

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 2, 1993/Agrahayan
11, 1915 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played

11.02 hrs MEMBERS SWORN

Shri S. Sivaraman (Ottapalam)
Shri P. Kumarasamy (Palani)

11.05 hrs

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as we meet today, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of doyen of industry and Bharat Ratna Shri J. R. D. Tata. Today, we also mourn the death of our colleague Shri Nani Bhattacharya and eleven former Members, namely, Sarvashri Purnendu Sekhar Naskar, Dwarka Nath Tiwary, Narendra P. Nathwani, Hitendra Desai, K. Veeriah, Shantanu Kumar Das, K. Janardhan Reddy, P. Venkatasubbaiah, Shrimati Krishna Mehta, Shri Raj Mangal Pande and Shri H. M. Patel.

On 29th November, 1993, the country received the sad news of the passing away of Shri Jahangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata, reverently known as JRD, at Geneva. He was 89 years.

Shri Tata was a multi-faceted personality. He played pioneering role in industrial development of the country. His association with Indian industry was for more than half a century. He made valuable contribution in building an infrastructure for development, particularly, in steel sector and civil aviation. He also displayed a rare vision by introducing various labour welfare and social security schemes in his industries which worked as a catalyst.

Shri Tata lent great support to the cause of science and promoted several institutions. He was the President of the Indian Institute of Science and the Council of the Scientific and Industrial Research. He was a Member of the Atomic Energy Commission. He along with Shri Homi J. Bhabha established the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the cradle of India's Atomic Energy Programme and is today one of the premier institutions in the world.

Shri Tata's contribution in the social, educational and cultural field was no less important. His constructive and powerful support to the family planning programme is well-known. He created several charitable trusts, educational and other philanthropic institutions including the famous Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital.

In nutshell, Shri Tata was totally committed to the socio-economic upliftment of the country.

He was the embodiment of simplicity and modesty and was a perfect gentleman. He instantly inspired whosoever came in contact with him. It was only appropriate that in recognition of his yeoman's service to the country, the country's highest honour 'Bharat Ratna' was conferred on him.

It may be because of his pure, honest and simple life that his end was so peaceful.

A legend in his life-time, Shri Tata has left an incomparable history of social service of more than half a century which in itself commends to the present and future generations to emulate.

Shri Nani Bhattacharya was a sitting member of the House from Berhampore Parliamentary constituency of the State of West Bengal. He was also a member of Ninth Lok Sabha from the same constituency.

Earlier he was a member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly for four terms from 1962 to 1987. In West Bengal he was Minister of Health in 1967, 1969 and from 1977 to 1982 and Minister of Irrigation from 1982 to 1987.

Shri Bhattacharya was an active social and political worker, trade unionist, journalist and writer. He participated in the freedom struggle during 1939—45 under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and was imprisoned on a number of occasions. He was a founder member of Revolutionary Socialist Party. He was a General Secretary of United Trade Union Congress and United Kisan Sabha of West Bengal and was a member of Court of Vishwa Bharti, Minimum Wages Advisory Committee; Industrial Committee on Plantation; and Tea Board of India.

Shri Bhattacharya took keen interest in literary and cultural activities and published several books, booklets and wrote articles on social affairs, political and economic subjects. He also published a daily newspaper called "Dainik Ganabarta".

Shri Bhattacharya passed away on 11th October, 1993, at New Delhi at the age of 76 years.

Shri Purnendu Sekhar Naskar was a member of First, Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1952—67 representing Diamond Harbour and Mathurapur constituencies of West Bengal.

During his active political career, Shri Naskar served as a Deputy Minister in

the Ministries of Rehabilitation; and Works, Housing and Supply. Earlier he was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply and Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs.

A widely travelled person, Shri Naskar was a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly during its ninth and tenth sessions held in 1954 and 1955. He served with distinction as the High Commissioner to New Zealand and as Ambassador to Philippines.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Naskar made valuable contributions to the Parliamentary proceedings.

