

In the passing away of Shri E.M.S. Namboodripad, the country has lost a veteran trade union leader, an able administrator and a noted thinker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Vimal Punjab Deshmukh, Shri T. V. Kamalaswamy, Shri Tridib Chaudhuri, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Shri B. Krishna Mohan and Shri E.M.S. Namboodripad.

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)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our deep sensed of sorrow and sympathy.

REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF TORNADO IN WEST BENGAL AND ORISSA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with utmost grief and sorrow to the severe tornado that swept through several villages of Midnapore and Balasore districts of West Bengal and Orissa yesterday, the 24th March, 1998. In the scale of loss and injury to human life and devastation caused, it is a catastrophe of awesome dimensions.

In this hour of tragedy, we extend our heartfelt condolences and strong sense of solidarity for the affected families. We are sure that every effort will be made to extend rescue and relief assistance and strive to restore normalcy as early as possible.

I request Hon'ble 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)

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that I have received a letter from Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel, a Member representing the State of Gujarat, resigning her seat in Rajya Sabha. I have accepted the resignation with effect from 12th March, 1998.

SHRI N.K. P. SALVE: (Maharashtra) Sir, may I respectfully submit that in the Order paper under the caption "Obituary References" the first name should be Shrimati Vimlabai Punjabrao Deshmukh. But it is written as Vimal Punjab Deshmukh. That change may be made. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned at thirty minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock.

Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have great pleasure to introduce Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister may like to introduce his Council of Ministers.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the august House, my colleagues:

Cabinet Ministers

Shri L.K. Advani Shri
Ananth Kumar Shri
Sikander Bakth Shri
S.S. Barnala

Shri George Fernandes Shri
Rama Krishna Hegde Dr.
Satyanarayan Jatia Shri Ram
Jethmalani Dr. Murli
Manohar Joshi

Shri K. Ramamurthy

Shri Madan Lal Khurana

Shri R. Kumaramangalam
Shri M. Thambi Durai

Shri Nitish Kumar
Shri Naveen Patnaik
Shri Suresh Prabhu
Shri Kashiram Rana
Shri R. Muthiah
Shri Yashwant Sinha
Shri Buta Singh
Smt. Sushma Swaraj

Home Minister
Minister of Civil Aviation
Minister of Industry
Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers with
additional charge of Ministry of Food
Minister of Defence
Minister of Commerce
Minister of Labour
Minister of Urban Development
Minister of Human Resource
Development with additional charge of
Ministry of Science & Technology
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with
additional Charge of Ministry of Tourism
Minister of Power
Minister of Law, Justice & Company
Affairs
Minister of Railways
Minister of Steel & Mines
Minister of Environment & Forests
Minister of Textiles
Minister of Surface Transport
Minister of Finance
Minister of Communications
Minister of Information & Broadcasting

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai

Smt. Maneka Gandhi Shri

Babagounda Patil Shri Dilip

Ray

Minister of State of the Ministry of
Health & Family Welfare (Independent
Charge)
Minister of State of the Ministry of
Welfare (Independent Charge)
Minister of State of the Ministry of Rural
Development (Independent Charge)
Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal
(Independent Charge)

Ministers of State

Shri Omak Apang Shri

Sukhbir Singh Badal Shri

Bandaru Dattatreya Shri

Ramesh Bais Kumari Urna

Bharati

Minister of State in the Ministry of
Tourism
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Industry
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Urban Development
Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel
& Mines
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Human Resource Development

Shri R. K. Kumar	— Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance with additional charge of Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Babulal Marandi	— Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment & Forests
Shri Ram Naik	— Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Smt. Vasundhara Raje	— Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Satyapal Singh Yadav	— Minister of State in the Ministry Civil of Supplies

RE: ALLOTMENT OF ROOM TO THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, today morning you were good enough to recognize the Indian National Congress as the Opposition and our Leader, Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, Naturally, the Leader of the Opposition is expected to have a room in the Parliament House and your Secretariat was good enough to take him to Room No. 43 and he almost occupied it. Today morning, when our Leader came back he found no less a person than the Home Minister, Mr. Advani occupying the room. Some respect should be shown to the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition. I am raising this matter because we consider it an insult to the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition. Once a room has been occupied, it is quite unfortunate that a person like Mr. Advani has taken over the room forcefully. That is my objection. I wish to know what decision you have taken on this.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It has been allotted to him. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The Leader of the House can explain about this. Mr. Sikander Bakht was occupying the room. It was your room. You were occupying the room. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): There is a communication gap on the very first day. Once you allot a room, that communication goes to all the departments. How come a similar communication did not go to the Home Ministry? Was it a communication gap or something else? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It was your room. You were occupying room no. 43. How can he take it over forcefully?

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Sir, the same room was allotted to the.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, you have to decide. It is an insult to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the Leader of the House.

सदन के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहब, अनफायर्च्युनेटली, इश्यू इतना नाराजगी का तो बाइस नहीं होना चाहिए था। हम लोग आपस में बैठकर.... (व्यवधान)

":بخت سکندر یشر" تاین کے سدن†
ی ناراژگ اتنا ایشو یہ ی ٹلی انفورجیون
لوگ ہم تھا چاہئے ہونا نہیں باعث تو کا
"...مداخلت" ... بیٹھکر میں آپس

†[[Transliteration in Arabic Script.