

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 21st April, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(No Questions: Part I not published)

DEATH OF SHRI D. D. PANT

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, we are meeting today under the shadow of a deep sorrow at the sudden unexpected demise of a colleague of ours who was all life and active till yesterday afternoon. It was only at about one O'clock in the lobby that I met him quite hale and hearty and one is shocked that he should have passed away in very tragic circumstances. Shri D. D. Pant died, as the House now knows, in a road accident. He was a Member of the Provisional Parliament also. He was of a very genial nature. I am sure all of us mourn his loss and at this hour our sympathies go to the family of the deceased in their sad bereavement.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Sir, you have already referred to the shadow under which we are meeting here this morning. Shri D. D. Pant, I understand, delivered his speech here yesterday; at least he was seen in the lobbies. His sudden death which came so very unexpectedly has given a rude shock to every Member of this House. Shri D. D. Pant was a unique type. He had a pure soul and a clean and generous heart. He never cherished any malice against anybody.

He was an incorrigible democrat. He found himself at home among the masses and the downtrodden people. He was highly cultured and wherever he went the atmosphere was imbued with the spirit of cheerfulness. He knew no bounds whether of class or creed. He devoted his whole life to the service of the country. He took an active part in the struggle for independence and thereafter he undertook any and every task that was ever assigned to him with similar zeal and energy. He was even now closely associated with the Congress organisation and was the President of the Congress Committee of his district. He had a large number of friends and I imagine he was perhaps one of the most popular figures in this House. He practised many virtues and one of them was *aparigraha*. He died penniless. He lived in another man's house and had no belongings of his own, I think. We mourn the death of a truly good man and as you have been pleased to observe, Sir, on behalf of this House, we shall be grateful if you will convey our sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker: The Members may now stand in silence for a minute.

Members then stood in silence for a minute.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the funeral procession will start at about 1-30 P.M. In view of the previous practice of the House, the House may adjourn now to enable the hon. Members to attend the funeral. The House may meet tomorrow.

The House then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 22nd April, 1955.