

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 10, 1969 [Phalguna] 19, 1890
(Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of three of our friends namely Shri Ganpat Sahai, Shri Sachindra Nath Maiti and Shri H. P. Mody.

Shri Ganpat Sahai was a sitting Member of this House from Sultanpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during the years 1961-1962. He was one of the elder members of the House and in spite of his age he used to attend the sittings of the House very regularly. He was taken ill recently and passed away at New Delhi on the 8th March, 1969 at the age of 86.

Shri Sachindra Nath Maiti was also a sitting member of this House from Midnapore constituency of West Bengal. He also passed away after a brief illness at Midnapore on the 9th March, 1969 at the age of 67.

Shri H. P. Mody was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly during the years 1929-1943 and a Member of the Constituent Assembly of India during the years 1948-1949. He also served as a Member for Supply in the Viceroy's Executive Council during the years 1941-1943. He was a distinguished statesman and was also Governor of Uttar Pradesh. He passed away at Bombay on the 9th March, 1969 at the age of 87.

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

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : This last week end has been one of sorrow and grief for us. The cruel hands of Death have snatched from our midst three distinguished Indians, two of whom were among us as hon. Members of this very House until only the other day.

In Shri Ganpat Sahai we have lost one of the veteran soldiers of the struggle for Independence. His association with the Congress Party began over sixty years ago and in fact there is hardly any time in my life when I do not remember him on the scene. As the House is perhaps aware, he was associated with my home town of Allahabad first as a very brilliant student and later as a professor in the university there. He renounced a promising career at the time of Partition of Bengal and joined in the movement which was then led by Dr. Annie Besant and later by Mahatma Gandhi. His career as a legislator was long and distinguished, both as a member of the U. P. Assembly and also as a Member, twice, of this House. The House knows that he served on many of its Committees. He was one of those political figures who although obsessed with political problems yet found time for many other activities and for the cultivation of wider interests. He promoted educational institutions and charitable trusts. He was greatly interested in sports. He was also associated with various social welfare programmes. In him we have lost one of the leading political figures of the generation which was in the forefront of the fight for freedom.

Similarly, Shri Sachindra Nath Maiti was one of the fearless fighters in the cause of Independence. He belonged to the reputed and dedicated band of Midnapore Revolutionaries. He had undergone long years of incarceration in prison in defence of our right to be free. His entire life was devoted to the service of the people and we shall miss him in this House as indeed we shall

miss Shri Sahai. I feel that the country will be poorer with the loss of these eminent patriots.

We also mourn the death of Shri Homi Mody. He belonged to the disappearing generation of our great countrymen who had so much to give to this nation. He was not only a leading industrialist but an elder statesman. He was a man of culture and great dignity and also full of life and full of wit with the ability to transform the dulllest function into something that was lively and interesting. He was, again, one of those persons whom I remember from early childhood and I had also the privilege of knowing him when he was the Governor of U.P. when I also was living in Lucknow. Since then I have had many occasions to meet him. I must say that even when he was nearing the end of his life and his health was failing he retained his brilliance and sense of humour.

He led a rich and varied life and his interests were varied, ranging from the field of politics and economics to that of sports and culture. All of us who had the privilege of knowing him well will remember his charming and genial personality, but I think that India has lost one of her noble sons and, as I have said, one who combined nobility with those other qualities which enrich our lives. Our thoughts naturally go to the hon. member of this House, Shri Pilloo Mody, and to his gracious mother, Lady Mody, in their hour of grief which we also share.

May I request you on behalf of us all to convey our sincere condolence and deepest grief to the bereaved families?

SHRI M. R. MASANI (Rajkot): I would like, Sir, on behalf of my Party, to associate myself, all of us, with what has fallen from your lips and that of the Leader of the House.

I do not feel qualified to add to what has been aptly said about Mr. Ganpat Sahai, one of the veterans of our independence struggle, whose handsome and dignified face we have seen from our young days, as also about Mr. Maiti.

