

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Monday, August 11, 1986/Sravana  
20, 1908 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we meet today in the shadow of the tragic assassination of one of our very valiant sons of India—General A.S. Yaidya—ex-Chief of Army Staff—at the hands of some cowards and traitors. I hope and I know it fully well that not only this House, but the whole country feels the shock-waves; the indignation and the grief. There cannot be any valid explanation or description of the dastardly act which has taken place. A soldier is a soldier. He is dedicated to the cause of the land which he serves and as a soldier he has nothing but to obey orders. His prime duty is to uphold the integrity and the sovereignty and the freedom of the country and there were no qualms in his conscience. Whenever the occasion arose, whether it be the Bangladesh conflict or any other, anywhere, wherever he was called upon, the never shirked. He met it boldly. And he would have met boldly any other onslaught on him except this cowardly stab in the back. The whole House condemns it, and also expects that in this hour of trial we stand united, we stand solidly as we are expected to do, to face these threats. This will not undermine our resolve, our determination, our grit to face whatever comes.

In the life of a nation, certain things do happen. Life will not be life if there were

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no vicissitudes. It will be no cake-walk for anybody even if it be a human life, what to talk of a nation. But it cannot deter us from our march towards a better future, a prosperous future.

Even as we grieve over this tragic loss the nation has suffered, we firmly resolve to fight the terrorists; the disruptionist forces in the country who are out to wreck the unity and integrity of the nation. No question about that. Only we have to be on our guard. There are sentiments. Naturally, sentiments are aroused when such things take place. But, it is for us, the nation as a whole, to guard against the sentiments, the rousing of which might go against the interests of the nation, and that will be playing into the hands of those very forces. They want to achieve this end through these nefarious means. They are the *agents provocateurs* agents of foreign powers and they are committing treason. This is a freedom loving country; we have ensured freedom for everybody and through freedom and choice they can change whatever laws, whatever systems they like, but not through the barrel of the gun. That cannot be allowed.

General Vaidya was a very highly accomplished soldier; he had several distinctions to his credit. He was the most highly decorated officer in the Army which he served with distinction for as long as 41 years. General Vaidya was awarded the Mahavir Chakra for 1965 Indo-Pakistan Operations. Again in 1971, he was awarded the Mahavir Chakra. Besides, he was awarded the Param Vishisht Sewa Medal for distinguished service in 1970 and again in 1983. General Vaidya was also an excellent staff officer who commanded the love and respect of the troops. I hope, the Armed Forces also feel the same way and they will uphold the dignity of this country in times to come.

I hope, the House will join me in appealing to our countrymen to stand united in the face of the gravest of provocations. The need of the hour is communal peace and harmony so that we are able to meet the evil designs of the nation's enemies. In this task let us fail not.

We convey our heart-felt condolences to Mrs. Vaidya and other members of the family in their hour of bereavement. We wish Mrs. Vaidya a speedy recovery.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now adjourn as a mark of respect to General Vaidya, and meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

11.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 12, 1986/Sravana 21, 1908 (Saka)*