

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 29, 1970 | Sravana 7,  
1892 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Pattom A. Thanu Pillai who passed away at Trivandrum on 26th July, 1970 at the age of 85.

Shri Thanu Pillai was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1948-50. He was one of the prominent figures in The Kerala politics and had been the Chief Minister of the erstwhile State of Travancore and later of Kerala. He had also been the Governor of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. He was a scholar, an administrator with wide knowledge and information on international affairs.

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 PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiments which you have just expressed regarding Shri Thanu Pillai. Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai was a man of the masses and

a sturdy fighter. He had a long life which was full of great achievements. He was one of the founders of the State Congress in Travancore. He moulded the public life of Kerala and dominated it for several decades. It was only to be expected that he should be chosen to the Constituent Assembly which drafted the nation's political charter. You have referred to Shri Thanu Pillai's work as Chief Minister of Kerala and as Governor of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. I have known Shri Thanu Pillai for many years. I was struck by his alert mind, his wide interests, his sturdy optimism and his lively sense of humour and also by his intense concern for the common people and for the problems of Kerala. We lose a stalwart and our deep sympathies go out Mrs. Thanu Pillai and other members of the family. I request you to convey our condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : On behalf of the Opposition I join you, Mr. Speaker, in mourning the death of another great son of India, Mr. Thanu Pillai who dominated the life of our country so far. Though he belonged to the PSP, I had seen him carrying the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi to Kanya Kumari on his death and over a million people following him in paying tribute to the Father of the nation. As Chief Minister of Kerala he commanded the confidence of the people. He also gave that State new ideas and a good administration. As Governor of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh those who knew him know what the condition of Raj Bhawan was at that time, I do not say that there has been any deterioration. But everybody could see Mr. Thanu Pillai's work as Governor of Punjab and also of Andhra Pradesh. He was so regular in his life. He was so experienced and well versed with Indian politics and also world politics ; all information was at his finger.

tips and he could say who was what in what Pradesh politics. A man of that type comes seldom. He has passed away. We are sorry that for two or three days it was not possible for us to pay him our tribute. He also tried to end the tyranny of the Congress party; at that time we were in the Congress. He had the courage to leave the Congress and join the other parties to correct the Congress. For all these qualities I pay tribute to his memory on behalf of the opposition and request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi) :** I associate the Swatantra Party with the sentiments expressed by hon. Members who preceded me. Since the bells were tolling for so many legislators, I wish that the House should join in a prayer for a kinder disposition of fate.

**श्री बलराज मधोक (दक्षिण दिल्ली) :** अध्यक्ष जी, श्री थानुपिल्ले जी के निधन से एक और वयोवृद्ध नेता हम से बिछुड़ गये। गत वर्ष त्रिवेन्द्रम में उनसे मिलने का अवसर मुझे मिला था। इस आयु में वे जितने एलर्ट थे, जितनी सूझ-बूझ थी, देश के प्रति उनके हृदय में जितना गर्व था, उसको जानकर मुझे बहुत प्रसन्नता हुई। केरल की राजनीति में उनका बहुत बड़ा हाथ था और यदि केरल की राजनीति से उनको गलत ढंग से हटाया न जाता तो शायद केरल की राजनीति का आज कुछ दूसरा रूप होता।

वह सच्चे राष्ट्रवादी थे, लोकतन्त्रवादी थे और उनके होते हुए लोकतन्त्र को केरल में सफलता मिलती, परन्तु आज हमारे बीच में वह नहीं रहे। मैं अपनी ओर से तथा अपने दल की ओर से उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमारी संवेदना उनके परिवार तक पहुँचा दी जाय।

**SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) :** On behalf of my party I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Prime

Minister and other hon. colleagues. Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai was a colourful figure in Indian politics. He played a very dominant role in the States people's struggle against the princely order under the British, and in that struggle he eminently succeeded by seeing to the liberation and unification of the Malayalam-speaking people into one united Kerala there.

I wish to convey, on behalf of my party, our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

**SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) :** I associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed here and I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

**श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने जो भावनायें व्यक्त की हैं, उनके साथ मैं अपने को और अपने दल को भी जोड़ना चाहता हूँ। रियासतों में लोकतान्त्रिक शासन लाने के लिए श्री पत्तमथ नु पिल्ले साहब ने बहुत बड़ा योग दिया था। एक जमाने में वह हमारे दल में थे और हम लोगों को उनके साथ काम करने का सौभाग्य भी प्राप्त हुआ था। बाद में कुछ मतभेद जरूर हुए और जिस ढंग से सत्ताधारी दल ने उनको गवर्नर बनाकर विरोधी दलों को कमजोर करने का प्रयास किया, उसको लेकर जरूर कुछ मतभेद हुए। लेकिन वह देशभक्त थे और त्रिवांकुर में लोकतान्त्रिक शासन लाने के लिये उन्होंने जो अथक प्रयास किया और बलिदान किया, उसके लिये केरल और यह सारा देश उनको हमेशा याद करेगा।

मैं आपसे विनती करता हूँ कि हमारी भावनायें आप संतप्त परिवार तक पहुँचा दें।

**SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN (Trivandrum) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself and my party, the PSP, with the sentiments expressed by you, the Prime Minister and the other leaders.

