

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 sense 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

| | | |
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| Shri L.K. Advani | — | Home Minister |
| Shri Ananth Kumar | — | Minister of Civil Aviation |
| Shri Sikander Bakth | — | Minister of Industry |
| Shri S.S. Barnala | — | Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers with additional charge of Ministry of Food |
| Shri George Fernandes | — | Minister of Defence |
| Shri Rama Krishna Hegde | — | Minister of Commerce |
| Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia | — | Minister of Labour |
| Shri Ram Jethmalani | — | Minister of Urban Development |
| Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi | — | Minister of Human Resource Development with additional charge of Ministry of Science & Technology |
| Shri K. Ramamurthy | — | Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas |
| Shri Madan Lal Khurana | — | Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with additional Charge of Ministry of Tourism |
| Shri R. Kumaramangalam | — | Minister of Power |
| Shri M. Thambi Durai | — | Minister of Law, Justice & Company Affairs |
| Shri Nitish Kumar | — | Minister of Railways |
| Shri Naveen Patnaik | — | Minister of Steel & Mines |
| Shri Suresh Prabhu | — | Minister of Environment & Forests |
| Shri Kashiram Rana | — | Minister of Textiles |
| Shri R. Muthiah | — | Minister of Surface Transport |
| Shri Yashwant Sinha | — | Minister of Finance |
| Shri Buta Singh | — | Minister of Communications |
| Smt. Sushma Swaraj | — | Minister of Information & Broadcasting |

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

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|-----------------------|---|---|
| Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai | — | Minister of State of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Independent Charge) |
| Smt. Maneka Gandhi | — | Minister of State of the Ministry of Welfare (Independent Charge) |
| Shri Babagounda Patil | — | Minister of State of the Ministry of Rural Development (Independent Charge) |
| Shri Dilip Ray | — | Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal (Independent Charge) |

Ministers of State

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Shri Omak Apang | — | Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism |
| Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal | — | Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry |
| Shri Bandaru Dattatreya | — | Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development |
| Shri Ramesh Bais | — | Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel & Mines |
| Kumari Uma Bharati | — | Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development |

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|---------------------------|---|---|
| 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 of Civil 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, अनफायुनिटली, यह इश्यू इतना नाराजगी का तो वाइस नहीं होना चाहिए था। हम लोग आपस में बैठकर.... (व्यवधान)

الاسمون کے رہنما شری سکندر بخت:
صدر صاحب - ان فور چیونیٹی - ایر ایشو
اتنا ناراضگی کا تو وايس نهى هونا چاهيه
تھا۔ ہم لوگ آپس میں بیٹھ کر
... "مداخلت" ...

* [Transliteration in Arabic Script.]