

Regarding need to confer highest civilian honour to the late Zubeen Garg

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (JORHAT): Hon. Madam Chairperson, I stand in the Parliament of India to pay tribute to one of our greatest sons of our Mother Assam, *Asomi aai*, the late Zubeen Garg.

Zubeen passed away in Singapore on 19th September when he was due to perform at a function organized by the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and the High Commission of India to Singapore.

Zubeen was an artist, humanitarian, environmentalist, wildlife lover and a voracious reader of books. During the 80s and 90s, he gave the people of Assam hope and, in recent years, he gave us moral courage and steel in our spine. He taught us how to overcome personal trauma and not be divided by religion and caste. Truly, Assam meant tea, oil, rhinoceros and Zubeen Garg. He showed us a vision of *Bor Asom* that is, free from hate, fear, suspicion and mistrust. Zubeen will always be our Kanchenjunga. Today, the people of Assam miss him terribly. We want justice for Zubeen Garg. The State government of Assam says that it was a murder. We want to know how during a programme organized by the Government of India a murder was committed on foreign soil. We want justice for Zubeen Garg, and we request the Government of India to give the highest civilian honour to the late Zubeen Garg. Thank you.