

[The President]

The progress of a people and of a nation ultimately depends upon education. My Government views with much concern the present state of education in the country which suffers in many ways, both in quality and quantity, and too much attention is paid to the granting of diplomas and degrees and not to the real improvement of the individual in cultural, scientific and technical matters and, above all, in the training for good citizenship. Basic education has been adopted as the model, but progress in this has thus far been unfortunately slow. Many schemes for the improvement of basic, secondary and social education are under consideration, and a Commission on Secondary Education has been appointed.

An over-all view of the situation in India indicates all-round general progress at an increasing pace. This is a matter for satisfaction. But the goal we have set before us is still far and requires greater and continuous effort and an increasing pace of change. We aim at a Welfare State in which all the people of this country are partners, sharing alike the benefits and the obligations. So long as there is poverty and unemployment, a section of the community derives no benefit from this partnership. It is, therefore, necessary for us to aim at full and productive employment.

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1953-54 will be laid before you. The Members of the House of the People will be required to consider and pass the demands for grants.

The House of the People will also be asked to vote supplementary grants to meet additional expenditure during the current financial year.

There are 24 Bills pending before you. Some of them have passed the Committee stage. A few of them, which are still under consideration by the Committees, will be brought before you with their recommendations during the course of this session.

Among the other legislative measures that it is intended to bring before you, the following may be especially mentioned: The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, the Bill on National Housing, the Air Services Corporation Bill, the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, and the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill.

I earnestly trust that wisdom and tolerance and the spirit of co-operative endeavour will guide you in your labours and will yield results for the good of the country and the people whom we are all privileged to serve.

DEATHS OF SHRI GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR, SHRI NALINI RANJAN SARKAR AND SHRI V. I. MUNI- SWAMI PILLAI

The Prime Minister and Leader of the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is my misfortune and an unpleasant duty from time to time to refer in this House to the passing away of a colleague. I bring no news to this House, because all of us are aware of the fact that early yesterday morning Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar died in Madras. We have also learnt of his funeral, at which both the Government and the people showed all respect and honour. We have also just heard the views of the President on this unfortunate and deplorable occurrence.

All of us in Government have been connected closely with Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar—some of us for a longer period than others. Ever since, a little over six years ago, some of us associated ourselves with the Government we were together. Some had a different background from others. Many of those who formed the Government then and now had been closely connected with the national movement and had been partners in the ups and downs of that movement for a number of decades. When we came into the Government naturally, it was our desire to have the association and help of others also, so that we might be able to serve the country to the best of our joint ability.

Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar was among those who became associated with us in this arduous task. During all these years, he carried one of the heaviest burdens of any in the Government. Not only was he in charge of Ministries which required a very great deal of—if I may say so—wisdom and perseverance and tact, but more and more his colleagues relied upon him, relied upon his experience, and took advice from him in regard to many other matters which were not even connected with his Ministry. We came to think of him as an elder statesman who was very wise, very experienced, very tolerant, very understanding, and always willing to share any burden with others. So, whether it was the intricate problem of Kashmir or any other, he was the expert to whom we went. Indeed, as Members well know, some years back he was the Prime Minister of Kashmir

for five years or more. Whether it was matters relating to Pakistan, or whether it was the very difficult question of rehabilitation of our refugees, it was to Shri Gopaldaswami Ayyangar that we went for advice and it was he who came to us with his advice, and even when we had to send some kind of a messenger abroad for a special purpose to confer with others, we turned to him. I mention these matters because of the wide variety of ways in which he served the country and the Government.

But behind all that was this ripe wisdom, this tolerance of approach, this friendliness, this lack of hurry—if I may say so—in arriving at a decision and considering every factor, so that whatever advice he gave us was valuable, and influenced us. When I think of all these five or six years, I realise how very greatly all of us depended upon him and more especially I depended upon him. When he fell ill some months ago and gradually it became clear to us that it was unlikely that he will survive, we battled in our minds against that growing conviction, because we did not wish it to happen and because the consequences of it were most disagreeable to think of. So, we perhaps deluded ourselves into thinking that he would get over this illness and survive and come back to us to help us again in our work. But there was going to be no coming back and ultimately, a day and a half ago, he passed away and in spite of long preparation that our minds had had about his illness, nevertheless when the final news came it was a blow to all of us.

