

RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 21st February, 1997/2nd
Phalgun, 1918 (Saka)*

The House met at Eleven of the Clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Deng Xiaoping, renowned Chinese Leader, on the 19th February, 1997, at the age of 92.

Deng Xiaoping was a great leader of the Chinese people whose contribution to the modernisation of China will be ever remembered. Under his leadership China launched the process of economic reform and opening to the outside world, which has been responsible for raising the standard of living of the Chinese people and the integration of the Chinese economy with that of the world.

We recall the substantial contribution made by Deng Xiaoping in recent years to India-China relations. It was his historic meeting with the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to China in 1988, which reoriented our bilateral relations. On that occasion, he had emphasised the importance of cooperation between India and China, the need for the two countries to develop economically, and for the establishment of a new international political order based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

In mourning the demise of Deng Xiaoping, we reaffirm our desire to build friendly, good neighbourly, constructive and cooperative relations with China for the prosperity of our two peoples.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Respected Chairman, Sir, with your permission and through you, I beg to introduce to this august House my colleagues

- (1) Prof. Saifudding Soz, and
- (2) Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a brief submission to make. No interruption is intended at all.

Sir, the Members of the BJP in the House are not participating in today's proceedings to express our protest against the total breakdown of law and order in Uttar Pradesh and against the brutal murder of our colleague, Shri Brahm Dutt Dwivedi. We are not participating in today's proceedings. Thank you very much.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 1 Dr. Ranbir Singh, absent. Shri Ram Nath Kovind, absent.

*[The Questions (Dr. Ranbir Singh and Shri Ram Nath Kovind) were absent for answer vide col....infra]

Rehabilitation of Earthquake Victims of Latur-Osmanabad Belt

*2. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR

SAMBAHAJIRAO SHINDE:†

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made for resettlement and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims of Latur-Osmanabad belt;

(b) the details of World Bank and other foreign aid so far received, giving particulars of the respective schemes;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the houses built for resettlement of the victims have been lying vacant owing to threat of recurrence of earthquake in the area where frequent tremors have since been felt; and

(d) the number and details of such vacant houses in different areas?

†The Question was actually asked in the floor of the House by Shri Sushilkumar Sambhajirao Shinde.