

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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of the Fifth Lok Sabha

No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 15, 1971/Kartika 24,
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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri C. Subramaniam (Krishnagiri)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of six of our friends, namely Shri K. Madhava Menon, Shri Hafiz Mohammad Ghazanfarulla, Dr Syed Mahmud, Shri P.T. Punnoose, Shri K. Kelappan and Shri Mahendra Majhi.

Shri K. Madhava Menon was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during the years 1946-48. He took active part in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment. He served as Minister for Agriculture, Law and Education in the Madras Government during the years 1947-52. He passed away at Koratty on the 1st September, 1971 at the age of 75.

Shri Hafiz Mohammad Ghazanfarulla was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly during the years 1945-47. He passed away at Allahabad on the 12th September, 1971 at the age of 86.

Dr. Syed Mahmud was a Member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during the years 1952-62. He had been Union Minister of

State for External Affairs, during the years 1954-57. He had also served the State of Bihar as its Minister for Education and Development during 1937-39 and of Development and Transport during 1946-52. He was a veteran freedom fighter, an eminent academician, statesman and an author of great repute. He passed away at New Delhi on the 28th September, 1971 at the age of 82.

Shri P. T. Punnoose was a Member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during the years 1952-62. He passed away at Thiruvalla on the 1st October, 1971 at the age of 60.

Shri K. Kelappan was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952-57. He was a stalwart freedom fighter and was one of the pillars of the freedom movement in the country. Greatly respected and loved by the people of Kerala, he always championed the cause of Harijans and other backward communities. He passed away at Calicut on the 7th October, 1971 at the age of 82. In his death the country has lost an old guard and a dedicated worker.

Shri Mahendra Majhi was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1967-70 representing Mayurbhanj constituency of Orissa. He used to take great interest in the uplift and welfare of labour and backward classes. He passed away at Jamshedpur on the 9th October, 1971 at the age of 51.

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

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF
ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS,
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING : (SHRIMATI

INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House mourns the passing away of six of our former colleagues.

Every time we have met we have lost one of the old veterans of the freedom struggle. Dr. Syed Mahmud was one of this great generation of freedom fighters. He was an outstanding nationalist who served the country with devotion during the days of the freedom struggle and also in independent India. His passing away will be a personal loss to many of us. He was a life-long friend of my parents and other members of the family. His entire life was one of hardship, service and dedication. He was touring Bihar and other parts of the country until his last illness. Even while lying ill, his mind was concerned with matters of national interest.

Shri Hafiz Mohammad Ghazanfarulla took active interest in the civic affairs of Allahabad before he came to the Central Legislative Assembly in 1945.

Shri K. Madhava Menon was an important leader of our Party in Kerala. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly and later of the Rajya Sabha from April 1954. He was re-elected to that House in 1960. He was in the forefront of our struggle for freedom and, as you mentioned, was imprisoned for a period of about seven years. Later he served as a Minister in the composite State of Madras. He was a greatly respected and popular figure in Kerala. Our thoughts go out to his wife who is a political worker in her own right and who served him with great devotion.

Shri K. Kelappan was a member of the First Lok Sabha and was an active political and social worker who had dedicated his life for the welfare of Harijans and other backward classes. He was a keen worker for khadi and other fields of constructive work. He was an avid correspondent, and until fairly recently I received many letters from him on a variety of subjects.

Shri P.T. Punnoose started his political life in 1938. During the freedom struggle, he remained underground for some time and then suffered imprisonment for a period of about five years.

Shri Mahendra Majhi was with us in the last Lok Sabha. He took active interest in the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes.

I share the sense of sorrow which you, Mr. Speaker, have expressed and request you to convey the sympathy and condolences of this House to the bereaved families.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) : On behalf of my Party, I share the sense of sorrow expressed in this House over the demise of the six parliamentarians who had conducted their public life for a long period and offered themselves to the service of the people. Because I have had no personal acquaintance with any one of them, I am not in a position to refer to their past activities. But as they came into prominence by virtue of their services to the people, their demise is a loss to the country.

I would request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

SHRI H.N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta - North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every Parliamentary recess brings its toll—

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी (देहरादून) : इस में ठाकुर यशपाल सिंह का उल्लेख नहीं हुआ है जिनकी मृत्यु पिछले माम 3 अक्टूबर, 1971 को हो गई थी।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : कल को उनका उल्लेख कर दिया जाय।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : उनका नाम भी इस में शामिल कर लिया जाय।

MR SPEAKER : I am very sorry to learn from an hon. Member that Shri Yashpal Singh has passed away yesterday afternoon—(Interruption) I am sorry I did not get any information. But let us be careful so that we may not do something wrong in all these things, I will make sure of it tomorrow.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh) : He passed away last month in the Willingdon Hospital.