Shri Naskar passed away on 24th August, 1993, at the age of 72 years.

Shri Dwarka Nath Tiwary was a member of First to Sixth Lok Sabha. He represented Saran South constituency of Bihar in the First Lok Sabha during 1952—57. In the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962 he represented Kasaria parliamentary constituency and from 1962 onwards he represented Gopalganj constituency in Bihar. Earlier he was a member of the State Legislative Assembly during 1937—39.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Tiwary actively participated in the independence movement and was jailed several times for his participation in the non-cooperation movement. He also took active part in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Tiwary was an active social and political worker. He took special interest in the promotion of education among the under privileged people and was closely associated with various educational institutions in different capacities. He also worked for prohibition and for the promotion of Khadi and Cottage Industries.

During his long and eventful parliamentary career of more than two and half decades, Shri Tiwary took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made

valuable contributions. He was a member of several parliamentary committees. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Member and the House Committee.

A widely travelled person, Shri Tiwary was a Member Delegate (alternate) to the United Nations Organisation in 1967 and served on some of its Committees.

Shri Tiwary passed away on 29 August, 1993, at Patna at the age of 92 years.

Shri Narendra P. Nathwani was a member of first and Second Lok Sabha during 1952 to 1962 representing Sorath constituency of erstwhile Saurashtra. During 1977—79 he was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Junagadh constituency of Gujarat.

He was also a member of Provisional Parliament from Saurashtra. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Nathwani suffered imprisonment for participating in Civil Disobedience Movement during 1932-33. He also joined Rajkot Satyagrah and actively participated in the Quit India Movement.

Shri Nathwani was Minister of Law in the Provisional Government of the erstwhile Junagadh State and also served as a Judge of the Bombay High Court. Later, he worked for the preservation and promotion of civil liberties and of rule of law. He was a Member of the National Executive Committee of Citizens for Democracy and Vice-President of the Bombay Unit of People's Action for Civil Liberties.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Nathwani during his parliamentary career served on various Parliamentary Committees such as Estimates Committee and Privileges Committee and also served on various Joint Select Committees.

Shri Nathwani passed away at Bombay on 1 September, 1993 at the age of 80 years.

Shri Hitendra Desai was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Godhra constituency of Gujarat during 1977—79. He was Union Minister of Works and Housing during 1976-77 and the Minister of Commerce and Civil Supplies during 1979-80.

Earlier, he was a member of Bombay Legislative Assembly during 1957—60 and was also Minister of Education of Bombay State. Later he served as a Member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly during 1960—71. He was a Minister in Gujarat State and held portfolios of Home, Education, Social Welfare, Law and Judiciary, Agriculture, Forest, Prohibition etc. He became Chief Minister in 1965 and served the State in that capacity till 1971.

An active freedom fighter, Shri Desai joined the Civil Disobedience Movement at the very early age of 15, when Mahatma Gandhi began his famous Dandi March and was imprisoned and convicted for no-tax campaign.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Desai was an active political and social worker and took prominent part in youth and student movements. He published several booklets on political, economic and social topics in Gujarati.

Shri Desai passed away at Ahmedabad on 12 September, 1993 at the age of 78 years.

Shri K. Veeriah was a member of Fifth Sabha representing Pudukottai Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu during 1971—77.

An agriculturist and businessman by profession, Shri Veeriah was also an active social and political workers. He served as the Chairman of Pudukottai Municipal Council, President of Cooperative Building Society and as Director, Cooperative Central Bank, Pudukottai in Tiruchi District.

Shri Veeriah passed away on 12 September, 1993 at Thanjavur at the age of 63 years.

Shri Shantanu Das was a member of the Constituent Assembly during 1946—1950.

In 1938 he was a Councillor of Jajpur Municipality in Orissa. He was also a Member of Orissa Legislative Assembly for several terms. In 1977 he was appointed as Excise Minister of Orissa.

