी दुखी हैं। मेरा उनसे जब भी मिलना हुआ मैंने उन्हें हमेशा हँसते और मुस्कराते ही देखा। नेफा के जंगलों में भी हमने उन्हें कार्य करते हुए देखा और तब मैंने नेफा के जंगलों के निवासियों के बीच में उनकी लोकप्रियता का अनुमान लगाया।

इन सभी मित्रों के देहावसान पर मैं स्वयं और अपने साथियों की ओर से श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और आप से यह प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि

उनके परिवारों तक हमारी समवेदना अवश्य पहुँचा दें।

SHRI M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL (Manjeri) : Sir, on behalf of myself and my party, the Muslim League, I join in the tribute paid to the memory of Shri P. Govinda Menon, a personality which distinguished itself in more than one way, and also all the other amiable and known gentlemen and the lady whose names have been placed before the house. The memory of all these gentlemen and the lady fully deserve the homage paid by the House, and I request that our condolences also may be conveyed to the members of the bereaved families of the various distinguished gentlemen and the lady whose death we are mourning here today.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect for those whose death we mourn.

[The members then stood in silence for a short while.]

MR. SPEAKER : The leaders of all the parties have expressed the wish that the House should adjourn today as a mark of respect for the deceased members. Normally, the precedent is that we do not adjourn as a mark of respect for those who died during the inter-session period. Since this desire has been expressed unanimously by all, as a special case in this session, I adjourn the House today to reassemble tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

11:43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 28, 1970 Shrawana 6, 1892 (Saka).