

Shri R.K. Kumar, a sitting Member of this House passed away on the 3rd October, 1999 at the age of 57. He was born in August, 1942 at Madras. Shri Kumar had his education at Nepal and Delhi.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Shri Kumar was Director, Canara Bank from 1982-85. Shri Kumar was an accomplished actor in Tamil plays and was an active Member of the South Indian Theatres. He was also associated with several social, cultural organisations. Shri Kumar was also an accomplished writer and has several Publications to his credit.

He took active part in the deliberations of the house. Shri Kumar represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from April, 1996. He was also Minister of State for Finance for a brief period. Shri Kumar contributed significantly towards the proceedings of the House especially relating to economic and financial matters. Soft spoken and mild mannered, he endeared himself with one and all with his suave manners.

In the passing away of Shri Kumar the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Salay Mohammad Sait, Shrimati Sharda Bhargava, Shri Adityendra, Shri Virendra Kumar Sakhalecha, Shri K.K. Madhavan, Shri T.V. Anandan, Shri Parag Chaliha, Shri K.N. Singh, Thakur Jagatpal Singh, Shri Lalsawia, Shri Kalpnath Rai, Shri Maqsood Ali Khan, Shri Ish Dutt Yadav and Shri R.K. Kumar.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF CYCLONE IN ORISSA

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with utmost grief and sorrow to the severe cyclonic storm that struck coastal Orissa in the early hours of 18th October, 1999. About 80 persons lost their lives and more than seven lakh people have been marooned or rendered homeless.

SHRI SOLIPETTA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): In Andhra Pradesh also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will include Andhra Pradesh. The loss of and injury to human life and the devastation caused, is of high

magnitude. In this hour of tragedy, we extend our heartfelt condolences and strong sense of solidarity for the affected families in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

We are sure that every effort will be made to extend rescue and relief and restore normalcy as early as possible.

I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the tragedy.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, I would like to make a request to the Government. We would like to have a discussion on the impact of the devastating cyclone in Orissa. Of course, we will talk to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is also present here. We will be meeting in the Business Advisory Committee on Monday. I like to request the Government to allocate some time for the discussion so that we can discuss it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): The flood situation in West Bengal and Bihar also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When the Business Advisory Committee meets and the hon. Chairman is present, I am sure this matter will be decided. The Government will take note of it and will decide how much time can be allocated for the discussion.

RESIGNATIONS BY MEMBERS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the hon. Chairman has received a letter from Dr. Karan Singh, a Member representing the State of Jammu and Kashmir, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman has accepted his resignation with effect from the 12th August, 1999.

The hon. Chairman has also received a letter from Shri M. Rajasekara Murthy, a Member representing the State of Karnataka, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman has accepted his resignation with effect from the 23rd August, 1999.

The hon. Chairman has also received a letter from Shri S.M. Krishna, a Member representing the State of Karnataka, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman has accepted his resignation with effect from the 14th October, 1999.