Shri Das took active part in freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment several times.

A dedicated social and political worker, Shri Das worked for upliftment of underprivileged sections of society. As a Minister of Excise he banned opening of wine shops in the Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe populated areas. He opened Ashram Schools in those areas and worked for educational upliftment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Shri K. Janardhan Reddy was a member of First Lok Sabha, 1952—57, representing Mahabubnagar parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

He was an active social and political worker. He was the President of Jubulpore Section "Vande Mataram" strike of Osmania University Students in 1938. He organised resistance movement against Razakars in 1947.

An agriculturist by profession he served as a member of District Committees on Planning, Irrigation Development of Mahabubnagar. Later he became a member of National Food and Agriculture Organisation Liaison Central Committee. He was a member of Indian delegation to the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference for Far East Asian Countries held at Bangalore in 1953.

Shri Janardhan Reddy passed away on 4 October, 1993 at Hyderabad at the age of 75 years.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah was a Member from Second to Seventh Lok Sabha. He represented Adoni Parliamentary constituency which later became Nandyal, from

1957 to 1977. In the Sixth Lok Sabha, he was elected in the bye-election. Earlier he was also Member of Madras Legislative Assembly from 1949—52. From January 1980 to 1984, he was Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. He also held the charge of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from January 1980 to January 1982.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah also served as a Governor of Bihar during 1985—88 and Governor of Karnataka from 1988 to 1990.

Popularly known as 'Pendekanti' Shri Venkatasubbaiah was a political activist with a rich and varied experience. An Agriculturist by profession, he was President of Panchayat Board Sanjamala since 1946.

He was involved in various movements in his area. He founded the Banganapale State Congress movement and worked for the merger of the Banganapale State with the Indian Union. He led the Kisan Movement for reduction of oppressive land revenue in the erstwhile Banganapale State. He was founder and President of several cooperative and educational institutions and poor boys' hostels. He was president of Andhra State Cooperative Federation.

An active parliamentarian, he was Chairman of Estimates Committee and Member of several Committees such as Public Accounts Committee, Business Advisory Committee, Committee of Privileges, etc. He was a Member of Panel of Chairman also.

A widely travelled person, he took interest in the field of education, culture and undertook developmental activities for Scheduled Castes and Backward communities. He was the President of Dakshin Bharat Nati Nata Samakhya, New Delhi. He published a book called 'Our Constitution' in Telugu.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah passed away on 12 October, 1993 at Hyderabad at the age of 72 years.

Shrimati Krishna Mehta was a Member of Second Lok Sabha representing Kishtwar Parliamentary constituency of Jammu & Kashmir during 1957—62.

A close associate of Jawaharlal Nehru and a social worker, she was actively associated with the rehabilitation of refugees and started schools for children. She was organiser of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Jammu and Kashmir and served as a Chairperson, Gandhi Seva Sadan. She was also organiser of Women's Welfare Centre, Srinagar. She also authorised a book entitled 'Kashmir Par Hamla' in Hindi.

Shrimati Mehta passed away on 20 October, 1993 at New Delhi at the age of 80 years.

Shri Raj Mangal Pande was a Member of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha during 1984—91 representing Deoria constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he was a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1969—84.

A veteran freedom fighter, he participated in the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942 and suffered imprisonment. He also took active part in social and cultural activities.

Shri Pande worked hard for the promotion of education and development of agriculture.

During his long illustrious career in public life, he held with distinction, the office of Minister with portfolios like Justice, Transport and Labour in the Government of Uttar Pradesh and of Human Resources Development in the Union Cabinet. He left an indelible imprint of his calibre in the departments he served.

An able parliamentarian, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution thereto.

Shri Pande passed away on 23 November, 1993 at Kanpur at the age of 73 years.

