

30. Shri M. Palaniyandi (Tamil Nadu)
31. Shri G. Swaminathan (Tamil Nadu)
32. Shri M. Vincent (Tamil Nadu)
33. Shri Ajit Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
34. Chowdhary Ram Sewak (Uttar Pradesh)
35. Shri Satya Pal Malik (Uttar Pradesh)
36. Shri Rasheed Masood (Uttar Pradesh)
37. Dr. Ratnakar Pandey (Uttar Pradesh)
38. Shri Kalpnath Rai (Uttar Pradesh)
39. Dr. Rudra Pratap Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
40. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari (Uttar Pradesh)
41. Shri Bekal Utsahi (Uttar Pradesh)
42. Shri Kapil Verma (Uttar Pradesh)
43. Shri Ashok Nath Verma (Uttar Pradesh)
44. Shri Sharad Yadav (Uttar Pradesh)
45. Shrimati Ela Ramesh Bhatt (Nominated)

46. Shri R.K. Narayan (Nominated)

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I am calling Hon. Members who have not taken their oaths:

1. Shri Ram Awadesh Singh (Bihar)
2. Shri Jaswant Singh (Rajasthan)
3. Shri M.F. Husain (Nominated)
4. Pt. Rabi Shankar (Nominated)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, just now the newly elected and nominated Members have taken their oath and their seats in the House I would like to extend to all of them a most cordial welcome.

Some of you are veterans who had long experience in both the Houses and no word of advice is needed for them from the Chair.

So far as the newly elected Members are concerned, I would like to remind them that they have been elected to one of the highest forums in the country and that they should rise to the occasion and discharge their duties not only to the best of their ability but also in a manner that will redound to their credit. Now, there are Constitutional provisions; there are Rules of the House; there are also various conventions and also certain unwritten rules of etiquette. All these, you will learn very soon and very quickly when you see other Members observing them. I am sure you will have a very fruitful and a very useful membership in the House and contribute your best to the country and to the respective parties from which you have come. With these words, I would again welcome these Members and now proceed to the next item.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, it is my melancholic duty to refer to the passing away of one of our great national leaders, Babu Jagjiwan Ram, in New Delhi on the 6th of July, 1986. I think the House would like to express to their tributes to the great leader and I would, therefore, call upon the Leader of the House to start.

सभा के नेता (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : सभापति जी, बाबू जगजीवन राम जी के विदा होने में जैसे एक युग विदा हो रहा है। लगता है कि युग को भी जिंदा रहने के लिए प्राणियों का सहारा चाहिए। बाबू जी ने जन-जन को एक युग परिवर्तन से जोड़ा था और इसीलिए वे हमारी राष्ट्रीय स्मृति के एक अभिन्न अंग बन गए हैं। उनकी स्मृति हमारे इतिहास को जिंदा रखेगी। उनके जीवन के जिस पहलू को भी हम देखें, वह पहलू पूरा और पूर्ण लगता है। जैसे खराद हुए नंग के किमी भी पक्ष को देखें, किसी ओर से देखें उसमें चमक झलकती है। हमारे स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के वे अग्रणी योद्धा थे। राष्ट्र निर्माण के उन्होंने केवल सपने ही नहीं गढ़े बल्कि एक कुशल प्रशामक के रूप में उनको साकार भी किया। इंदिरा जी को काबिना में रहते हुए रक्षा मंत्री के रूप में उन्होंने भारत को सरहद पर देश का सिर ऊंचा किया और शोषित, उत्पीड़ित हरिजन समाज के वे केवल आसू ही नहीं थे बल्कि उनका आक्रोश और उनकी आशा भी थे। सर्वोपरि वे इस धरती के पुत्र, राष्ट्र के पौरुष थे। वह पौरुष जिसके सामने विघटनकारी शक्तियां आख दिखाने को हिम्मत नहीं करती थीं। आज इस पौरुष को जागृत करने की आवश्यकता है। बाबू जी को आज भी जिंदा रख सकते हैं अगर उनकी चुनौतियां हम अपनी चुनौतियां मान ले। जो सर्वहारा वर्ग है, जो उत्पीड़ित हैं उनके साथ हम संघर्ष करने के लिए तैयार हो जायें। क्योंकि वह इन्सान अब विहीन हो सकता है, वह आदर-विहीन हो सकता है, वह आशा-विहीन हो सकता है, लेकिन वह आत्मा-विहीन नहीं और जब भूख की आग आत्मा में लग जाती है, तो वह काल की शिखा बनती है जो युग-युग को भस्म करके नए युग की रचना करती है, इस महायुग यज्ञ में हम अपनी आहुति दे सकें, यही उनके प्रति सब से उत्तम श्रद्धांजलि होगी।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join the leader of the House in paying homage to the departed leader, Babu Jagjivan Ram. Hailing from a very humble background, for over half a century, he played a very important role in the freedom struggle of our country and also in the post-Independence era of our country. He was a very prominent figure in our Independence struggle and also in the Post-Independence era of our country. He always sided with the downtrodden and the socially-discriminated sections of the society and his memory will be cherished by all those who are engaged in the battle for the welfare of the downtrodden people.

With these words, on behalf of my colleagues, I pay homage to the departed leader, Babu Jagjivan Ram.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* **V. ARUNACHALAM** (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the All-India Anna DMK, I share the sentiments expressed by Hon'ble leader of the House and from the Opposition by Shri Dipen Ghosh, on the demise of Shri Jagjivan Ram. The demise of Shri Jagjivan Ram is the greatest loss not only to the country but also to the weaker sections. Shri Jagjivan Ram was a true disciple of Gandhiji and a good friend of Pandit Nehru and a successful Minister of a democratic country. As a freedom-fighter, his service to the nation was unique and as a Minister holding various portfolios for more than thirty years, his service to the nation was remarkable. Even in Opposition, his role was historic. While he was in the Congress, whenever Parliament debated any No-Confidence Motion or any Adjournment Motion, Shri Jagjivan Ram was preferred by the Congress Party to reply to the allegations of the Opposition because of his political saga-

[Shri Aladi Aruna alias
V. Arunachalam]

city and debating capacity. Sir, on behalf of the All-India Anna DMK I express my heartfelt condolences to the family of the departed leader and the public at large.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the passing away of Babu Jagjivan Ram, we have lost a leading pillar of the nation and a leading light of the old guard. Babu Jagjivan Ram symbolised himself four historic periods of our history. He represented pre-Independence, Independence, post-Independence and post post-Independence periods of our national life.

Sir, some of us were very actively associated with him in the Past. We remember him, firstly, as a great patriot. As a patriot, he stood for the freedom of this country and fought for it along with other luminaries. Secondly, he was a great leader. As a leader, throughout his life he remained friend of the progressive forces of the country and fought reactionary forces. Certainly, Sir, he was an administrator per excellence. As an administrator he brought efficiency and excellence in all the positions he occupied in the Government and country. I often remember his remark that he should not be called a Harijan leader. He despised it. He was not a leader of the Harijans only, he really worked and played a role of a national leader. He always worked for the emancipation of the down-trodden. He was born in the down-trodden Community and worked for their upliftment and progress.

His passing away is a great loss. On behalf of the Janata Party I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the leader of the House and others here and pay my humble homage.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh) : In the death of Babuji we lost a giant of our freedom movement, an astute politician, a great statesman and an excellent administrator. He played a great role in shaping the destiny of this country for half a century. He was a ray of hope for the poor and the down-trodden sections of the community. Mahatma Gandhi hoped that one day a Harijan and a man from the lowest rungs would occupy the highest office in this country. If there was one who could have fulfilled Gandhi's desire it was Babuji, but unfortunately his desire could not be fulfilled. I do not want to go into the past history but there are many who believe that had he been assigned that great task in March, 1977 or in August, 1979, perhaps the course of events in this country would have been different.

Sir, on behalf of my party, Telugu Desam, I offer my sincere condolence to the bereaved family and pay my respectful homage to the departed soul.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य-प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, मैं सदन के नेता से सहमत हूँ कि बाबूजी के निधन से एक युग का अन्त हो गया है। वर्तमान को अतीत से जोड़ने वाली एक कड़ी राजनीति के वर्तमान को राष्ट्र-नीति के अतीत से जोड़ने वाली अन्तिम कड़ी टूट गई है। स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का एक महारथी हमारे बीच में से उठ गया है। भारतीय गणतंत्र का एक आधार ढह गया है। राजनीति का एक मंजा हुआ खिलाड़ी हमें छोड़ कर चला गया है। स्वतंत्र भारत का योग्यतम प्रशासक हमारे बीच में नहीं है। उस उद्भट संसदज को खोकर संसद कुछ सूनी-सूनी नजर आती है।

बिहार के एक छोटे से गांव में एक दलित परिवार में उत्पन्न वह

बालक, जिसने दुनिया में आंखें खोलते ही जन्म और जाति से जुड़े हुए अभि-शापों और संतापों से जूझने का मानो जीवन-भर का उत्तराधिकार पाया, वह शताब्दियों की विषमताओं, अपमान-जनक परिस्थितियों और भेदभावों से लड़ कर, उन्हें हरा कर राष्ट्रीय रंगमंच के केन्द्र स्थान पर प्रतिष्ठित हो गया और अनेक दशकों तक आकर्षण का केन्द्र बना रहा। यह तथ्य जहां उस व्यक्ति की विराटता का द्योतक है, वहां इस बात का भी परिचायक है कि हमारा समाज गतिशील है, भले ही हमारी गति अपर्याप्त हो, असमाधानकारक हो। बाबू जी जिस पद पर बैठे उसे अलंकृत किया, जिस सभा में गए उसे शोभा प्रदान की। उन्होंने जीवन में काफी जहर पिया, लेकिन जब बांटा तो सद्भाव का अमृत बांटा। उनके हृदय में विषमता के विरुद्ध आग जलती थी। कभी-कभी उस आग की चिंगारियां इधर-उधर फूट पड़ती थीं, मगर कुल मिलाकर उन्होंने राष्ट्र की एकता, सामाजिक सद्भाव, सौहार्द को बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। देश को अनाज की दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में, बांग्ला देश की मुक्ति के युद्ध में उनका योगदान हमेशा याद रखा जाएगा। उन्हें खोकर हमारा सार्वजनिक जीवन थोड़ा अकिंचन हो गया है।

सभापति महोदय, मुझे खेद है कि बाबू जी के अन्तिम क्षण छोटे से विवाद के घेरे में फँस गए। रेडियो से उनकी मृत्यु की खबर, फिर उस खबर का खंडन, प्रधान मंत्री जी का हवाई अड्डे से अस्पताल में उन्हें देखने जाना, बिना सुरक्षा के पर्याप्त प्रबन्ध के और फिर उनका मारिशस के लिए प्रयाण—यह सार्वजनिक चर्चा का विषय बन गया है। एक बात निश्चित है कि बाबू जी को महाप्रयाण के लिए प्रस्थित देख कर हमारे प्रधान मंत्री मारिशस की यात्रा रद्द कर देते या टाल देते तो मारिशस में किसी प्रकार की गलत-फहमी पैदा न होती, मारिशस के लोग उसे अन्यथा नहीं समझते। हमारे और मारिशस के संबंध इतने घनिष्ठ हैं,

इतने निकट हैं। सभापति जी, बाबू जी के निधन को इतने दिन बीत गए। क्या सरकार इस संबंध में कोई बयान नहीं दे सकती थी? मैं विवाद खड़ा नहीं करना चाहता। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लेकिन अगर आप... (Interruptions)... Sir, I am not raising any controversy... (Interruptions)...

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : You have already raised a controversy.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : But I am within my rights to raise that question which is related to Babuji's death... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You all please keep quiet.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : I am perfectly within my rights.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair is on its legs. All of you will please resume your seats. Please, please, please, all of you. (Interruptions)... I am sorry that Atal Bihariji has raised it in this meeting. He could raise it in any other meeting. I, therefore, request him to conclude his speech.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, मुझे खेद है कि मैंने ऐसी बात कह दी। शायद मैं नया हूँ इसलिए ऐसी बात कह दी। या अभी तक इस सदन के सदस्यों को मेरा परिचय नहीं हुआ इसलिए बुरी लग रही हो। मगर अगले 6 साल तक आप को ऐसी बातें सुननी पड़ेंगी। (व्यवधान)

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

Sir, I accept your ruling, but I am not a new Member to this House.... (Interruptions) I am not a new Member to Parliament. ... (Interruptions) ... They have committed an impropriety. They should have made a public statement on that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you, Mr. Vajpayee. But my point is, this is not the occasion to raise it. If you wanted to raise it, I would have given you another opportunity. That is all I am saying.

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) :
सभापति महोदय . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now he is concluding. Please sit down.

श्री बूटा सिंह : मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता था कि बी जे पी ने . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No explanations. This is not the time to make a complaint or give an explanation.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
सभापति महोदय, बाबू जी के प्रति हमारी . . .

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra) : ... (Interruptions) ... A maiden speech should not be interrupted.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
हो गया, बहुत हो गया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, please.

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN (Delhi) :

* * *

***Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These things will not go on record. Now, Mr. Vajpayee, I would request you to please conclude.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
सभापति महोदय, मैं बात को उपसंहार की ओर ले जाते हुए कहना चाहता हूँ कि बाबू जी के प्रति हमारी सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि यही होगी कि हम उनके सपनों के एक समतानुक्त भारत के निर्माण के कार्य को गति दें। वे जीवन भर विषमताओं से लड़े, उन्हीं विषमताओं के कारण उन्हें जहाँ पहुँचना चाहिए था वहाँ वे नहीं पहुँचे। लेकिन . . .

(Interruptions)... Sir, I am ready to face any interruption but, as per convention....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : When he is concluding, he should not be disturbed. You have opposed a convention just now. He will conclude. Why should they disturb him ? It is not at all necessary, my dear friends.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : इस तरह की बातें कांग्रेस बेंचों को लगती क्यों है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the occasion to indulge in this kind of cross-talk. Please. He is concluding and I would request all the Members just to allow Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee to conclude his speech... (Interruptions)...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, मैं समाप्त करना चाहता हूँ मगर हमारे मित्त समाप्त करने देना नहीं चाहते। अगर मैंने कोई ऐसी बात कही हो जिस से आप को चोट 12 NOON पहुँची हो तो मुझे इस बात का खेद है। लेकिन आपको चोट पहुँचाने के लिए मैंने ये बातें नहीं कहीं, यह ध्यान में रखिए।

सभापति जी, मैं अपनी श्रद्धांजलि को समाप्त करता हूँ और कहना चाहता

हूँ कि भेदभाव से मुक्त और सामाजिक समता से युक्त जब तक समाज का निर्माण नहीं होता, हम बाबू जी के प्रति सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करने के अधिकारी नहीं होंगे।

श्री बोरेंद्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आदरणीय चेयरमैन साहब, बाबू जगजीवन राम जी से पिछले 40 वर्षों से मेरा परिचय है, वैसे राजनीतिक क्षितिज पर देश की सेवा में वे पचास साल से लग चुके थे। स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के वे अग्रणी योद्धा थे। केन्द्रीय सरकार के जो भी विभाग विभिन्न प्रधान मंत्रियों के द्वारा उन्हें सुपुर्दे किये गये, उनका अत्यन्त ही कुशलता और सफलता के साथ उन्होंने संचालन किया।

वे राष्ट्रीय एकता और अखंडता के प्रतीक थे। निर्धन, गरीब और पिछड़े वर्ग के उत्थान में उनकी विशेष रुचि थी। आज इस सदन में नेता, सदन ने और विरोधी पक्षों के नेताओं ने जो विचार व्यक्त किये हैं मैं और हमारा लोकदल उन विचारों के साथ अपने आपको संबद्ध करता है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि बाबू जगजीवन राम जी, जो हमारे बीच नहीं रहे हैं, उनके प्रति सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि यही हो सकती है कि जो गरीबों, पिछड़े वर्गों और निर्धनों को उठाने के लिये उन्होंने कमर कसी थी, उन की ओर रुचि और लगन लगाई थी, इस हाउस के दोनों तरफ बैठने वाले माननीय सदस्य उनके प्रति सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि तभी दे सकेंगे जब गरीबों के प्रति उन जैसी सहानुभूति, उन जैसा कार्य उनके उत्थान के लिये उसी प्रकार की शक्ति अपने अन्दर जुटा सकेंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं हृदय से उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : सभापति महोदय, जगजीवन बाबू के प्रति सदन के नेता और अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने जो उद्गार प्रकट किए हैं, मैं उनके साथ हूँ।

जगजीवन बाबू हमारे देश के बहुत ही उच्च कोटि के राष्ट्रीय नेता थे। उनका जीवन के हर एक क्षण में

योगदान रहा है। लंबे अरसे तक उन्होंने मंत्रित्व का पद संभाला और जिस विभाग में गए, वहाँ उन्होंने अपनी छाप छोड़ी। प्रारम्भ में वह श्रम मंत्री बने और मेरा भी उन दिनों श्रम आंदोलन से संबंध था, खासकर कोयला खानों के मजदूरों से। उनके लिए उन्होंने जो कल्याण योजनाएं बनाई या उनके वक्त में जो इंडस्ट्रियल डिस्प्यूट्स ऐक्ट बना, वह अभी भी श्रम के संबंध में एक आधारभूत कानून के रूप में काम कर रहा है। वह जिस विभाग में गए, वहाँ उन्हें बड़ी सफलता प्राप्त हुई। भारत का हरिजन समुदाय तो खेतों और खलिहानों में सदा से उच्चकोटि का काम करता रहा है, लेकिन राजनीति में, बौद्धिक क्षेत्र में जगजीवन बाबू के रूप में हरिजन समाज ने दिखला दिया कि वह राष्ट्र को क्या दे सकता है। उनके विचार बहुत ही मंतुलित थे, हरिजन समुदाय के लिए वह दूसरे अंबेदकर तो थे ही, लेकिन सारे समाज में, हर हिस्से में तमाम लोगों के बीच में वह लोकप्रिय थे।

मैं अपनी ओर से, अपने दिल की ओर से उनके प्रति हादिक श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और यह इच्छा प्रकट करता हूँ कि उनके परिवार के प्रति समवेदना सदन की ओर से आप भेज देंगे। मुझे इस बात का दुःख है कि श्रद्धांजलि के वक्त में भी कंट्रोवर्सी छिड़ गयी। हम लोगों ने अभी शपथ ग्रहण की सदन की मर्यादा को ऊँचा उठाने के लिए और उसके तुरन्त बाद इस तरह की बात चाहे इस पक्ष से हो, चाहे उस पक्ष से हो, तो मुझे ज्यादा दुःखदायी लगती है। एक बार फिर मैं जगजीवन बाबू के प्रति अनन्यतम श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): The colossus among the contemporary Indian leaders and a statesman is no more. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as 'Babuji' has endeared himself in hearts and minds of all the Indians right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

Very few political leaders could rival his distinguished record as the Central Minister with his versatile knowledge and understanding of men and matters. When we made a breakthrough on the food front, he was presiding over the Food and Agriculture Ministry, when we won the great Bangladesh war and made signal history, he was our Defence Minister. Whether it is in the establishment of Food Corporation of India or modernisation of Railways or the conduct of war, Babuji showed a rare farsight and administrative capability. More than anything else, he was a symbol of hope and beacon of light for the depressed and the downtrodden people. He was a champion who stood for social justice and fought against the atrocities and casteism. In fact, he was one of the few leaders on this side of Vindhyas who understood correctly the genesis, growth, relevance and dynamics of the Dravidian Movement and the 'self-respect' movement of Pariyar E.V. Ramaswamy and Dr. Anna. In fact, in his demise we have lost a great friend, philosopher and guide. With his loss the whole era has come to an end—the era which linked the freedom movement of the contemporary India.

I pay my respectful homage on my own behalf and on behalf of my D.M.K. Party to the departed leader.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, I pay my tribute to the great leader who has just departed. Babu Jagjivan Ram was one of the last leaders of the freedom movement and by his passing away we have lost a great personality. He was for the down-trodden whether they lived in Kashmir or kanya Kumari and he worked for their cause. I remember that after the 2nd June, 1984 episode in Jammu and Kashmir, he called

us over cup of tea and exhorted us to have patience and told us that you should not bother about it. After all the truth will prevail.

I also remember that he had a very alert mind in spite of his age. He was a great administrator, there is no doubt about it. Whether he was in the Agriculture Ministry or in the Defence Ministry or wherever he was, he acted as an able administrator.

To my mind, the job started by Jagjivan Babu will remain unaccomplished till every person belonging to the backward classes, minorities and others are brought at par with others in the country. Let us all join together and, besides paying tributes to him, work for the cause that he has espoused.

With these words I again associate myself with the tributes paid by the Leader of the House to the departed soul and hope and pray that God will keep his soul in peace.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to pay my tribute as, a soldier to Babu Jagjivan Ram the departed brilliant Defence Minister. It was during 1971 that in the Bangladesh Operation we looked up to him as the Defence Minister. He met our needs. He was full of understanding. He had a very sharp mind and a very quick grasp of the situation. Apart from being a great administrator, he was also a great leader. Any time any one achieved anything during the 'Bangladesh Operation' could depend on him to be given ring in the evening and he congratulated for it. There is no doubt in my mind that he was one of the ablest administrator we had. There is also no doubt in my mind that he was a person who had the cause of the downtrodden and the minorities at heart. During the long era that he was at the helm of affairs—whether as a Congress man or as a non-

Congress man he did his duty to the country selflessly and brilliantly.

I like to pay my homage to him both as a soldier as well as belonging to a minority and Akali Dal party. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to join the Leader of the House and other distinguished colleagues of mine in this House to pay my respectful homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram. The very name of "Babuji" by which a countless followers and admirers were very much pleased to call him flashes before our eyes—a life profile of a man who struggled right from the beginning in the face of the defenceless and under privileged. With him the concept of high and low caste was not derivative of any sectarian or communal or any ill-feelings, but from the inherent social contradiction in the feudal society that India has now even today. This advocacy for the cause of the Low caste was the result of this deep understanding of the social realities obtaining in our country. An able administrator, a farsighted statesman, he bent all his energies to create a new India, an India without caste, without class distinction. In the Indian political scene he strode like a colossus. He was an embodiment of Indian ethos and culture. The light has gone out, but it continues to radiate. Let us follow the foot-steps which he has set before us. In this way alone, Sir, we can pay our true respect to the great leader who has departed from us. I request you, Sir, to convey the condolences to the member of the bereaved family.

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, नेता सदन और अन्य पार्टियों के नेताओं ने जो अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की है उससे अपने को संवद्ध करते हुए मैं भी बाबू जगजीवन राम जी के प्रति अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि बाबू जी महान देशभक्त थे। देश की आजादी से लेकर अपने प्राणों के अन्त तक वे देश की एकता, अखंडता और दृढ़ता के लिए हर प्रकार से प्रयत्न करते रहे। मुझे याद है बाबू जी का वह भावण, मेरे क्षेत्र बड़ौत में उन्होंने उस समय कहा था कि पाकिस्तान अगर युद्ध की जल्दबाजी करेगा तो युद्ध पाकिस्तान की जमीन में होगा, भारत में नहीं होगा और उनकी यह भविष्यवाणी बंगलादेश के युद्ध में सही साबित हुई। जब वे कृषि मंत्री हुए तो उस समय इस देश में अन्न का अभाव था। यों तो इसका श्रेय देश के किसानों को भी जाता है, सेना को भी जाता है, मगर जो सबसे बड़ा हेड होता है उसको उसका श्रेय जरूर जाता है। उनके मंत्रित्वकाल में अन्न के भंडार बढ़ गए। देश की जनता उनको बहुत भाग्यशाली और अच्छा प्रशासक मानती थी। उनके अंदर गरीब और अमीर का भेद नहीं था। वह इस देश को एक प्रगतिशील देश के रूप में देखना चाहते थे। जब हाल ही में उनका अंतिम जन्म दिन मना रहे थे, उस समय भी उन्होंने एक बात कही थी जिससे हम सब सब को लेना चाहिए। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर साफ कहा था कि मैंने राजनीति को राष्ट्र से ऊपर कभी नहीं समझा, राष्ट्र सर्वोपरि है और मेरा अंतिम जीवन भी राष्ट्र को समर्पित है, राष्ट्र की एकता और अखंडता के लिए मेरा जीवन समर्पित है। उनकी ऐसी भावनायें युग-युगों तक इस देश की आने वाली पीढ़ियों को प्रेरणा देती रहेंगी। मैं बाबूजी को अपनी सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए यह आशा करता हूँ कि भगवान हमारे देश की जनता को, हम सब को उनके विचारों पर चलने के लिए प्रेरित करें और देश की एकता और अखंडता के लिए उनके बताए हुए, अंतिम क्षणों में बताए हुए मार्ग पर चलने के लिए देशवासियों को प्रेरणा दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I rise to associate myself with the

[Mr Chairman]

sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and Leaders of various groups in the House on the passing away of a great national leader Babu Jagjivan Ram. In his death the country has lost one of its surviving links with the veterans of the pre-Independence era. In his public life, that spanned more than five decades, Babuji was a key participant in most of the changes and developments that took place in modern India. Babuji was a Champion of the down-trodden and Harijans, an able administrator, a successful parliamentarian and an astute politician.

Born at Village Chandwa in Bhojpur District of Bihar in April, 1908, Babuji passed his matriculation examination in 1926 and that year, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya who happened to visit Arrah town was much impressed by the nationalistic zeal and invited him to join the Banaras Hindu University for higher studies. He graduated from the Calcutta University. Born in a poor family and having suffered the pangs of poverty and untouchability, the plight of the Harijans and down trodden deeply moved him and he took up their cause to get them a rightful place in the society. Babuji played a very active role in the freedom struggle and was detained in December, 1940 for a year for offering Satyagraha and again for more than a year during the 'Quit India Movement' in August, 1942. In 1946 he was invited by the British Cabinet Mission to present before it the views of the Scheduled Castes. He was inducted into the Interim Government in 1946 as a Minister of Labour and thereafter he was a Member of the Union Cabinet for nearly 33 years. During this period he ably presided over the affairs of such important Ministries as Labour and Employment, Communications, Railways, Food and Agriculture and Defence. Shri Jagjivan Ram's stint in the Labour Ministry was, in many ways, his golden hour. Particularly notable was his trend-setting role in the unionization of plantation

workers who had, until then, been regarded as outside the scope of organized labour. His piloting the Minimum Wages Bill and Employees State Insurance Bill will also be greatly remembered. He was also elected the President of General Assembly of the International Labour Organization. Under his stewardship the working in Railways improved perceptibly. Air Transport was nationalised, the country achieved self-sufficiency in food production. Under Smt. Indira Gandhi's dynamic Leadership during Indo-Pakistan war in 1971, Babu Jagjivan Ram as Defence Minister provided quiet guidance to the armed forces. To his ministerial responsibilities Babuji brought his inborn shrewdness and infinite capacity for work and professional competence of high order.

Babuji was one of the senior-most parliamentarian in India, starting his career in 1937 as a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly and thereafter of the Constituent Assembly, the Provisional Parliament and all the eight Lok Sabhas till his passing away. A gem among parliamentarians, Babuji, with his debating skills, tactful handling of Parliament, down-to-earth approach to problems and high sense of humour could disarm many a strong opponent during the debates. Babuji was respected and loved by all his views and counsel on many a crucial matter were always sought, whether he was inside the Government or outside it. There is no doubt that Babu Jagjivan Ram's services will find a place of pride in the annals of modern India.

I have also to refer with a deep sense of sorrow to the passing away of Shri Shrikant Verma, one of our colleagues from the State of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Nanda Kishore Das, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Orissa, and Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

In the passing away of Shri a Shrikant Verma, We have lost one of our valued colleagues, a dedicated and devoted worker and an able parliamentarian. The Hindi literary world has lost a poet and a writer of great eminence and standing. The cruel hand of death has snatched him away from us at a comparatively young age. Shri Verma was not in good health for some time and had undergone treatment in India and abroad. We had hoped that he would soon rejoin us in full health, but it was destined otherwise.

Shri Shrikant Verma was born in Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh in September 1931 and got his education at Bilaspur and Nagpur Universities. A journalist by profession, Shri Verma edited "Dinman", a Hindi publication of the *Times of India* group of papers, from 1964 to 1977, gave talks and recited poems from the All India Radio, B.B.C. and also from the Delhi Doordarshan Kendra. Shri Verma was a prolific writer in Hindi and had many literary works to his credit, for which he received several awards from the Central and State Governments. With his lucid and modern creative prose and poetry, Shri Verma had carved a place for himself in the domain of Hindi literature. The writings of Shri Shrikant Verma were translated in several European and Asian languages and received recognition in those places. Apart from that, Shri Verma had himself translated into Hindi a number of works of Western poets and authors. Shri Verma was also associated with several educational institutions and served of many official committees with distinction.

Shri Shrikant Verma had endeared himself to one and all with his pleasing manners during his membership of the House from 1976.

Shri Nanda Kishore Das was born at Gopariasahi in Balasore District of Orissa and got his higher educa-

tion in Calcutta. Shri Das started his career as a teacher of English but was soon attracted by the freedom movement and joined the Civil Disobedience Movement and suffered imprisonment on three occasions.

Shri Das has a long parliamentary career spanning five decades. Shri Das served as a Member of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Councils from 1927 to 1929 and was also a Member and Speaker of the Orissa Legislative Assembly. Shri Das served as a Member of the Constituent Assembly, the Provisional Parliament and this House from April 1960 to April 1966. A selfless social worker, Shri Das was a person of very simple habits. He made valuable contribution to the deliberations of this House during his term of membership.

We received with shock the sad news of the demise of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, eight days back. Shri Singh was born in August 1927 at village Bangrahata in Samastipur District of Bihar and had his education Monghyr and Patna. Shri Singh served as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1962, 1969 to 1977 and again from 1983 to 1985 and was a Minister in the Bihar Government from 1969 to 1975 and Chief Minister from 1983 to 1985. Being an agriculturist, Shri Singh had a deep knowledge of the problems of agriculture and worked steadfastly to improve the conditions of agricultural labour. In the Central Government, Shri Singh held independent charge of the Ministries of Textiles Petroleum and Natural Gas.

A person of calm and quiet nature and soft of speech, Shri Singh served the country with earnestness and dedication. In his untimely demise we have lost an able administrator.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Babu Jagjivam Ram, Shri Shrikant Verma, Shri Nanda Kishore Das and Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh.

[Mr Chairman]

I now request Members to rise in their seats and observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence]
for two minutes,]

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

As a mark of respect to the departed-leaders the House will stand adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow, the 18th July.

The House then adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock, till eleven of the clock, on Friday, the 18th July 1986.