But in so far as Sir Homi Mody is concerned, I remember him from my boyhood. In him we have lost an elder statesman, an administrator, a banker and

businessman, an author—he will be remembered for his biography of Sir Pherozshah Mehta—a keen sportsman and patron of sports like cricket, racing and many others.

Sir Homi was a great Liberal and a great patriot. His response to the needs of the country and the aspirations of the people was brought out when he was a Member of the Viceroy's Council. In February, 1943, when Mahatma Gandhi launched his historic fast in Yerawada Jail, he found it impossible to continue in that office because of the refusal of the then administration to release Gandhiji and avert the danger to his life. Fortunately, Gandhiji was able to complete his fast without any catastrophe.

My first encounter with him was as a political opponent, because when I was a member of the Congress Party in the Bombay Municipal Corporation from 1935, Sir Homi was the leader of the other group, which was called the Progressive Party, and we had many a verbal duel across the floor.

In 1943, a situation arose when he was able to show that great generosity and tolerance for which we knew him. I was nominated as the Congress candidate for the Mayoralty, but I was working under Sir Homi in the business corporation with which we were both associated. Sir Homi had his own candidate to fight me. He could perhaps have used his position to come in the way and stop me from being nominated, but he did not for a moment think of it that way. He stood aside and said I was welcome to stand, knowing perfectly well that the result would be the defeat of his own candidate. This was the kind of thing one expected from him and came across whenever the occasion arose.

He was one of our colleagues in the Constituent Assembly of India, and I remember the many committees and sub-committees on which one worked with him.

In 1959, he joined some of us in establishing the Swatantra Party. As fellow office-bearers of the party, he and I had occasion for nearly seven or eight years to work together in harness, and the team spirit, the *esprit a' corps*, the spirit of liberalism and tolerance, of give and take which

I found in him is something unfortunately very rare in our public life in India today, whatever party we may belong to.

As the Prime Minister rightly pointed out, he had the rare gift of humour. He was endowed with the happy faculty of seeing the ludicrous or funny side even of a grim or tense situation and the result was that whenever tempers rose, ugly passions were roused, tempers were frayed, he brought sweetness and light by a crack or touch of humour which dissolved everyone into laughter and a very awkward situation was often avoided.

Sir, our hearts go out to Lady Mody, his partner throughout life, our own colleague, Mr. P. loo Mody, his son, and the other members of his family, and we all join in requesting you to convey our deep sympathy to the relations of Sir Homi as well as of our other two colleagues who have passed away.

श्री बलराज मधोक (दक्षिण-दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं और मेरा दल इस संवेदना में, जो आपने, प्राइम मिनिस्टर महोदय ने और श्री मसानी जी ने हमारे दो सदस्यों तथा श्री मोदी जी के देहावसान के सम्बन्ध में व्यक्त की है, सम्मिलित होता है। श्री गणपत जी इस सदन के बयोवृद्ध और आदरणीय सदस्य थे। इस आयु में भी उन का चेहरा खिलार रहता था और जो रुचि वे इस सदन के काम में लेते थे, वह जवानों के लिये ईप्या का भाव पैदा करती थी। उनका सारा जीवन देश सेवा में बीता था। वे उस पीढ़ी के व्यक्ति थे, जो अब लगभग खत्म हो रही है। लेकिन उन की निष्ठा और तप आज भी हमारे लिये मार्गदर्शक का काम करता है। इसी प्रकार श्री माइती जी के भी सम्पर्क में हम लोग घाये।

श्री मोदी जी उस पीढ़ी में से थे, जिसमें हमारे देश के लीडर, स्टेट्समैन सर तेजबहादुर सप्रू और श्री एम० आर० जयकर थे। वे जेल नहीं गये, परन्तु जेल न जाने के बावजूद भी हिन्दुस्तान की आजादी के संघर्ष में उन का योगदान किसी दूसरे देशभक्त से कम नहीं था। उन्होंने न केवल आजादी के संघर्ष में योगदान

