

12 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who passed away this morning at Hyderabad at the age of 79.

He was a great patriot and suffered for the freedom. He made great sacrifice and underwent a lot of suffering in the freedom struggle. He was one of the greatest sons of Andhra Pradesh and architects of India's freedom.

Dr. Sitaramayya was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1946-49 and of the Provisional Parliament thereafter. He also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh during 1952-57.

We deeply mourn the loss of this great friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may kindly stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

12.02 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of a motion of privilege by Shri Vajpayee relating to the Defence Minister's public announcement about the national service scheme before taking the House into confidence. It says that the hon. Defence Minister has stated that he was trying to organise or give compulsory military training in educational institutions and so on. What is the matter? When had he to make any such statement while the Parliament was in session?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Not that I am aware of. I think the statement refers to the speech made on the NCC day when after the Governor of Bombay

had spoken a reference was made to the expansion of the NCC, the size of which is not limited by Parliament. The expansion is within the NCC Act XXXI of 1948 and it is to bring a larger number of boys under training, especially having regard to the requirements of more disciplined populations. It is well within the Act. There is no national service scheme in the sense understood. The hon. Member has also referred to my anticipating a Resolution that is to be discussed in this House. For one thing, that Resolution was not on the Table when I made that speech. Secondly, it relates to a different subject which may have some relation.

I would have thought that, Mr. Speaker, with great respect, the House would welcome this attempt at the expansion of the NCC rather than considering it as a breach of privilege.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): There is no doubt that the House would have welcomed the announcement made by the Defence Minister but it should have been made in the House and not outside, when Parliament is in session. The Lok Sabha is at present seized with a non-official Resolution moved by my friend Shri Prakash Vir Shastri that compulsory military training should be imparted to the youth. The hon. Defence Minister announced in Bombay the Government's decision that a quarter million youths of India should be imparted military education. You had always been pleased to direct the Ministers to make important announcements in the House and not outside. I think this is definite breach of privilege of the House and the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: I am clear in my mind that there is no breach of privilege in this matter. Even if a matter of policy were to be announced outside the House while the House is in session, it was ruled in the House of