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Vaisakha 18, 1894 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, May 8, 1972/Vaisakha 18, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

DEATH OF SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad and premature demise of Shri D. Sanjivayya who passed away at New Delhi last night at the young age of 51.

Shri Sanjivayya had to his credit a career of a dedicated public man right from the days when he was a Member of the Provisional Parliament during the years 1950 to 1952. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952 and thereafter Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1964. He was a Minister in Madras Government and then in Andhra State and held many portfolios during the years 1952 to 1960. He became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and held that high office till 1962. In June, 1962, he was chosen as the President of the Indian National Congress and continued to hold that high office till January, 1964. He was the first person belonging to the Harijan community to hold the high office of the President of the Indian National Congress.

He was then elected as a Member of Rajya Sabha during the year 1964 and continued there till 1970. He was Union Minister of Labour and Employment during 1964-66 and then Minister of Industry during the years 1966-67 and 1970-71. Since last year he was again holding the high office of the President of the Indian National Congress with great dignity and dedication. He was a patriot with deep convictions and confidence in his people. He was a gentleman to the core and a man of

few words—smiling and so affable and amiable—and by his virtues and qualities he had endeared himself to one and all. The country has lost in him a great leader of men who stood for the poor and downtrodden.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me to convey our condolences to the bereaved family especially to his aged mother.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, death is a part of life and we know that it must come to all and also that it does not spare the young. Yet when it strikes it is unexpected. To hear in the middle of the night that Shri D. Sanjivayya, our party leader and colleague, one of the shining lights of our national life, has suddenly passed away, was a great shock. He had suffered greatly from illness, but after many months he looked, and himself felt much better. It is an irony of fate that he should be taken away at such a moment. He has died before his time when he still had much to give.

For a person belonging to a community so long suppressed one who had no advantage of birth or upbringing, to rise to the top of our political life is a tribute to his own calibre and capacity and to the great social change that is coming about in free India.

You have already outlined his public career. He was Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh when he was still in his thirties and then held the august office of Congress President. He was Minister in the Union Government and once again came to lead our party at a time of transition and transformation. He was a man of dignity; he was a man of integrity and sincerity, with a modern mind, with commitment to our basic values and a vision of a future where no community or individual would be deprived. He was

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

uncompromising in his convictions. His was a rich personality, combining serious concern for the complex problems of our society and age, with a love of literature and music. He was a compelling speaker, and I am told, one of the best in Telugu. This was apparent even to those of us who did not follow the words. His work as parliamentarian and administrator is known to this House and to the country.

It is not often that such qualities and the holding of high office go with such an unassuming nature. In all situations, in and out of office, Shri Sanjivayya bore himself with quiet dignity.

Shri Sanjivayya's death will be deeply mourned. It is a great loss to the country and to our party.

May I request you, Sir, to convey our sincerest sympathy and condolences to his family, especially to his old mother and to his young wife.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA (Uluberia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I wish to say that we deeply regret the untimely death of a great national leader, Shri D. Sanjivayya. Though personally he was not known to us, yet, he had a great career and in his death, the country and the Congress party have lost a great leader.

I request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sanjivayya's passing away suddenly in such tragic circumstances has come as a great shock to all of us. I do not wish to add very much to what the Prime Minister has said. If I am right, he was the first Harijan Chief Minister in this country and also the first Harijan to be elected President of the Congress. That in itself, Sir, is adequate to ensure that he will have an indelible place in the political annals of this country.

We have heard of his extremely humble origin ; how he came from a family of landless peasants, how he had to walk several miles to go to school every day and how his elder brother pawned his belongings in order to pay for his younger brother's education. There are few people with such humble origins

who are able to retain their humility and modesty after rising to high positions in public life, but that is what exactly Shri Sanjivayya did. He was always so modest and unassuming.

I claim to have known him at close quarters especially during his tenure as Minister of Labour and Employment ; and he had a transparent sympathy for the underdog, for the common man, which he tried to translate into action when he was part of the Government.

Sir, on behalf of my party, I would convey our sincerest sympathies to Shri Sanjivayya's family as well as to all the members of the Congress party who have lost their President at such an early age. I realise what a big blow it is particularly for their organisation.

On behalf of our Group, we want to express our heart-felt condolences through you to his family, and as the Prime Minister has said, particularly to his aged mother.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a mental anguish and agony, I associate myself on behalf of my party, with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, Madan Prime Minister, and you, Mr. Speaker, and the various other political parties represented here.

The news of the demise of Shri Sanjivayya was terribly shocking. I have known him for the past 10 years, and I had occasion to be with him very intimately and closely. According to me, he was a man of impeccable honesty, noted for his sincerity and simplicity and earnestness of conviction.

As my friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has rightly pointed out, he was unassuming but at the very same time he was very dynamic. So far as his political life is concerned, he had built up his political life almost out of scratch, and reached the pinnacle of fame.