Shri H. M. Patel was a Member of Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Lok Sabha. He represented Dhanduka and Sabarkhantha parliamentary constituencies in Gujarat during 1971—77, 1977—79 and 1984—89 respectively. He was Union Minister of Finance & Revenue and Banking during 1977—79 and Minister of Home Affairs from January 1979 to July 1979.

He was a Member of Gujarat State Legislative Assembly during 1967—71 and was Honorary Chairman of Gujarat State Electricity Board.

Before entering politics, Shri Patel had a long distinguished career as a civil servant. He held several high offices and exhibited his innate administrative skill in whatever field he worked.

Shri Patel played an important role in Dairy Development and strengthening the cooperative movement in Gujarat. He was closely associated with several social, educational and cultural institutions.

Shri Patel passed away on 30 November, 1993 at Vallabh Vidyanagar, Kheda district, Gujarat at the age of 89 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri JRD Tata and our former colleagues.

I am sure the House will join me in conveying our sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon'ble Members, I have also to make a reference to a recent tragedy which engulfed Maharashtra and adjoining States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

As the House is aware, in the wee hours of Thursday, the 30th September, 1993, a massive earthquake rocked several parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and left a trail of massive destruction. The worst hit area was Marathwada region of Maharashtra. The impact of the earthquake in this region was so intense that almost all houses in Killari, Talani, Manganul, Lamjana and Kawatha villages and other 40 villages were flattened. A large number of people including women and children lost their lives, were

injured and rendered homeless. The people have been put to enormous miseries and sufferings.

Relief work at large scale is already going on. Many States and the Union Government and other countries have offered and given all possible help. Many voluntary organisations and agencies have played a good role in mobilising assistance to the victims.

I am sure the House will now join me in expressing our deep sympathy to the bereaved families.

Probably the Hon. Prime Minister and other hon. Member would like to speak

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay homage to the doyen of the Indian industry, Shri J. R. D. Tata, who passed away on November, 29, 1993, in Geneva, Bharat Ratna, Shri J. R. D. Tata, was an industrialist with a difference. He inherited an industrial empire which he nurtured and expanded with his characteristics dynamism and business acumen. Yet he did not let the acquisition of wealth become the goal of his life. His business endeavours were embellished with a wider vision of a futuristic outlook, a concern for the nation and a social purpose.

Shri Tata claimed himself a political. If politics is to be taken in a narrow sense of fighting and winning elections, perhaps he was. However, the future of the country was always of concern and interest for Shri Tata. This was reflected in his concern for such matters as research and development in industry, science and technology and medicine. He pointed out very early the need for population control and took an active interest in promoting it. The social welfare measures supported by him and the encouragement to professional managers revealed his enlightened mind with a strong patriotic foundation.

His passion for flying saw the creation of India's flag carrier, Air India. His Industries have brought fame and repute to

our country. His was a way of life worthy of emulation. He will continue to inspire generations of young industrialists in India's quest for economic progress.

In addition to all this, he was very deeply involved in cultural matters. As his colleague on the Auroville Committee, I had occasion to interact with him on many issues concerning culture. He was equally good, equally conversant with the French culture and the Indian culture. And Pondicherry being the confluence of both cultures, he was of great use to us, of great utility in liking the two cultures. Under his guidance, leadership and inspiration, the institution called Auroville has flourished. And it is going from strength to strength. I thought I should place this on record. I wish to place on record the deep appreciation of this House of the services rendered by Shri J.R.D. Tata to the people of India.

We are also deeply grieved over the passing away of our colleague, Shri Nani Bhattacharya. His absence from this House will be felt by all of us here.

The former Members of Parliament who passed away during the interregnum after the monsoon session included veterans like Shri Shantanu Kumar Das, a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Shri K. Janardhan Reddy, who was incidentally a very close friend of mine and who was a Member of the First Lok Sabha. We owe a debt of gratitude to these stalwarts who laid the foundations of a strong parliamentary tradition in India.