To us in Government it means a very special burden and difficulty. I can hardly express to this House what a great difference it makes to me in many ways, for he was—apart from what I have said—a great colleague and wise person to go to in difficulty. He was a friend, whose friendship I had begun to value very much. He was dear to me and he had, if I may use the word, “grown” upon me as he had grown upon others, because our backgrounds were different. We had met after wandering along different pathways of life. We had no doubt heard of each other and occasionally seen each other from a distance, but we hardly knew each other. But fate and circumstances threw us together. It was not, if I may so put it, love at first sight but a gradual recognition of the growing up of a friendship, a friendship which grew deeper and sounder as time went by. So, this

uprooting of all that had happened in this connection during the last six years creates a gap and almost a wound which one does not easily see now it will heal quickly. The burden on some of us grows, and together with that a certain feeling of loneliness also creeps in, because some of us more or less belong to that generation that is passing away. We have to shoulder the burden as best as we can and we shall try to do that to the utmost of our ability and strength. Nevertheless, time passes and generations pass and others take their place. So, all those factors come to mind and one looks back and one looks to the present and one looks to the future, and one thinks with regret of some of the giants who are no more. Nevertheless, we have to shoulder this burden, and all of us together if we share it, it becomes a little lighter.

I hope, Sir, that you will be good enough to convey the feelings, not mine alone, but of the Government and of this House to the lady, his wife, and to the other relatives of the family, of our deep sorrow at his death and of the great regard we had for him. I am quite sure that every Member of the House will join me in this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I fully associate myself with everything that has been said regarding late Shri Gopaldaswami Ayyangar. He has been an elder brother to all of us. In his death the nation has lost one of its ablest administrators and a very great statesman. Though he joined service under the other Government which we superseded, he worked and he won the confidence of all that were about him. And even then they found him so able, so honest and straightforward, that they nominated him to this House and for many years in that capacity as a Member of this House, he did yeoman's service to the country. He was also a Member of the Council of States. His association with Jammu and Kashmir as its Dewan infused confidence in the minds of the people and then he was sent to the United Nations to head our Delegation to represent that cause.

He was always lovable, had very sweet manners and anybody, young or old alike, could approach him, and when he went and came back, he returned with a feeling that Mr. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar would do what he could to help him. We have lost one of our elder statesmen, who would always help us without any ostentation. Such a man we have lost—the country has lost. Though we would wish that he should have

Ayyangar, Shri
Nalini Ranjan Sarkar
and Shri V. I.
Muniswami Pillai

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

been spared for us for a longer time, God willed otherwise. He lived a full and whole life and passed away at the age of seventy-one. I am sure his soul will rest in peace and will have an abiding place in providence. I am sure that the House will agree in this expression of feeling of deep sense of sorrow to the departed soul and will allow me to convey to the members of the bereaved family their sentiments and their expression of sorrow.

I shall also read to the House a few lines which the hon. Speaker has written to me:

"I was sorry to learn this morning of the sad demise of Shri N. Gopalswami Ayyangar. His long and continued illness was fading away hopes of his recovery and his being able to take charge of his responsible duties as Defence Minister. We are very sorry to lose a wise and efficient guide and colleague. He was an able and sympathetic administrator and he rendered to our nation yeoman service, particularly since independence, in the various spheres entrusted to him.

I am sure the House will convey its homage and respect to the departed and record its deep sense of grief and loss at his sad demise, and will also convey its condolences to the family of the deceased.

I join the feelings of the House in its expression of sorrow on the occasion."

I have also to report to the House the sad demise of two other friends,

namely, Shri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar and Shri V. I. Muniswami Pillai.

Shri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar died at his residence in Calcutta on the 25th January 1953, at the age of seventy. Shri Sarkar was a Member of the old Central Assembly when he was in the Executive Council from 1941 to 1943. He resigned from the Executive Council in 1943 in protest at the time of Mahatma Gandhi's fast.

Shri Muniswami Pillai died at Coimbatore on the 28th January 1953 after a prolonged illness. He was sixty-three years of age. Shri Pillai was a prominent congressman and Harijan leader of Madras. He was also a Minister in 1937. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly of India and later of the Madras Assembly.

We mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to their families.

The House may kindly stand in silence for a couple of minutes to express its sorrow.

The House stood in silence for two minutes.

In token of the memory of Shri Gopalswami Ayyangar, a sitting Member and also a Minister, I propose to adjourn the House for the day.

The House will now meet at 2 P.M. on Friday, day after tomorrow, instead of tomorrow, because tomorrow has been found to be the real Shivaratri.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Friday, the 13th February, 1953.