Mr. Sanjivayya through his dedication and devotion and sense of determination and direction has achieved what the entire country wanted to achieve. He dedicated himself to the integration of this country. He was for the socialist programmes of the nation and he represented the under-dogs and the have-nots of the nation. He was the first Harijan Chief Minister as well as the first Harijan President of the Indian National Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the death of Mr. Sanjivayya. We have lost in him a very able administrator and a dynamic politician. On behalf of my Party, I request you to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

श्री इयामनम्बन मिश्र (बेगुसराय) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जिससे काफी दिनों का बड़ा घनिष्ठ सम्बन्ध रहा हो, उसके निधन पर कुछ बोलना बड़ा मुश्किल काम होता है। मेरा श्री संजीवैया से विगत बाईस, तेईस सालों का सम्बन्ध था। जब वह हमारी अस्थायी संसद् में आये थे, तो उस जमाने में मुझे उनके निकटतम सम्पर्क में रहने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ था। कल रात को जब उनके देहावसान का समाचार हमें नहीं मिला और आज सुबह समाचार-पत्रों से ज्ञात हुआ, तो इस बात का भी धक्का लगा कि जो इतना नजदीक रहा हो, और जो मेरे घर से भी इतना नजदीक में ही गुजर गया हो, उसकी सूचना नहीं मिल पाई।

वह हमारे देश के एक बड़े लोकनायक थे और—इसे औपचारिक न मानिये—उनके जाने से हमारी राजनीति में एक अपूरणीय क्षति हुई है। हमें तो ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे हमारे परिवार का एक सदस्य हमारे बीच में हमेशा के लिए चला गया हो। मुझ पर उनकी विशेष कृपा रहती थी। जब वह कांग्रेस-अध्यक्ष थे, तो वह किस तरह से न्यायपथ से कभी विचलित नहीं होना चाहते थे, इसकी मैंने बहुत सी मिसालें देखी थीं।

उनका व्यक्तित्व बड़ा ही सरल, सौम्य और सुमधुर था। राजनीतिक का रूखापन उनके व्यक्तित्व की स्निग्धता को कभी नहीं निगल पाया, उन्होंने अपनी मुस्कराहट कभी नहीं छोड़ी। और जिस राजनीतिक के हाथों में मुस्कराहट जैसा अस्त्र हो, उससे बड़ा राजनीतिक किसी को नहीं मानना चाहिए।

संगीत के साथ उनका बड़ा ही घनिष्ठ सम्बन्ध था और मैंने देखा कि उनके व्यक्तित्व में एक लय, ताल और सुर था। राजनीति ने उनके व्यक्तित्व को कभी बेसुरा नहीं बनाया।

दुनिया से उनकी मुलाकात तो मुस्तसर रही, लेकिन यह कहने में रंज-मात्र भी हिचकिचाहट नहीं कि वह समय पर जो लकीर छोड़ गये हैं, वह शायद कभी नहीं मिट पायेगी।

वह हमारी संस्कृति की आन्तरिक शक्तियों के सबसे बड़े प्रमाण थे। सबसे दुखी, पीड़ित और दलित समाज में पैदा होने पर भी जीवन की यह बेलि इतनी ताकत रखती थी कि वह ऊंचे से ऊंचा उठ कर रही। हम मुल्क की बड़ी से बड़ी जिम्मेदारियों को श्री संजीवैया को सुपुर्द करने में थोड़ी भी हिचकिचाहट का अनुभव नहीं कर सकते थे। यह लौ एक मानी में उस समय खत्म हुई है, जब हम इससे ज्यादा न ज्यादा प्रकाश की उम्मीद रखते थे।

वह सिर्फ 50, 51 साल की आयु में हमारे बीच से गये हैं। चूंकि हम अपने शास्त्रों के मुताबिक जीवन की अवधि कम से कम सौ साल की मानते हैं, इसलिए हमें ऐसा लगता है कि खरी दोपहरी में उनके जीवन के सूर्य का अस्त हो गया है।

हमने तो उनके भावण सिर्फ अंग्रेजी में सुने थे, लेकिन लोग कहते हैं कि तेलगु में वह अप्रति-द्वन्दी सुवक्ता थे और आन्ध्र-केसरी, श्री प्रकाशन् के बाद जितने बड़े जन-समुदाय को वह आकृष्ट करते थे, बहुत कम व्यक्ति करते थे। मगर अंग्रेजी में भी मैंने उनके जो भावण सुने, उन ने मुझे ऐसा लगा कि इस भाषा में भी वह किसी से कम अच्छे वक्ता नहीं थे।

प्रधान मन्त्री जी ने उनके प्रशासनिक गुणों के बारे में बताया है। हम लोगों ने उन प्रशासनिक गुणों को देखा भी है। कांग्रेस में उन्होंने जो काम किये, उनको भी देखा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन के निधन पर हमारे देश में एक बड़े शोक की लहर दौड़ जायेगी और बहुत से परिवारों में लोग उनके लिए बहुत दुःख मनायेंगे।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप अपनी संबेदना के शब्दों में हमारे दल की तरफ से भी कुछ शब्द जोड़ दीजिए और जो श्रद्धांजलि मैं अपने दल

