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Title: The Spaker made a reference to the passing away of Lady Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She also made references to the loss of lives of 74 persons and injuries to many more in collapsing of building in Thane district, Maharashtra; death of Indian soldiers in South Sudan; the loss of lives of persons in a bomb blast in Boston, USA and the loss of lives and properties in Iran and Pakistan due to recent earthquake.

MADAM SPEAKER: **Hon. Members**, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of Lady Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, who passed away in London on 8 April, 2013. Lady Thatcher was an eminent leader of her country. We also remember her notable contributions to the evolution of relations between India and the United Kingdom. We offer her family and the people of the United Kingdom our heartfelt condolences.

**Hon. Members**, as you are aware, 74 persons reportedly lost their lives and many more were seriously injured when a residential building under construction collapsed in the Shil Phata area of Thane District of Maharashtra on 4 April, 2013.

**Hon. Members**, in another incident, 5 Indian soldiers, part of the peacekeeping force, escorting a United Nations convoy in South Sudan were killed in an ambush by Sudanese rebels on 9 April, 2013. Among those killed were Lieutenant Colonel Mahipal Singh, Naib Subedar Shiv Kumar Pal, Havildar Hira Lai, Havildar Bharat Sasmal and Sepoy Nand Kishore Joshi. The loss of lives of these gallant officers is very tragic and unfortunate.

**Hon. Members**, in yet another incident, 3 persons including an eight-year old child were killed and more than 170 injured in a bomb blast in Boston, USA on 15 April, 2013. In this moment of grief, we stand in solidarity with the United States and the American people. India and the United States share a common resolve to defeat terror and prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

**Hon. Members**, lives have been lost and properties damaged in Iran, and Pakistan due to recent earthquakes.

The loss of so many innocent lives in these tragedies is unfortunate and indeed very sad. I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy and concern for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones in these tragedies.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

**11.01 hrs**

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

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