

Volume VI

No. 1 — 19



सत्यमेव जयते

Par. B. S. VI. L. 50.
8M

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

OFFICIAL REPORT

Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.

CONTENTS

President's Address to Parliament [Cols. 1—16]

Price Five Annas

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)
OFFICIAL REPORT

1829

1830

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Friday, 15th December, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(No Questions: Part I not published)

10-45 A.M.

DEATH OF SARDAR PATEL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have to convey to you, Sir, and to the House mournful news. A little over an hour ago, at 9-37 this morning, the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, passed away in Bombay City. Three days ago many of us saw him off at the Willingdon airfield and we hoped that his stay in Bombay would enable him to get back his health which had been so grievously shattered by hard work and continuous worry. For a day or two he seemed to improve, but at last early this morning he had a relapse and the story of his great life ended.

It is a great story, as all of us know, as the whole country knows, and history will record it in many pages and call him the Builder and Consolidator of the New India and will say many things about him. But perhaps to many of us here he will be remembered as a great captain of our forces in the struggle for freedom and as one who gave us sound advice in times of troubles as well as in moments of victory, as a friend and colleague on whom one could invariably rely, as a tower of strength which revived wavering hearts when we were in trouble. We shall remember

him as a friend and a colleague and comrade above all, and I who have sat here on this bench side by side with him for these several years will feel rather forlorn and a certain emptiness will steal upon me when I look to his empty bench.

I can say little more on this occasion. My colleague Mr. Rajagopalachari and I are going almost immediately, to pay our last tribute and homage to him in Bombay. I understand that the President has also decided to go to Bombay immediately, and the Speaker, Sir, went early this morning. I have no doubt that many of my colleagues and hon. Members of this House would have liked to go to Bombay on this occasion to pay this last tribute, but I feel that he, magnificent worker that he was, would not have liked us to leave our work and just go in large numbers to Bombay at this moment. So I have asked my colleagues to stay here, except for Mr. Rajagopalachari who was perhaps amongst all of us here the oldest of Sardar Patel's colleagues and comrades. And it is right that he should go and it is right that that other old colleague of his, the President, should also go. For the rest it is up to us to carry on the work here and elsewhere, for the work of the country never stops, never should stop. And so, in spite of this grievous sorrow that has come over us we have to steel ourselves to carry on the work in which the great man, great friend and colleague, who has passed away, played such a magnificent part.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Lion of Gujerat and Sardar of India has passed away. In his demise India has lost one of its national heroes, one of the greatest sons of India. He was the right hand of Mahatmaji. The title of Sardar that he got was not one that was conferred by any king, but it was a symbol of the hearty

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

recognition by the entire population of India. His undaunted courage and unflinching sacrifice is known to all. He died as a soldier in the battlefield. To the last day he was rendering service unflinchingly, even at the cost of his health. He performed a miracle in this country both in winning the freedom for this country and also, after winning freedom, in the cause of unification and consolidation of this country. He really performed a miracle. A revolution—a bloodless revolution—which is unknown in the history of the world has been brought about by him. The five hundred and sixty-five odd States and the medieval rule have all been eventually dissolved.

India owes a deep debt of gratitude to him. His name will be cherished by all of us and will be handed down to posterity. His life will be a beacon-light for all of us and also for the future generations. I am sure that though he has left his mortal coil his spirit will be with us and guide us for ever and ever. May his soul rest in peace. In his memory I would adjourn this House today and there will not be a sitting of the House tomorrow. We will stand in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect.

We will meet on Monday.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 18th December, 1950.