दिया, उन्होंने देश को आर्थिक दृष्टि से अपने पांव पर खड़ा होने के लिये उद्योग-धन्धों के क्षेत्र में तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में जो काम किया, वह भी कम प्रशंसनीय नहीं है। वास्तव में उन के इस प्रकार के योगदान की जितनी प्रशंसा होनी चाहिये, वह नहीं हो रही है। वे इस प्रकार के व्यक्ति थे जो किसी भी दल में नहीं थे, जिनका सारा जीवन देशहित में बीता, जो देश की समस्याओं के बारे में बोल सकते थे, जो दलगत राजनीति, प्रान्तीय भावनाओं से ऊपर थे इस प्रकार के व्यक्तियों की आज देश को बहुत जरूरत है, जब के देश के अन्दर आज विघटनकारी शक्तियां सिर उठा रही हैं। हमारे सहयोगी श्री पीलू मोदी जो उन के सुपुत्र हैं, जिस प्रकार अपने हास्यरस से इस सदन में एक नया उल्लास लाते हैं, यही गुण उन के पिता में भी था।

इस अवसर पर हम श्री पीलू मोदी तथा लेडी मोदी के प्रति अपनी हार्दिक संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं।

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Sir, on behalf of the DMK party in Parliament, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by various Members. I did not have the privilege to associate myself intimately with them, though I do know by my contact with various colleagues about their work and the service that they have done to the cause of our Motherland. I request you to convey our heart-felt sympathies to the bereaved families.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : M. Speaker, Sir, death is the inevitable finale of life and when one dies full of years and honours there should normally be nothing very much to sorrow over. But we as human beings have our weaknesses, and for the time being, we feel rather weighed down by the death of these three eminent friends of ours, particularly when two of them were with us from day to day and during a session of Parliament we had the expectation of seeing them any time we wished to.

I did not know Shri Ganpat Sahai intimately but I did have occasional contacts with him apart from listening to his participation in this House, and I noticed that

he was not only a freedom-fighter of a standing which is perhaps unmatched in the country today but he was also possessed of that quality of courtesy which at one time at any rate used to be associated with Uttar Pradesh. He performed his role of being something like a bridge between three generations. He was a remarkable man on any computation, which could be seen when he spoke in this House. He has passed away full of years and honours, as I said. But we are sorry all the same.

I knew Shri Sachindranath Maiti somewhat more, though I cannot claim any particular intimacy. But what I noted about him was a particular unostentatiousness of character. All his life had been dedicated to the struggle for freedom and I am very happy that the Prime Minister mentioned Midnapore, which should be ranked with Satara and certain other regions of our country, where the British rule had been kicked out long before the entire country achieved its independence. Shri Maiti was a very close colleague of Shri Ajoy Mukerjee, who has been making history in recent times, and of our friend here, Shri Samanta. We all admired the kind of silent dedication, which he always brought to bear upon his work. His passing away so suddenly is a shock, which we have not been able to get over yet.

Shri Homi Mody has been a name to conjure with in Indian public life and though I never had the privilege of coming in touch with him, I, like everybody else, had been familiar with his variegated activities. I think he would be remembered as my friend Shri Masani has said, for his *Biography of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta*, which I happened to read a long time ago. But it was a grand thing that we had in our country a personality of that sort, who was elegant to his finger tips, and at the same time, he was able to come down and mix with the common bird. He was a good liver, who could drink life to the lees, and yet, do it with a certain kind of aristocracy which was in its own way a joy to behold. We are particularly sorry for our friend and colleague, in this House, Shri Pilou Mody, to whom the blow must have come in a manner, which no man can describe.