[श्री श्याम नन्दन मिश्र]

की ओर से दे रहा हूँ, उसमें मेरी व्यक्तिगत श्रद्धांजलि भी जोड़ दीजिए।

श्री आर० बी० बड़े (खरगोन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय श्री संजीवैया की मृत्यु से उनकी पार्टी को तो धक्का लगा ही होगा, लेकिन पूरे देश को भी धक्का लगा है। उनका मुस्कराता हुआ चेहरा आज भी मेरे सामने है। वह बड़े हंसमुख थे। थड़े लोक सभा में वह लेबर मिनिस्टर थे और जब कभी मैं माननीय सदस्य, श्री हुकमचन्द कच्छबाय, को लेकर उनके पास जाता था, तो वह हर बात को बड़े अच्छे ढंग से समझाते थे। वह कट्टर देशभक्त थे। देश की इस संकट-कालीन परिस्थिति में उनका यहां होना अत्यन्त जरूरी था। मृत्यु ने उन्हें हमारे बीच से उठा लिया है, इसका हमें बड़ा शोक है।

आपने, तथा प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने श्री संजीवैया के बारे में जो उद्गार प्रकट किये हैं, मैं उनसे पूर्णतया सहमत हूँ। मैं अपनी ओर से, और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से, ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह दिवंगत आत्मा को शान्ति दे। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आप उनके परिवार को हमारी संवेदना पहुंचा दें।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sanjivayya's life as well as death symbolise a great paradox. He was born in economic as well as social inequality and unfortunately, he passed away at a time when the nation was struggling to establish social as well as economic equality. He was a great administrator in the sense that he tried to bring freshness to the administration. As a politician, he symbolised the values of maturity and political wisdom, so much needed to the politics of our time. In his passing away, he was evoked sympathy in every heart irrespective of one's political affiliation. That speaks for his wide popularity.

Sir, I associate the Socialist Party with the tributes paid to Shri Sanjivayya and I request you to convey our heart-felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself

with the sentiments of sorrow and the words of rich tribute paid to the late Shri D. Sanjivayya today. We, the members of a certain Select Committee, who had been to Chandigarh in connection with our work, returned only this morning from Calcutta, and the Congress General Secretary, Dr. Henry Austin, who was with us in the committee, informed us of that Mr. Sanjivayya is no more. Those of us who have had the privilege of coming into contact with him in the course of our duties and in the course of social mixing, never failed to be deeply impressed by his politeness, friendly amiability and by the deep sincerity and seriousness that he would bring to bear on all problems that were brought before him.

Once again, I pay my deep respect and tribute to him and convey through you to the members of the bereaved family our heart-felt condolences.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Kozhikode) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself and my party with the deep feelings of grief and sorrow expressed by you, by the Prime Minister and by the other colleagues at the very sad passing away of Shri Sanjivayya at a very early age. He was a man of great personality, having served his country in various capacities, as Member of the Madras Assembly, as Member of the Andhra Assembly, as Chief Minister of Andhra and also as Minister at the Centre and President of the Indian National Congress. His was a devoted life and it speaks of his ability that coming from such a down-trodden section of the population in this country, he rose to the highest positions possible in this country. His personality was a charming one and he was kind and considerate to everyone, to whichever party he might belong. The country has lost in his passing away a great parliamentarian, a great administrator and really a great personality.

I convey through you to the members of the bereaved family our deep feelings of condolences and sympathy. I also convey my sympathies to the great Indian National Congress, whose President he was.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the glowing tributes paid by our Prime Minister and other leaders to Shri Sanjivayya is ample proof of his sterling qualities. A luminous and bright star

has disappeared from the political horizon. The country has lost a noble son, our party has lost an able captain and the oppressed and depressed have lost their mentor.

Shri Sanjivayya, who was born in poverty, fought with poverty. He used to walk miles to attend his school and did not even have an untorn shirt. When there was rain, he used to go and take shelter under a culvert. That was the sort of life he led. But even in those very trying circumstances, he was the brightest student and every time he used to come out with honours in his class. With his self-effacing personality, he endeared himself to one and all. He was one of our most endeared leaders. Wherever he went, thousands of people used to come to him, high and low, sophisticated and rustic; and, everybody used to go away with satisfaction. He was a great orator in Telugu and he used to attract an audience of thousands of people wherever he went. He had the courage of his conviction and he never compromised on principles. He was a leader of not only Andhra but of the entire country. His death has been a

personal loss to several people and to several of us who had seen him closely and who had the opportunity of working with him.

Sir, I associated myself with the sentiments expressed by you, by the Leader of the House and by the leaders of other political parties and I request you to convey my condolences to the bereaved family, especially to his mother who is 80 years old and to his wife, Shrimati Krishnavamma.

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect, the House may stand in silence for a minute.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER : In order to enable hon. Members to pay their homage and have a condolence meeting, we adjourn the House till 11 A. M. tomorrow.

11.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 9, 1972/Vaisakha 19, 1894 (Saka).