MR SPEAKER : If he passed away, then his name may also be mentioned along with this list. I am very sorry to learn about his death. He was not keeping well. He had a stroke ; he was in hospital. (*Interruption*)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already mentioned here. He was with us in the last Lok Sabha and he took a very active interest in the proceedings and we, all of us who were his colleagues, remember him with affection.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Mr Speaker, Sir, join my voice in expressing grief over Shri Yashpal Singh's passing away. As we are all aware, he was not a Member whom one could avoid knowing. He was very vocal, and he took an almost aggressive part in the activities of this House, I am sure we shall miss him greatly.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : I join you in expressing the sentiments on behalf of my party.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Death will come when it comes, and in the case of Yashpal Singh, the news of whose death has just reached us, it seems almost difficult to believe that he is no longer with us. As the Prime Minister has indicated, he had a certain liveliness and a certain way of getting known and a certain way of making friends with us and he really was a friend, and it is said that so suddenly he passed away.

Every Parliamentary recess brings its toll of a number of our colleagues and comrades passing away, and this time, there are several of our Members who are no longer with us. I happen to have known, out of the six listed here, four of them about whom I would like to say a few words.

Dr. Syed Mahmud, as the Prime Minister had already said, was a stalwart in our national life, a man who was a leader of the country when so many of us were in our teens or hardly born or perhaps not born, a man who had played an ample role in the freedom struggle of our country. I happened to come in close touch with him when he was the Chairman of a non-official body whose

objective was to prepare a history of the national movement. I am afraid that that project got into what I might consider hot-waters, but that is neither here nor there. But it was very appropriate that Dr. Syed Mahmud was the head of the body which was looking after the preliminary stages of the preparation of an adequate history of the national movement. He belonged to that old world order which is becoming so rare, and that is why even though for quite a good few years he was not to be seen usually in the haunts where we go, we shall miss him because the like of that type of person is so very rare betimes.

Mr. Madhava Menon— I came to know only for a shortwhile, when he was a Member of the Rajya Sabha. I know of his reputation as one of the more important Members in the apparatus of the Congress Party and I have also known from my friends in Kerala how he had played a really important part both politically and as an individual.

I remember Mr. Kelappan from the days of the First Lok Sabha and I remember him very vividly because he was a type which has almost entirely passed away. There was a quietness about him which symbolised a certain strength of character and which nobody could afford to miss. It was only fitting that he found himself unable to continue in his old political moorings and it was in keeping with his character that he became a Sarvodaya leader, because his main interest was constrictive work for the people. He was a type that was rather chary and suspicious of ideology but knew that one should devote oneself to the service of the people, and appropriately he found his moorings in the sarvodaya movement for which he lived and died.

I shall refer last of all to my friend and comrade Punnoose whose passing away leaves a void which, at least as far as we are concerned, we shall never be able to fill. He came to the First Lok Sabha as a young and strident Member, full of life and vitality and full of laughter, endowed with a sense of humour which sometimes would break all bounds even in the sedate atmosphere of Parliament. He would burst into laughter in a fashion which somehow made him one of the most popular Members of this House. We

forget many of our old comrades but having served in Parliament in those days, I remember very vividly how Punnoose came as a young communist leader who had served his apprenticeship of patriotism in underground as well as in the jails of the British Government, as well as the Government of independent India, and we found him to the end of his days working for the people. He died exactly on the eve of our party Congress at Cochin; he died in harness; he was all the time moving about, working for the communist movement to which he had dedicated his life. His passing away leaves a void which, as far as we are concerned, will never be filled.

