

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Vol. VI. First Day of the Fourth Session of First Parliament of India No. 1

I

2

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 3rd August, 1953

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(No Questions: Part I not published)

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Y. Gadilingana Gowd (Kurnool).

DEATHS OF DR. S. P. MOOKERJEE, PANDIT L. K. MAITRA AND SHRI A. H. GHUZNAVI

The Prime Minister and Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Before the House commences its work in this session, I beg your leave, Sir, to refer to the passing away of two Members of the present House and one of the previous Parliament. All Members of the House know of these sad events.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who was one of the leading figures of this House and a Leader of the Opposition, and who played a very important part in the work of this House for the last few years, passed away in peculiarly unfortunate cir-

cumstances, in detention. In any event his passing away would have been sad and a great blow to this House and the country, but in the peculiar circumstances in which this took place, naturally this added to our sorrow.

The other Member,—an old Member, one of the oldest, perhaps,—Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, is also no more and he is missed by a very large number of his friends here.

A third Member of the previous House passed away, Mr. Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, and I should like to bring his name also to your notice, on this occasion.

Now, it is not necessary for me to say much about these old colleagues of ours with whom we have worked together and with whom we have differed also. But I would say, whether we worked together or differed, we had a certain regard for each other and tried to carry out our work with that respect which is due to people even when they differ.

It had been my privilege to work with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Government for a number of years and then, later when he left Government, in opposition. When he was in opposition I naturally came in contact with him a good many times. We differed sometimes very deeply on many issues and we agreed too on many issues and it is a matter of peculiar regret and grief to me that in the last days of his life an occasion arose on which there was very