

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now request the hon'ble Members to rise in their seats in approval of the Resolution proposed by me and observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. (The Resolution was adopted and

Hon'ble Members then stood in silence for two minutes.)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have also to refer with a deep sense of sorrow to the passing away of Shri S. A. Dange, Shri Mahadeo Prasad Varma, Shri Premji T. Leuva, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka and Shri Dinesh Goswami.

With the passing away of Shri Shripad Amrit Dange on 22nd May 1991, the movement of the working classes in India has lost one of its founding fathers, and India a courageous fighter, a trade unionist of no stature, an eminent Parliamentarian and a stalwart in our political life. Shri Dange was born on the 10th October, 1909. He was educated at Nasik and at the Wilson College at Bombay. He came into contact with the working class while doing relief work in the Mill areas. He left his studies at the age of 21 to enter politics in the pre-Independence period.

Shri Dange was a founder-member of the communist movement in India and the All-India Trade Union Congress. Though he was closely associated with Shri M. N. Roy in the formation of the Communist Party in India, his biggest contribution lay in the organization of the trade union movement. His place in the national history is assured for his crusade to get the Indian workers and peasants a place of honour. He led the country's first landmark textile strike in Bombay in 1928. The Mumbai Girni Kamgar Union which he formed in the 'twenties pioneered the trade union movement

with its concept of workers' unity and collective bargaining. It also helped catalyse the industrialisation of modern India based on equitable participation by the working classes.

His active political involvement in the freedom movement before Independence and the communist and trade union movements later on made him spend nearly 16 of his 92 years in jail. He gave proof of his abilities as a parliamentarian when he became a member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly in 1946 and later of the Lok Sabha in 1957 and 1967. His remarkable public life spanning over six decades was a saga of courage and sacrifice. Shri Dange was also an able theoretician with a capacity to look at life from a broad perspective. He authored a few books, well-known among them are, "India from Primitive Communism to Slavery", "Hell Found" and "Mahatma Gandhi and History". For his strong commitment to socialist ideas and great concern for the toiling masses, Shri Dange was given the highest award the "Order of Lenin" by the Soviet Union in 1974.

Small in physique, Shri Dange possessed a strong will and was of a jovial nature. He commanded respect from all who came in his contact, irrespective of their political views. His death is a great loss to the country and to us all personally.

Shri Mahadeo Prasad Varma who passed away on the 11th May, 1991, was born at village Sariya Birsinghpur in Faizabad district in May 1906, and had his education at the Banaras Hindu University. He represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April 1974 to April 1980. Starting his career as a teacher, he took active part in the freedom movement and also participated in the individual Satyagraha movement in 1941. He underwent rigorous imprisonment for six months. Shri Varma was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967.

[Mr. Chairman]

A person of affable nature, Shri Varma served as Chairman of the House Committee of the Rajya Sabha during 1978-79.

Shri Premji T. Leuva passed away on the 26th May, 1991, at the age of 73 years.

Born in August 1918 at Amreli, he had his higher education at Government Law College, Bombay. He was lawyer by profession. A social worker and trade union leader, Shri Leuva always espoused the cause of the working class and downtrodden people. He was actively associated with several social welfare institutions and worked for the uplift and the development of the weaker sections of society.

He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from August 1952 to April 1960. Later on, he became a Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and was its Speaker from 1962 to 1967.

In the passing away of Shri Leuva, Gujarat has lost a prominent social worker and legislator.

Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, a veteran freedom fighter, renowned parliamentarian, able administrator and organiser passed away in New Delhi on 30th May 1991 after a prolonged illness at the age of 91 years.

He was born in village Ugo in District Unnao of Uttar Pradesh on January 12, 1901. Inspired by the call of the Father of the Nation, he discontinued his education and joined the non-cooperation movement in 1920. He was imprisoned four times during the British regime and spent nearly 12 years of his life in jail. He had also been an active underground leader during the freedom movement and his main task was to assist families of those leaders who were in jail.

Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit started his career as a Journalist and was the Managing Director of Associated

Journals Ltd., which publishes important dailies like the National Herald, Navjivan and Qaumi Awaz. After Independence, he served as a Custodian of Evacuee Property for four years from 1948 and displayed his organising skills. He was initiated into parliamentary life in 1961 when he was elected to the Rajya Sabha and remained its member till 1976. In the Rajya Sabha, he was the Leader of the House from 1971 to 1975. He was Union Minister holding portfolios of Home, Health and Family Welfare and Works and Housing from 1971 to 1976.* He was appointed Governor of Karnataka in 1976 and of West Bengal from 1984 to 1986.

Shri Dikshit was keenly interested in the promotion of Hindi and was associated with several education and cultural organisations.

In the passing away of Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit the country has lost one of the last surviving links between the national movement and post-Independence India. The country will always remember his invaluable services in diverse sectors of nation building activity.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, a former member of this House passed away at the age of 102 years in Calcutta. Born in August 1889 at Dumka in Bihar, Shri Himatsingka had his education at Bhagalpur and Calcutta. He started his career as a lawyer. He was a leading Solicitor and Advocate of the Calcutta High Court. He was drawn into the nationalist movement at a very early age. He was arrested for political activities connected with revolutionary parties in 1914 and was prosecuted in the Bow bazar Conspiracy case also known as Rodda Arms case. He was actively associated with all the movements launched by Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress since 1930 and suffered imprisonment several times. His was a life of service suffering and sacrifice. He engaged

[Mr. Chairman] himself in humanitarian work by founding various relief societies. He was associated with several charitable and social organisations especially connected with the weaker sections of society. He was Vice-President, Bharat Scouts and Guides, and Secretary, Incorporated Law Society of Calcutta.

Apart from his long membership of the Calcutta Corporation as a Councillor, Shri Himatsingka had a very long parliamentary career beginning with the membership of the Bengal Legislative Council from 1926 to 1930, Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1939, Assam Legislative Assembly from 1946 to 1948 and West Bengal Legislative Assembly from February 1948 to June 1948. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly from 1948 to 1950, Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1951 and was a Member of this House from 1956 to 1962 and Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1970. In his death the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, eminent parliamentarian and a distinguished lawyer, and Calcutta its grand old man.

Death has deprived us of services of the sitting Member of this House, Shri Dinesh Goswami. He died yesterday morning in a road accident near Guwahati in Assam. In his untimely and unfortunate demise, we have lost one of the most outstanding parliamentarians.

Shri Goswami was born in May, 1935 at Village Pallastra, District Bar-peta and had his education at Shillong, Guwahati and Calcutta. During his student days he was a keen debator and won All India, All Bengal and All Assam Debating Championships. Shri Goswami, apart from being a political and social worker also practised law at the Guwahati High Court and the Supreme Court of India. He was General Secretary, National Forum of Lawyers and Legal Aid, Assistant Secretary, All India Democratic Lawyers Association. He was also a keen sportsman and was Treas-

urer, Sports Council of Assam. He was particularly fond of Football and Cricket. As Members are aware, he used to organise cricket match annually between Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as well as between Members of Parliament and other Groups like Journalists, etc. He was also deeply involved with the theatre movement in Assam. Besides, he was associated with Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and Indo-GDR Friendship Society.

Shri Goswami was a member of the Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977. He was a member on the panel of Chairman in that House in 1974-75. He served on its various Committees including Public Undertakings Committee during that period.

He was a member of this House from 1978 to 1984. In this House he was a member on the panel of Vice-Chairman in 1980-82 and 1983-84.

He again went to Lok Sabha as a member from 1985-89 and came back to this House in April, 1990. He was the Leader of Asom Ganga Parishad in Parliament from 1985 to 1989. He was Union Minister of Steel and Mines and Law and Justice from December, 1989 to November, 1990.

In Parliament he was respected by all Sections of the House. His charming demeanor, smiling face and sobriety in speech commanded attention and affection.

His passing away at a comparatively young age has created a political void especially in Assam, at this crucial juncture.

We in this House has lost a distinguished and valuable colleague. He will be remembered for his nation building services for years to come.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri S. A. Dange, Shri Mahadeo Prasad Varma, Shri Premji T. Leuva, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, Shri Pra-bhu Dayal Himatsingka and Shri Dinesh Goswami.

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

*[Hon'ble Members then stood in
silence for one minute]*

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

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Tuesday, the 4th June, 1991, as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

The House then adjourned at thirty-three minutes past one of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 4th June, 1991.