I am asking you, Sir, to convey the condolences of our Party as well as of this House to the Members of the bereaved families.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) · On behalf of my party I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you, Sir and the Leader of the House and other hon colleagues here and I request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अपने दिल व स्वयं अपनी ओर से मैं सभी दिवंगत महानुभावों के दुःखद देहावसान पर शोक प्रकट करता हूँ और परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उन की आत्मा को सद्गति प्रदान करे।

श्री के० केलप्पन से कुछ ही दिन पूर्व मुझे मिलने का अवसर मिला था। जरा से वह जीर्ण थे किन्तु छोटी सी काया से उनकी आत्मा बड़ी श्रृंखलित व प्रदीप्त थी। जीवन के अन्तिम क्षण तक वह काम करते रहे और उनका देहान्त कर्मस्थली में हुआ। सर्वोदय के लिए उन्होंने जीवन का समर्पण किया था किन्तु जब कभी उन्हें क्षमता कि कोई अन्यायमूलक स्थिति पैदा हो रही है तो उस का डट कर प्रतिरोध करने के लिए भी तैयार हो जाते थे। जब केरल में एक साम्प्रदायिक किला बनाने का निर्णय हुआ तो श्री केलप्पन विरोध करने वाले की अग्रिम पंक्ति में थे। स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानी, रचनात्मक कार्य में रुचि रखने वाले, प्रसिद्धि परानुख लेकिन

जनसेवा को जीवन व्रत बनाने वाले श्री केलप्पन जैसे व्यक्ति हमारे सार्वजनिक जीवन में अब बिरले ही मिलते हैं।

डा० सैयद महमूद का देहावसान भी एक आघात के रूप में हुआ है। अभी कुछ ही महीने पहले उन्होंने मुझे दो पुस्तकें भेजी थीं, जो भारतीय संस्कृति और राष्ट्रीय एकात्मता के सम्बन्ध में थी। देश में विघटन का जो वातावरण दिखाई देता है, वह उन्हें पीड़ा पहुँचा रहा था, और वह चाहते थे कि सकट की घड़ी में राष्ट्र एक जुट होकर खड़ा हो। स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में उन का योगदान था। फिर मंत्री के रूप में और प्रणामक के रूप में उन्होंने देश की सेवा की।

श्री पुन्नूम मेरे साथ लोक सभा के सदस्य थे। विचार-धारा से कम्युनिस्ट लेकिन व्यक्तिगत सम्बन्धों में विचार-धारा को हकाबट न बनने देने के लिए कृत-संकल्प, श्री पुन्नूम सदन कार्यों में बड़ी रुचि लेते थे और व्यक्तिगत सम्बन्धों में मधुरता भरने में बड़े पारंगत थे। उन का देहावसान भी हमारे लिए बड़ा दुःखदायी है।

अभी-अभी मैंने सुना कि भाई यशपाल सिंह हमारे बीच में से उठ गये। महसा इस बात पर विश्वास नहीं होता। ममद में उन के बहुरंगी व्यक्तित्व को कौन अनजाना कर सकता था? समद के कार्य में और उस से भी बढ़ कर संमद के बाहर लोक संग्रह में, लोगों के साथ सम्बन्ध बढ़ाने में और जब संमद में तनाव हो तो उस तनाव को कम करने के लिए कोई विनोदपूर्ण बात कह कर मारे सदन का ध्यान अपनी ओर आकृष्ट कर लेने में श्री यशपाल सिंह जी चतुर थे, हमारे सहयोगी थे।

यह सब महानुभाव हम से बिछुड़ गये हैं। हम उन के देहावसान से शोकग्रस्त हैं। मृत्यु को कोई टाल नहीं सकता, लेकिन जीवन भर देश की सेवा करते हुए जो मृत्यु को प्राप्त होता है वह सचमुच में मीमांश्याली है। ऐसी मृत्यु का कौन स्वागत नहीं करना चाहेगा। आप हमारी भावनाओं इन लोगों के शोक-संतप्त परिवारों तक पहुँचा दें।

श्री इशानमन्थन सिन्ध (बेगुसराय) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन छः दिवंगत आत्माओं के प्रति मैं अपने दल की ओर से श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और शोक-संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति अपनी संवेदना जाहिर करता हूँ। इन छः व्यक्तियों में से किसी एक या दो के बारे में कहीं और अन्य को छोड़ दूँ, यह कुछ उचित नहीं जचता, और प्रत्येक के सम्बन्ध में कुछ ज्यादा तफसील में कहूँ, वक्त इस की इजाजत नहीं देता। मगर यह ठीक है कि कुछ से मुझे बहुत ही निकटतम सम्बन्ध था और कुछ से तो पिता-तुल्य स्नेह प्राप्त था, जैसे डा० सैयद महमूद। परन्तु मेरी सारी भावनायें अभी पूरे तौर से व्यक्त नहीं हो सकतीं, और मैं इतना ही कह कर सन्तोष करूँगा कि उन के हमारे बीच से रुखसत हो जाने से हमारा राष्ट्रीय जीवन बहुत ही अभावग्रस्त हो गया है और शायद इस अभाव को पूरा करने में बहुत समय लगेगा।