I am sure, Sir, you would convey the feelings of condolence, which all of us have

to the family of Shri Mody as well as of Shri Ganpat Sahai.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं और मेरी पार्टी—संयुक्त सोशलिस्ट पार्टी - हमारे तीन राष्ट्रसेवकों श्री गणपत सहाय जी, श्री मायती जी तथा श्री मोदी जी के देहावसान पर उन के संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करती है।

श्री गणपत जी के व्यक्तिगत रूप से तो मैं निकट नहीं था, लेकिन इस सदन के वह सब से बुजुर्ग और वयोवृद्ध नेता थे। मैंने उन से एक-दो बार बात की थी, उत्तर प्रदेश की गरीबी कैसे खत्म हो, इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने एक-दो बार मुझ से बातचीत की थी और इस काम में उन्होंने बहुत दिलचस्पी ली।

श्री मोदी जी उन उदारवादी नेताओं में थे, जो सिर्फ उद्योगपति नहीं थे, बल्कि बुद्धि-जीवी भी थे और उन के अन्दर आत्मसम्मान का ज्ञान इतना हृद तक था कि 1943 में, जब वह वायसराय की कौन्सिल के सदस्य थे, गांधी जी के अनशन को लेकर उन्होंने वायसराय की कौन्सिल से इस्तीफा दे दिया था। इस अवसर पर इस सदन के सदस्य और मेरे दोस्त श्री पीलू मोदी और श्रीमती मोदी के प्रति आपके जरिये अपने दल की ओर से संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ।

श्री मायती जी को पिछले दो-ढाई सालों से, जब से वे लोक सभा के सदस्य बने, मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से उन को जानता था। अध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से दुःख की बात यह है कि पिछली पहली तारीख को जिस दिन राजधानी एक्सप्रेस की शुरुआत हुई, वे मिदनापुर गये और ता० 4 को वहीं बीमार पड़े और चार-छः दिन तक बीमार पड़ने के बाद उन का देहान्त हो गया। माइती जी बंगाल के उन क्रांतिकारी नेताओं में से थे जो 1920-21 से राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में थे और बहुत दिनों तक, पांच छः साल तक जेल में भी बन्द थे। 1920 में वह पड़ने के लिए विलायत गए थे लेकिन वहाँ से लौटने के बाद

वकालत करने में कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं ली बल्कि राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में भाग लिया, इतनी हद तक कि वह सारे जीवन अविवाहित रहे। मैं उन को जिस ढंग से जानता था, उन की तरह सरल, सीधासादा आदमी शायद इस सदन में कोई दूसरा नहीं है। भले ही वह एक बार भी इस सदन में नहीं बोले थे लेकिन हमारे इस सदन के बुजुर्ग सदस्य श्री सामन्त के साथ बराबर 11 बजे से शाम तक बैठे रहते थे और सदन के हर एक सवाल के बारे में दिलचस्पी लेते थे। मैं आप के साथ और सदन के नेता के साथ सहमत हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि हमारे दल की ओर से उन के परिवार और उन के जो उत्तराधिकारी हैं उन के पास हमारी समवेदना भेज दें।

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party I also join the sentiments of grief and condolences expressed by you particularly for Shri Ganpat Sahai and Shri Maiti who were patriots silently working for the people in their respective areas as well as the country as a whole. I join in the condolences being sent to their families.

So far as Sir Homi Mody is concerned certain political assessments have been made about his past services to the people. My party do not associate with those political assessments, we have our own assessment about them. But I do join in condolences being sent to his family, especially to our colleague Shri Pилоo Mody, his wife and other members of his family.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed and deeply mourn the death of three of our departed colleagues. About Shri Ganpat Sahai, as you know, although he belonged to the old generation he was a very dedicated soul. I think very few in our country are in a position to get this credit as Sir Homi Mody and Shri Ganpat Sahai. Shri Sahai and Sir Homi Mody have to their credit an uninterrupted public service even towards the end of their lives. Shri Sahai was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha. To the Third Lok Sabha he sent

his son. So far as I remember, his son represented the very same constituency. His services in that very constituency were so varied, in the educational, social and political fields, that the people loved him and adored him. Last year, during the election campaign I happened to be in that constituency. I met him at the railway station. Even at that stage people greeted him and gave him a warm welcome. He said : "In this election I am not very much interested in who wins but I have come to tell the people what they should do." He was a patriot for when I think there can be no other tribute than to say that he died almost in harness.