[Shri P. Viswambharan]

I belong to a generation in my part of the country which was inspired to plunge into the freedom struggle by the dedicated leadership of Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai. and I had the good fortune to be one of his close associates for about a quarter of a century. In those days, when princely autocracy outbid British tyranny in trying to suppress the popular movement, it was Shri Thanu Pillai who along with the other two later lamented leaders, Shri T. M. Verghese and Shri G. Kesavan, rallied the people of then Travancore State to join the mainstream of the national movement for freedom.

He led the movement to success in the State. He was a fearless fighter and a leader of extraordinary courage and great under standing, who never retraced his steps in the face of heavy odds.

Shri Thanu Pillai was the resident of the Travancore State Congress for 12 years and the Chairman of the State praja Socialist party for nearly 10 years. He was one of the top leaders of the All India State People's Conference.

He had the unique distinction of leading a party majority Government in Travancore a minority Government in Travancore-Cochin and after that a coalition Government in Kerala, and subsequently, of holding the gubernatorial office in two States; namely Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. He was one of the ablest administrators of India.

Sir, I request you, on behalf of my party, to convey the condolences of our party also to the bereaved family.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR** (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a deep sense of regret that I join the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister and other speakers. During the 12 years of political campaign and struggle in Travancore, I was one of his very intimate colleagues, and the trials and tribulations that we went through cannot be conceived of by the people in British India. Shri Thanu Pillai was a proud, honest and courageous

leaders. The stalwart leaders for 12 year in the incessant political struggle in the State of Travancore became the hero of the nation, of the State and of the people and became a first class top-ranking leader. His unbending nature, honesty and integrity are some of the things known to every body. No leader however tall, including the tallest in the country, used to talk to him in an off hand manner and he was highly respected. It was our misfortune than during the first period of the independence of Travancore and of India, he could not continue as Chief Minister for even ten months. From then on the evils of Kerala started. Insecurity and instability started from then on. After trying on several occasions through several parties to steady the political set-up in Kerala, he left the stage and became Governor.

India has lost one of her noblest sons and on behalf of myself and my Group I request you to convey our sympathies to the bereaved family.

**SHRI VASUDEVEAN NAIR** (Peer-made; Sir, in the demise of Pattom Thanu Pillai, the country has lost one of her illustrious sons and the State of Kerala has lost its elder statesman. When people of my generation were only of the school-going age, even at that time Thanu Pillai was a towering personality in the political scene of our State. In that way, we have seen him fighting against the despotic princely regime in the old State of Travancore. All his achievements have been related here by my hon. friends, I should like to associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by you as well as the Leader of the House and the leaders of the various parties in this House.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN** (Badagara) : Sir, the passing away of the Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai the end of an epoch generally in India and particularly in Kerala. He belonged to that generation of patriots who were incorruptible, who loved this country more than anything else and also who were prepared to sacrifice anything for the cause of India. I had the good fortune to work

under him for ten long years as Secretary of the party over which he Presided. He had the unique distinction of being the Chief Minister of three States. He was first the Prime Minister of Travancore. Then he was Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin. Finally he became Chief Minister of Kerala. His record of services, his integrity and honesty have left unforgettable footprints on the sands of time. Which paying my humble homage to his hallowed memory I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the leaders of various parties over his death.

SHRI M. MOHAMMAD ISMAIL (Manjeri) : Sir, the late Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai possessed a dynamic and distinguished personality. He was one of the foremost figures in the struggle for freedom of the country. He was a great scholar. At the same time, he had a fund of humour and capacity to tolerate the view of others. His departure from our midst is really a loss not only to Kerala but to the whole country, because he was an outstanding example of what a gentleman should be. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all the previous speakers, by you and by the Leader of the house. I request you to convey the condolences of myself and my party, the Muslim League, to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री रघुबीरसिंह शास्त्री (बागपत) : श्रीमान्, श्री पत्तमथानु पिल्ले के निधन से हमारे देश के राजनीतिक क्षितिज का एक वह बहुत चमकता हुआ नक्षत्र अस्त हो गया है। उनका आदर्श जीवन हम सब के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत रहा। मैं उन महापुरुष के निधन पर अपने दल की ओर से हार्दिक शोक प्रकट करता हूँ और उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the memory of the departed leader, the House may stand in silence for a short while.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

### Mass Exodus of Minority Community from East Pakistan

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\*61. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :  
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :  
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :  
SHRI RABI RAY :  
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people of the minority community who have come from East Pakistan in the year 1970 as also in 1969;

(b) the reasons for this exodus;

(c) whether Government took up this matter with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, with what result ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) 9768 persons belonging to the minority community came over from East Pakistan to India in 1969. During the current year 1,45,595 such persons came over up to 17-7-70.

(b) the exodus is taking place on account of a number of reasons including insecure conditions of living, economic distress and discriminatory treatment meted out to the minority communities in East Pakistan. The situation has been worsened by the propaganda carried out by communal parties during the current election campaign.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) So far the Government of Pakistan have not taken any effective steps to stop this exodus by providing security of life,