

President of Seychelles, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the President of the African National Congress, the President of SWAPO, the President of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, the President of Nicaragua, the Prime Minister of Zambia, the King of Jordan, the Prime Minister of Denmark, the President of Peru, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the President of Finland. The then Prime Minister and the current President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Prime Minister of Italy made transit visits to India. President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan paid an unofficial visit.

51. These bilateral visits have strengthened our friendly relations with these countries. A large number of agreements have been signed to further bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial scientific and cultural fields.

52. In the context of the close and friendly relations that have characterised the four decade history of Indo Soviet cooperation, the visit of Mr. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of CPSU was a landmark. The Delhi Declaration signed by Mr. Gorbachev and our Prime Minister has provided a qualitatively new framework for international relations based on non-violence, justice and equality. It will have worldwide significance in establishing new attitudes and values relevant to the crucial problems of humanity.

53. The thrust of Government policy is to improve the welfare of economically and socially weaker sections of the community. The primary focus of policies and programmes initiated during the last two year has been to assist the landless agricultural labour, the small and marginal farmers, artisans and craftsmen, handloom weavers, women, children, the urban poor, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward classes. Our strategy of development will continue to strongly emphasize social justice as its foremost objective.

54. In spite of the many difficult problems we are facing, the people have high confidence in their capacity to build a strong and prosperous India. This confi-

dence comes from our impressive achievements. India stands as a symbol of stability and progress. Our commitment to basic values and our determination to preserve our cultural heritage have enabled us to march forward with our head held high. We still have much to do. With the cooperation and unbounded enthusiasm of our people, my Government will take the country forward on its chosen path.

55. Our tasks are anchored to basic national priorities. National cohesion will be strengthened. Communalism will be fought tooth and nail. The anti-poverty programme will be implemented with vigour. The core sectors of our economy will be strengthened and expanded to ensure self reliant growth. The energy and vitality of our youth will be harnessed to nation building. The spirit of sacrifice which permeated the struggle for freedom must be recaptured to face the challenges that confront us. A passion for nation building must fill our hearts. For the accomplishment of these momentous tasks, I give you my good wishes.

Jai Hind.

13.16 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As we meet today after an interval of about two and a half months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of Shri Sunder Lal, a sitting member and seven of our former colleagues namely, Sarvashri Tukaram Shankar Patil, Raj Narain, Harekrushna Mahtab, Jai Ram Varma, Sardar Singh, Syed Ahmed and Mahamaya Prasad Sinha.

Shri Sunder Lal was a sitting member of Lok Sabha representing Hardwar constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1946-50, 1950-52, 1952-57, 1957-62, 1962-67, 1967-70, and 1971-77 respectively.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the Quit India Movement and suffered imprisonment. An able parliamentarian, he showed keen interest in the proceedings of the House and focussed the attention of the House to various problems faced by the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society.

Shri Sunder Lal passed away at New Delhi on 3 January, 1987, at the age of 66 years.

Shri Tukaram Shankar Patil was a member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1960-62 representing Akola constituency of Maharashtra.

A well known social worker, he worked for the upliftment of weaker sections of society.

Shri Patil passed away at Malkapur on 12 December, 1986.

Shri Raj Narain was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Rae Bareilly constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier he had been a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1952 and 1957. He was also a member of the Rajya Sabha during 1966-72 and 1974-76. He served as Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare in 1977.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Raj Narain was associated with the freedom movement since his early age. He actively participated in the Quit India movement in 1942 and suffered long imprisonment. An able parliamentarian, he made his presence felt in the House.

A well-known political and social worker, Shri Raj Narain worked and fought for the upliftment of the downtrodden. A Law graduate from Banaras Hindu University, he was closely associated with veteran socialists like Acharya Narendra Dev and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. A widely travelled person, he took keen interest in yoga, Indian culture and philosophy.

Shri Raj Narain passed away at New Delhi on 31 December, 1986, at the age of 70 years.

Shri Harekrushna Mahtab was a member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, First and Third Lok Sabha during 1946-50, 1950-52, 1952-55 and 1962-67 respectively representing Angul Constituency of Orissa. He had also been a member of the Orissa State Legislative Assembly during 1956-61.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Mahtab gave up his studies to participate in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment for long period. He was Chief Minister of Orissa during 1946-50 and again during 1956-60. He was instrumental in achieving the merger of the former Princely States with Orissa. It was during his tenure as Chief Minister of Orissa that sanction was given for the construction of Hirakud Dam and construction of a new capital for the States of Bhubaneswar was begun. Shri Mahtab served as Minister of Industries and Commerce in the Union Cabinet during 1950-52 and as Governor of the then Bombay presidency during 1955-56.

A noted literateur and journalist, Shri Mehtab was author of several books and novels in English and Oriya. He served as President, Orissa Sahitya Akademy, Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademy and Orissa Lalit Kala Akademy. A well known historian, he was conferred with honorary degrees of Doctors of Letters, Doctor of Literature and Doctor of Laws by Andhra, Utkal and Saugar Universities respectively. He was awarded Sahitya Akademy Award for his writings in a daily paper.

Shri Mahtab passed away at Bhubaneswar on 2 January, 1987 at the age of 88 years.

Shri Ja. Ram Varma was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 representing Faizabad constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He had been a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1946-68 and 1970-74. He served as a Cabinet Minister in the State for several years.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Varma gave up service to take part in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment. A dedicated political and social worker,

he worked for the upliftment of weaker sections of society. He served as Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Backward Classes Association and as Vice-President of the All India Backward Classes Association. He was founder of several educational institutions and associated with their management in various capacities. An agriculturist by profession, he took keen interest in the extension of agriculture and served as Chairman of the National Seeds Corporation and the State Farmers' Corporation of India in 1977.

Shri Verma passed away at Lucknow on 13 January, 1987 at the age of 83 years.

Shri Sardar Singh was a member of the Constituent Assembly and provisional Parliament during 1947-52 from the then State of Jaipur. He was a member of the Jaipur Legislative Council in 1945.

A veteran diplomat, Shri Sardar Singh served as India's Ambassador to Laos during 1958-61. A philanthropist and educationist, he formed the Khetri Trust to which his entire property has been bequeathed for the promotion of education science, literature and arts,

Shri Sardar Singh passed away at Bombay on 28 January, 1987, at the age of 67 years.

Shri Syed Ahmed was a member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-55 representing Hoshangabad constituency of Madhya Pradesh. He was a member of Rajya Sabha during 1962-74

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Syed Ahmed took active part in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment for a long period. An advocate by profession, he took keen interest in Parliamentary activities.

Shri Syed Ahmed passed away at Hoshangabad on 2 February, 1987 at the age of 91 years.

Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Patna constituency of Bihar. Earlier, he had been a member

of Provisional Parliament during 1950-52 and the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Council during 1946-50 and 1952-74 respectively.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Sinha took active part in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment. An able administrator, he served with distinction the State of Bihar as its Chief Minister.

A prominent political and social worker, he worked for prohibition, for the removal of untouchability and for Hindu-Muslim unity.

Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha passed away at Patna on 12 February, 1987, at the age of 78 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

13.22 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Report of Justice Ranganath Misra Commission of Inquiry re. incidents of violence following assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Memorandum of Action taken thereon.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry act, 1952 :

- (1) Report of Justice Ranganath Misra Commission of Inquiry appointed to inquire into the allegations in regard to the incidents of organised violence which took place in Delhi and the