About Shri Maiti, as all of us know, he was one of the silent Members of this House, but such dedicated souls are probably very rare in our public life. His devotion to duty, his record of public service is something which will always remain as an example for all of us in the future.

Regarding Sir Homi Mody, he was a veteran in our public life. He belonged to a different school of politics, no doubt but I do not think this country will ever forget the services that such veterans have rendered to our country from their own point of view. He did play a great part in giving this country some amount of leadership in spheres of business, and in spheres of liberal politics he had attained an age which a passing generation will remember. From that point of view I have nothing to say but, certainly, such great patriots are very much needed in our country at a moment when we are also passing through an age of transition and development. My sympathies are with our friend Shri Pилоo Mody, who is not here, and I hope you will convey our condolences to him and the other members of his family.

SHRI N. C. CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, both Uttar Pradesh and Midnapore have played a conspicuous role in the freedom struggle and we are sorry to miss two of our esteemed colleagues, one from Uttar Pradesh, Shri Sahai, and the other from Midnapore, Shri Maiti. Both were revolutionaries and we should mourn their loss.

I had the privilege of working with Shri Homi Mody for some time at the instance of Rajaji and I knew him intimately.

I find that our old friend, Shri S. K. Patil, has said that Sir Homi Mody had built a monument for himself in Bombay. I wish when in Calcutta, he had seen what a monument of love and tradition he had built for himself in Calcutta. Throughout the industrial world his position was unique. He was a statesman and a patriot.

I remember I got a telegram from Shri K. M. Munshi, asking me to go over here from Calcutta to participate in a convention which was held under the leadership of Sir Taj Bahadur Sapru when Mahatma Gandhi was about to die. It was expected of Dr. Aney and Shri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar to resign. But the whole of India got a mild shock when Sir Homi Mody resigned on the government's refusal to release Mahatma Gandhi.

He was a man of versatile talent. Today West Bengal is passing through a constitutional crisis. If you had a Governor like Sir Homi Mody, possibly all problems would have been solved in a way which would have been acceptable to all, both to the Government and the people, the Centre and the State.

He had the wonderful capacity of taking a joke against himself, and I think my hon. friend, Shri Masani, referred to his sense of humour. That is a great point. We are glad that his son, Shri Piloo Mody, our colleague in this Parliament, has inherited this quality.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk) : Sir, I associate myself completely with the references that have been made by you, the Prime Minister and other friends. We have lost three friends of ours. Two of them are not intimately known to me but Shri S. N. Maiti was intimately known to me. He had been to England for studies before 1920. When he came back, in 1923 we worked together for the renovation of the educational system at the call of Mahatma Gandhi, who asked us to boycott the existing schools and colleges at that time. After that, in 1930, he joined the local non-cooperation movement and went to jail. In 1931 the District Magistrate of Midnapore and two other magistrates were murdered.

Shri Maiti was arrested on suspicion but he was released later on. All the same, he could not escape the wrath of the British. He was detained from 1941 to 1945 and you will be glad to know that he had the company of our good friend, Dr. Triguna Sen in the detention camp. He was a silent sort of man, but a man of action and a lovely person.

We deeply mourn his loss and we would request you to convey our condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the House to stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow ?

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Petro-Chemical Complex of Gujarat

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- *361. **SHRI R.K. AMIN ;**
SHRI K.M. MADHUKAR ;
DR. RANEN SEN ;
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN ;
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licences of downstream units in the Petrochemical complex of Gujarat State have been issued so far ;

(b) if not, when they are likely to be issued ;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the scheme ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to implement the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The Gujarat Petrochemical complex as now planned consists of two basic projects : (i) the aromatics project and (ii) the naphtha cracker project. Government approvals for the downstream units linked with the aromatics project have already been given. In regard to those linked with the naphtha cracker, applications received from private parties have been evaluated in consultation with