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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 1st March, 1943.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

DEATH OF DR. F. X. DESOUZA.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, I have to refer to the sudden death of Dr. DeSouza, a Member of this Assembly, which tragic event took place day before yesterday. He was in the Assembly till only a few days ago and we never felt that the hand of death will so soon separate him from us.

Sir, Dr. DeSouza was a Member of the Indian Civil Service and rose to be a member of the Judicial Commissioners' Court at Karachi and I understand that he also acted as a puisne Judge of the Bombay High Court for a very short time. After retirement, he was nominated to represent the Indian Christian community in this Assembly in the year 1931. In recent years his attendance was slightly irregular owing to ill-health. He sometimes intervened in debates in this House and in earlier days he, not infrequently, took an independent line of action and invariably that which interested his community. Our hearts go out to the bereaved family and we request that you will be pleased to convey our deepest condolences and sympathies with them on this occasion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I associate myself and the Party to which I belong with all that the Leader of the House has said about our colleague, Dr. DeSouza. He had very brilliant record of service and we knew him intimately when he joined the Assembly about nine years ago. He made a very great impression on all of us when he made his famous speech on Katsju which very few of us understood at that time. He was a great champion of coffee plantation in this country and his speeches produced very good impression on all of us who heard him. He had good many social virtues and we miss him very much in this House. I also wish to express sympathy with Mrs. DeSouza who was a frequent visitor to this Assembly; she was seen in the Visitors' Gallery on all important occasions. I request you, to convey our sympathies and condolences to Mrs. DeSouza and other members of his family.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, we in this Group associate ourselves most sincerely and whole-heartedly with the remarks which the Leader of the House and Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad have expressed. We are very sorry, indeed, that this sudden tragedy should have taken place and we join with the sentiments which have been expressed and ask you to convey these condolences to the bereaved family.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra (Presidency Division: Non Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I desire to associate myself and my Party with the references that have been made by the Honourable the Leader of the House. Dr. DeSouza was indeed, a very prominent figure in this House in earlier years and he made a deep impression on all of us by his personality and by the ring of sincerity in his speeches. The hand of death has suddenly removed him from our midst. We saw him only three or four days ago for the first time in this House and very little could we then anticipate that we would be missing him so soon. Sir, I desire that you, on our behalf, should convey to Mrs. DeSouza our sincere condolences. I would also suggest to the House that as a mark of respect to the departed colleague we should adjourn immediately.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I share the grief which has been expressed by all sides of the House on the sudden death of Dr. DeSouza.

[Mr. President.]

He was a highly respected Member of the Assembly and I associate myself entirely with the tributes that have been paid by the Leader of the House and other speakers on this occasion. I shall communicate to the widow and other members of the family of the deceased the tributes and the condolences that have been expressed from all sides of the House.

It has been conveyed to me that it is the desire of all sections of the House that we should adjourn without transacting any business in honour of the memory of the deceased.

Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That being the desire, the Assembly is adjourned till Eleven O'Clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd March, 1948.