

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 26th April, 2005/6 Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Vasant Chhotelal Chavan (Maharashtra)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Swami Ranganathananda, President of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission on the 25th April, 2005 following a cardiac arrest.

Born in the village of Trikkur in Kerala in December, 1908, Swamiji joined the Ramakrishna Order at its centre in Mysore in 1926 at the age of 18 years.

He became the President of the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission in September, 1998.

Swami Ranganathananda undertook extensive lecture tours covering fifty countries. He was India's foremost Cultural Ambassador. Through his writings and lectures, the West imbibed the spirit of ancient Indian seers.

He was one of the foremost modern exponents of the Vedanta.

In the death of Swami Ranganathananda, the country has lost an icon of sublime spirituality.

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

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Question Hour, Question No. 441. Shri Vijayaraghavan... *(Interruptions)* ...