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : On behalf of the United Independent Parliamentary Group, we wish to associate ourselves with the sense of grief expressed by the House. Many of the departed colleagues were my personal colleagues, and their loss is, therefore, all the more personal. Shri Yash Pal Singh who was a very colourful personality, Dr. Syed Mahmud, Mr. Punnoose, Mr. Kelappan and Mr. Majhi were my personal friends and great elders whom we respected very much. On behalf of my group, we wish to request you to kindly convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : At the beginning of every session it is a painful duty to make obituary references to some of our very near and dear erstwhile colleagues. I would like to make a reference to Mr. Mahendra Majhi with whom I had the good fortune to work shoulder to shoulder in building up the Ganatantra Parishad. He was born of a Sardar family of the Adivasis and was affectionately called HURUNG GOMKAY. Specially in 1949, when the erstwhile Mayurbhanj State merged in this country, he raised the banner of revolt on the ground of the right of self-determination, and on the ground that Mayurbhanj did not belong to the Maharaja but it was the people who

built the Mayurbhanj State. The authorities then had to resort to indiscriminate firing. At that time, in spite of the great allurements and temptation from the Communist Party in bordering Midnapore District, he joined the Ganatantra Parishad and channelised all his resentment and grievances in a constitutional and democratic manner in building up a healthy opposition in the State of Orissa. He was elected to the Lok Sabha and was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha. He used to take active interest in the labour field and adivasi welfare. He was a very dear friend of mine and was widely respected among the tribals. I mourn his loss,

Mr. Yashpal Singh came to the Third Lok Sabha as the giant killer. He was very colourful and he used to take active interest in parliamentary work. He was so active in the Third Lok Sabha that people used to remark that he was the first to come to the House and the last to leave. But in the Fourth Lok Sabha, his health deteriorated and he could not keep up his tempo of activity in the parliamentary field. He was an Associate Member of the Swatantra Party in the Third Lok Sabha and he used to take great interest in its affairs. He was born to Thakur Sumer Singh, popularly known as Kali Kamiwala, who took a leading part in the freedom movement of the country. Like his father, he was a great nationalist, and I mourn his loss.

I had the privilege to know Dr. Syed Mahmud since 1937 when I was a student in Patna and he was Minister in charge of Education. From that time, I knew him as an embodiment of culture and tradition. I mourn his loss.

Mr. P. T. Punnoose was a distinguished colleague of mine in the second Lok Sabha. He came from Kottayam in Kerala. We differed in our views on many matters, but he was a great nationalist. I mourn his loss also.

On behalf of the Swatantra Party, I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed in this House and request you to convey our condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Kozhikode) : Sir, it is my sad duty to join the Prime Minister and other leaders of the

groups, on behalf of my party, to mourn the death of so many of our colleagues, who have recently passed away. These colleagues were really stalwarts among the freedom fighters of our country. I have to make particular mention of Dr. Syed Mahmud, who was not only a great administrator, statesman and freedom fighter, but a great messenger of Hindu-Muslim unity. I know fully well that when he was recently in hospital, his heart was bleeding for the cause of the integrity and unity of our country. I had the good fortune to work with him in the later part of his life with the Mushawarat. As we know, during the holocaust of 1964, when great clashes took place in the north-eastern region, it was Dr. Syed Mahmud who came there and established the Majlis-e-Mushawarat. He went round the country to establish Hindu-Muslim unity and harmony among different communities. It can be rightly said :

“हजारों साल नगिस अपनी नूरी पर रोती है,
बड़ी मुश्किल से चमन में होता है दीदार पैदा।”

Such was the personality of Dr. Syed Mahmud and it is an irreparable loss to the entire country.

As regards my other friends from Kerala, Shri Madhava Menon, Shri Kelappan and Shri Punnoose, I had intimate connections with all of them. Here I may say that in the last elections it was Shri Madhava Menon who signed my nomination paper because he was such a great admirer of Hindu-Muslim unity and he always stood for that. Shri Kelappan was a great Sarvodaya worker and leader and he had done much for the uplift of the Harijans. Shri Punnoose was an admirable personality.

Shri Ghazanfarulla came from a noble family in Uttar Pradesh and he did great service to the country.

Shri Yashpal Singh was with us only till the other day. He was a very colourful personality. We admired his speeches and his personality was admired by the whole House.

