

**THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**IN THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION  
OF THE  
RAJYA SABHA**

*Commencing on the 20th November, 1996/29th Kartika, 1918 (Saka)*

**RAJYA SABHA**

*Wednesday, the 20th November, 1996/ 29th  
Kartika, 1918 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.  
Chairman in the Chair.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM  
(The National Anthem was played)**

**MEMBERS SWORN**

1. Prof. Ram Kapse — (Maharashtra)
2. Shri Sanjay Nirupam — (Maharashtra)

**Announcement Re. New Leader of the House**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received a letter dated 19 November, 1996 from Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Tourism informing me that the Prime Minister will be the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha

**OBITUARY REFERENCE**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Sardar Guraj Singh Dhillon, a former Member of this House, on 19th August, 1996 at the age of 77.

Born in June, 1919, Sardar Guraj Singh Dhillon was educated at Ferozepur and in the Government College at Lahore. He was associated with several social and welfare organisations. He represented the State of

Punjab in this House from April, 1952 to April, 1958. During the period of his membership of Rajya Sabha, he evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Sardar Guraj Singh Dhillon.

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 family our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy.

**References to Victims of Hurricane in  
Andhra Pradesh and Air Accident in  
Haryana**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with utmost grief and sorrow to the severe hurricane that lashed certain districts of Andhra Pradesh a few days back. In the scale of loss and injury to human life and the devastation caused, it is a catastrophe of awesome dimensions. Our hearts go out to the hundreds of people who have lost their kith and kin and who have suffered heavy loss of property. We also pray for the early recovery of those who have been injured. This is an occasion for Parliament and the whole nation to come together in sympathy and support for the people of a part of our country devastated by natural calamity.

Hon. Members are also aware that on the evening of 12th November, 1996, about 350 persons lost their lives when two foreign aircraft belonging to Saudi Arabia and