Also leaving us during this period were Shri Narendra P. Nathwani, Shrimati Krishna Mehta and Shri Purnendu Sekhar Naskar, all of them senior leaders who served this House with distinction. The House also remembers with reverence Shri Dwarka Nath Tiwary, Shri Hitendra Desai, Shri K. Veeriah, Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah and Shri Raj Mangal Pande. They made an important contribution to the annals of this House. Their participation in its debates and proceedings will be long remembered. In particular, the services rendered by Shri

Venkatasubbaiah as Minister of State for Home at a very critical juncture, where his sense of humour, his patience and his intelligence were greatly useful in meeting those situations, are still fresh in my memory.

A few days ago, Shri H. M. Patel left us for his heavenly abode. These honourable Members have made a mark for themselves and added to the dignity and prestige of this House. They will all be remembered with reverence. Let their souls rest in peace.

Sir, you have rightly referred to the earthquake tragedy in Maharashtra. I cannot describe the tragedy because we have seen all details of it and when we visited the place, we found the devastation too much-too-much even to witness I would like to place on record, on this occasion, the excellent work done by the Government of Maharashtra. Very prompt steps were taken by them not only to reach the place and to reach relief but at the same time to prevent diseases and lot of things that could have happened in that confusion. I would like this House to appreciate the work done by them. I would also like this House to appreciate the unlimited sympathy that we got from everywhere in the world. Within hours we have been flooded with offers of help and message. This is something which I have not come across. Sir, that India could evoke so much sympathy, so much understanding and so much brotherly feeling when a tragedy strikes this country. I have already sent my profuse thanks to all the countries and I would like this House also to appreciate this aspect which means that our relations with other countries are at a stage where something happening here immediately touches the cords in the hearts of many countries.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the previous session Shri Nani Bhattacharya was with us. Today, his seat is vacant. It seems when we were busy with elections. Death was mercilessly carrying on its work.

The death of Shri Bhattacharya has once again reminded us the stark truth how transient life is. The shadow of Death ravaged the Marathwada region with an earthquake. The tragic railway accident in Bombay in which a large number of women jumped to death came as a shock to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you and the hon. Prime Minister expressed deep sympathies with the earthquake victims. I too had the opportunity to accompany the hon. Prime Minister there. The tragedy was beyond our imagination. Even today tremors occur in the area. People are afraid and uncertainty is writ large on their face. We have to find a solution. The hon. Prime Minister rightly said, that the entire nation got united to help the victims of the earthquake. It shows the inherent strength of our nation. In spite of our differences, we can unite in a crisis. This is what we are reminded of again by this tragic earthquake.

As far the colleagues who left us, Mr. Speaker Sir, Pandit Dwarkanath Tiwary will be remembered as father figure in contemporary politics. Shri Nathwani Vohra will be remembered as the Chairman of the Committee constituted for the improvement of the Bohra community. Shri Hitendra Desai will be remembered as a cultural politician, Shri Raj Mangal Pandey as a brilliant public leader, Shri Venkat Subbiah as a good parliamentarian and a able administrator, Shri Patel as a good administrator, an educationist, a constructive worker, and Shrimati Krishna Mehta as an affectionate women. We will miss them. I pay my respects to the other departed leaders also. I had the chance to work with many of them. I think the best way of paying tributes to them would be to draw inspiration from them and follow their footsteps.

As far as Shri Tata is concerned, I would call him Father of Industry (Udyog Pita) and not merely an industrialist or a person who was awarded Bharat Ratna. It seemed as if industrialisation was personified in the form of Tata. There is no need for appraisal of other industrialists. But Tata's personality and accomplishments

were unique. He will be remembered as a pioneer of industrialisation. His achievements were not confined to industrial sphere. The hon. Prime Minister has rightly said that his passion was flying but at the same time he was down to earth. He had his dreams for the nation. Some may differ with these. His keen interest in the family planning and his untiring efforts for it, his contribution in public life, places Tata in a unique position.