We mourn the loss of these personalities and we request you, Sir, to convey our deep sense of sorrow to the members of the bereaved families. May their souls rest in peace.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA (Maharajanj) : Sir, I had the good fortune to know almost all these seven personalities. Shri Madhava Menon was my colleague in the Constituent Assembly and he took an active part in the drafting of the Constitution. His speeches in the proceedings will give an idea of his contribution.

Dr. Syed Mahmud was a very old friend of mine and his death has come as a shock to me. He was the first President of the Sugar Control Board of UP and Bihar.

Shri Kelappan was a colleague of mine in the first Lok Sabha. He was one of the valuable Sarvodaya workers and he was very unassuming.

Shri Yashpal Singh was with us till the other day. He was a good friend of mine in UP and I have worked with him in many movements. His death is a personal loss to me.

We mourn the loss of all these personalities.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Sir, I associate myself with the condolences expressed by you and the Leader of the House on the death of these great sons of India. I knew personally only Thakur Yashpal Singh. I am grateful that you and the hon. Prime Minister have expressed very kind sentiments for him and his family. I was personally associated with him for a long time. His loss has been a great loss to my party and also personally to me. He was the Chairman of the Vishal Haryana Party in UP, he was a very active leader and a great orator and a true nationalist. Very few hon. Members know that he was born in jail while his parents were undergoing imprisonment during the freedom struggle. He himself underwent imprisonment several times in the freedom struggle. His father was a saint and he himself was very saintly. I mourn his loss and the loss of other great leaders whom this country has lost at such a very difficult and troublesome time.

श्री राम देव सिंह (महाराजगंज) : जो महानुभाव हम से जुदा हो गए हैं उनके प्रति मैं अपनी और अपने दल की ओर से शोक प्रकट करता हूँ।

यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जब हमारी राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक स्थिति संतोषजनक नहीं जा रही है, वे हमारे बीच नहीं रहे। वे हमारे बीच रहते तो हमें उन से कई तरह की प्रेरणा मिलती। स्वाधीनता संग्राम की अगली पीढ़ी के लोग एक एक करके हम से जुदा होते जा रहे हैं। डाक्टर सैयद महमूद को मुझे नजदीक से देखने और समझने का मौका मिला है वह मजकूरलूक साहब के दामाद थे और उन्हीं के पद चिन्हों पर बराबर चलते रहे। उन दिनों में जब देश का विघटन साम्प्रदायिक आधार पर किया जा रहा था, वे उन मुस्लिम नेताओं में से थे जिन्होंने डट कर इसका विरोध किया और एकता की, मिल्लत की मशाल इस देश में बराबर जलाई।

मैं अपनी ओर से तथा अपने दल, सोशलिस्ट पार्टी की ओर से इन सब दिवंगत आत्माओं के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और उनके शोक संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : The House will stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.36 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER AND STATEMENT RE. PORTFOLIO OF SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY

MR. SPEAKER : Before I take up the questions the Prime Minister will introduce the new Minister, Professor Nurul Hasan to this House, and also make some statement about the portfolio of Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Sir, I have pleasure in introduc-

ing to you and, through you, to the House my new colleague professor Syed Nurul Hasan.

I have sought your Permission to make a very brief statement because in my statement made in this House on the 29th June, 1971 soon after the President took over the administration of the state of West Bengal, I had said that Shri Siddhartha Shanker Ray would look after the work relating to West Bengal and the problems created in that and some other states by the massive influx of refugees and would, in due course, shed his portfolios of Education, Social Welfare and the Department of Culture. It was felt at that time that the onerous demands of West Bengal and the problems of refugees would require the undivided attention of a Cabinet Minister. However, when the decision was reviewed in the light of actual experience, it was found that, in view of the marked general improvement in the situation in Bengal since this appointment, It would be possible for Shri Ray to look after this work in addition to his ministerial duties. The subsequent appointment of Professor Nurul Hasan as Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and in the Department of Culture, has given Shri Ray the assistance of a distinguished educationist. I have, therefore, decided that Shri Ray will continue to be in charge of his portfolios in addition to looking after the work relating to West Bengal and refugees.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : What the Prime Minister has stated is contradicting her own statement. On that I had given a privilege motion during the last session and because I was ill in the nursing home it was disposed of summarily. I shall raise the matter once again and shall point out to the House that the Prime Minister had deliberately misled the House

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

11.38 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allotment of Ad Hoc Accommodation to Government Employees

*1. SHRI AMAR NATH CHAWLA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :