

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 21st July, 1978/30 Asadha,
1900 (Saka)

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. V. B. Singh, an ex-Member of this House.

Dr. V. B. Singh born in 1924 at village Surajpur in Uttar Pradesh was educated at Gorakhpur and Lucknow. During his student days he was imprisoned for participating in the freedom movement. A man of letters, Dr. Singh was a noted economist and educationist. He was closely connected with several educational institutions and labour organisations. Dr. Singh was a renowned author and has left behind many works for posterity. He was elected to this House in 1972 and retired only recently, in April, 1978. A forceful speaker, Dr. Singh actively participated in the debates of this House when matters relating to economics, education and labour came up before it.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. V. B. Singh.

I would request Members to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and sympathy at the passing away of Dr. V. B. Singh.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Question No. 121.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, I put question No. 121.

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SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: Sir, we can take up question No. 121 and also question No. 125 together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Question Nos. 121 and 125.

Racial Violence in London

*121. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:†
SHRI KRISHNARAO
NARAYAN DHULAP:
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA
JHA:
SHRI HARISHANKER
BHABHDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that racial violence broke out in London's East End on or about the 6th July, 1978 resulting in serious injuries to a number of Asians including Indians; and

(b) if so, what special measures the Government of India are taking with a view to ensuring safety of the life and property of the Indians living in Great Britain?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. However, there is no report of any Indian having been injured in the incident.

(b) The Indian High Commissioner in the U.K. has, from time to time, raised with the U.K. Government the question of improving race relations and giving the immigrant community in Britain a greater sense of security. The U. K. Government is aware of it and is making efforts to ameliorate it and to establish harmonious race relations and eliminate racial friction between members of different communities in the U.K.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.