It would be no exaggeration if I say that, with his death an era has drawn to a close. We have to vigorously pursue the path of industrialisation, but not merely for profits. Its inherent inspiration should be for the development of the nation. The achievements of Shri Tata are a glimpse of this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself and my party with you and the hon. Prime Minister in paying homage to all the departed souls.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Comrade Nani Bhattacharya was one of the active Members of this House. He always espoused the cause of the working class and the peasant. He was an active trade unionist. He was a very effective and successful Minister in West Bengal Assembly, both as the Health Minister and the Irrigation Minister. He was a man who dedicated his whole life to the cause of common and suffering people of this country: a man who led the most simple life. An office table at Kanti Place in Calcutta was his bed. He did not have any possession of his own. We mourn his passing away. It is very difficult to fill the vacuum but he will always inspire generations to come so that we all fight for the liberation of the common and suffering people.

We also mourn the victims of the earthquake and I associate myself and my party with whatever you, the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition have said.

We have lost many of the colleague with whom we have worked in the House and

we mourn their passing away. We associate ourselves with whatever you have said about other distinguished Members of the House, as also Shri J. R. D. Tata, who have passed away during the inter-Session.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Janata Dal I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Somnath Ji. The Late Nani Bhattacharya was an intimate friend and his memories are such that we never feel that he is no more amidst us. But Shri Atal Ji rightly said, death is inevitable. That is why he is not with us today. In 1977 when I first came here I had the chance to be close to late Shri Dwarka Nath Tiwary. Late Shri Hitendra Desai was like an elder brother to us. With late Shri Venkatasubbiah, I used to have altercations. He had his own way of retorting. I also had the occasion to work with late Shri Raj Mangal Pandey and in 1977 had the occasion to see his working as the Home Minister and as Finance Minister. He began his career as an able administrator and made remarkable contributions as a politician. All these leaders are not amidst is now. The inevitable truth is that, we all have to leave this mortal world one day. The nation emulates only those who leave their indelible imprint behind.

A lot has been done for the providing relief to the earthquake victims, but I think that is not enough. Those who have died will never return. Therefore, we should express condolences to their bereaved families through this House. We should do whatever we can.

For JRD Tata I would say that he was a big industrialist and had a unique personality. He made his best efforts to keep himself aloof from politics and never associated himself with any political party. All these people are no longer among us. We express heartfelt grief on behalf of the Janata Dal and express our condolences to their bereaved families.

[English]

SHRI INDERAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, during this inter-Session period, we have lost so many of our distinguished colleagues and it is not possible to define the qualities of each and every one of them, that includes some of our most senior politicians, administrators, public men, who gave their whole life for public service.

As far as Shri Nani Bhattacharya is concerned, I mention him, particularly, because he was here so recently, a leading figure in our West Bengal politics, a Minister, a distinguished trade union leader and I must remind you, Sir, that he died after a prolonged and an extremely painful illness which he faced with great courage and fortitude. But, unfortunately, despite all attempts, here and abroad, he could not be saved. He was a very dear friend and comrade of us.

As far as others are concerned, Sir, Shri Dwarakanath Tiwari was one of the heroes of the 1942 struggle. As far as I can recall, he played a leading part, which one can call it, as one of the revolutionary actions which took place in 1942 movement in his own area.

And, the other friends who have left us will all be remembered for a long time.

As far as Shri J.R.D. Tata is concerned, the country will remember him for all times to come as a pioneer. The main point is that he was a pioneer in so many fields. He was a pioneer in industrialisation of this country long before independence. He was the creator of the first steel plant in this country. He was a pioneer in the field of civil aviation. He has made contributions in the way of landmark institutions, for scientific and technological research and for medical treatment. Everybody knows this very well. He will be remembered as a giant among these people who first pioneered so many institutions and works of lasting utility to the country as a whole.

