

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

just heard the President refer in his speech to the Kumbh Mela tragedy. I have no doubt that every Member of this House as well as elsewhere will associate himself with our deep sorrow and our sympathy and condolence with not only those who are bereaved, the families of those who have suffered in this tragedy, but with many others.

This is hardly the occasion for me to go into any facts of this terrible occurrence, partly because the matter is under enquiry by a distinguished committee, and partly because the State Government concerned is dealing with the matter. Some of us here were certainly present at the Kumbh Mela on this occasion, though they may not have been on the actual scene of this tragedy. I was in the Mela itself when this tragedy took place. In fact, I was in a rather high place—in the balcony of the Fort—having a distant view of the whole of that mighty concourse of human beings. I do not think that anyone who saw that enormous multitude—it is estimated that at least four million people had gathered together—can ever forget it. It came as a deep sorrow that, during this tremendous event when so many people had gathered together, there should have been this tragedy in which many suffered death.

As I said, I do not wish to go into the facts of this occurrence at this stage, but I think that it is right that we should begin our work today with our expression of sorrow and condolence.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat) rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no occasion for a speech now.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know what has happened to the adjournment motion?

**Mr. Speaker:** That will come in due course; not now.

I entirely associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. the

Leader of the House. The tragedy was so sudden and so wide, in a sense affecting everyone in the whole of the Indian Union, that it has moved every heart to its depth. I think it is but proper that we should express our deep sorrow and our condolence to the families of the deceased and others who have suffered. We shall express our condolence and sympathy by standing in silence for two minutes.

*(The House stood in silence for two minutes.)*

#### DEATH OF SHRI NAMDHARI

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to inform the House of the passing away of Shri Atma Singh Namdhari who was a sitting Member of the House, at the age of 53.

We mourn the loss of Shri Namdhari and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to his family. The House may stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

*(The House stood in silence for a minute.)*

#### DETENTION OF SHRI BHAJAHARI MAHATA

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication from the Magistrate, 1st Class, Purulia, Manbhum, Bihar:—

"22nd January, 1954.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty in exercise of my powers under section 502 Cr.P.C. 1898 to direct that Shri Bhajahari Mahata, Member of the House of the People, [a report against whom under section 9(5) of the Bihar Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1949, has been received by me] be detained for the reason that his bailor Shri Sahadeb Chakrabarty who stood surety for him on 21-1-54 when he appeared in my