About the earthquakes Sir, I know, how you must be feeling because the centre of the earthquake was in your constituency

but it was a national tragedy in which not less than 10,000 people have been identified as the victims, whose bodies were recovered. It is a horrifying thought that many more people who are supposed to be missing or may be buried for ever under the debris of this earthquake have not been found. Perhaps, the total casualty count will never be known accurately.

In the days to come, I also hope that we will discuss urgent measures which have to be taken in future to see that if such calamities take place, we can at least do something beforehand, to protect or people, learning the lessons of International experience also. And there is no reason why people should be such helpless victims in this modern age of science and technology.

I join with the Prime Minister and others in extending heartfelt sympathies and condolences of our party for all these countrymen who have left us. And I request you to convey our sympathies to their families and their dependents.

SHRI CHITA BASU (Barasat) : May I join you and the Leader of the House and other distinguished leaders in expressing our sorrow and grief and for paying tributes to the distinguished Members of this House, who passed away during the Inter-session period. In this connection, may I particularly refer to the memory of Comrade Nani Bhattacharya, who fought for the freedom of the country right from his boyhood days; and after the attainment of freedom fought ceaselessly for the causes of the downtrodden people of our country—the peasants, workers and toilers all categories.

He was an indomitable revolutionary, with courage and determination. He led a revolutionary life of simplicity, of continuous activity and a life of struggle throughout.

We pay our respects to the memory of Nani Bhattacharya and we should draw inspiration from him for our work for our future struggle. Along with him, I also pay tribute and homage to the memories of other colleagues of ours who fought for

the country's freedom, democratic rights and for the causes of the downtrodden people.

I have to express my sympathies to the thousands of the victims of the earthquake in different places of Maharashtra. And I think the Government will take appropriate action for the weak with speed and complete rehabilitation of these victims.

There is no doubt about the fact that JRD had been a pioneer for the industrialisation of our country. For the continuous industrialisation of the country and its further progress, we will ever remember him. And I think the entire House has already paid its tribute to the memory of J.R.D. Tata.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tata, popularly known as J.R.D., is no more with us. His death has spread sadness throughout the Indian industry. As an industrial leader and as one of the builders of modern India, Mr. Tata stood for the highest standard of values and ethics in business. He is the first man in India to hold a private pilot licence. His contribution to India's progress and his pioneering efforts in the field of Civil Aviation will be remembered for ever. He served as the most respected industrial leader over the past several decades. That is why, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his outstanding personality. Such a great person passed away at a time of transition and transformation of Indian industry. His memory will live for ever.

I also pay my tribute and homage to the sitting Member Shri Nani Bhattacharya and other Members who passed away. Their services and contributions in various fields are valuable.

The tragic incident which took place in Maharashtra in several areas is unprecedented. It took more than 10,000 lives. Our Chief Minister also conveys her condolence and sympathy and had sent a substantial amount of relief to the bereaved families.

I, on behalf of the AIADMK party and on my own behalf, convey my condolence and sympathy to the bereaved families.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijyawada) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I, on behalf of our Telugu Desam Party, convey our heartfelt condolence over the death of our Comrade Shri Nani Bhattacharya and other distinguished parliamentarians who have served this country. I am particularly at a great loss because he was very next to me and was so warm and affectionate to me.

We also express our condolences over the death of thousands of people in Marathwada Region, which is the biggest tragedy in the living memory.

Sir, we also express our condolences over the death of Shri J.R.D. Tata. In spite of the fact that he was presiding over a mighty industrial empire, his attitude towards the welfare of the labour and his concern for the labour was exemplary to the other industrial houses. Even people who were having different opinions about big industrial houses, were all having great respect to the House of Tatas who are known for certain business ethics. Sir, his concern for the self-achievement in science and technology of our country was very very laudable. His loss is irreparable to our country.

We join you, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing our condolences to the members of the bereaved family. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.55 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock on Friday, the 3rd December, 1993.