

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 1st March, 1963/the 10th
Phalgun, 1884 (Saka)

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

REFERENCE TO THE PASSING AWAY OF DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at this time I am on my legs to perform a very painful duty as a Member of this House. We all know that our revered leader, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, expired yesterday after a brief illness. About him much can be said, but this is not the occasion to go into any long stories and, therefore, very briefly I shall say a few words about him.

At the outset I should say that he was a lawyer, and a very successful lawyer at that. But he preferred to seek a career for him in the Congress to serve the country in connection with the achievement of independence for it. So, he joined the Congress. In the Congress he worked for years and years as a Member of the Working Committee and enjoyed the confidence not only of Mahatma Gandhi or his colleagues in the Working Committee but of the whole country. He had love for his country and on account of that love he had joined the Congress and he wanted that he should take part in the deliverance of the country from the bondage of the British people who were ruling here at that time. After joining the Congress he went so many times to jail and he was kept in detention also. He underwent all those sufferings which he had to undergo in the conditions in which he was placed in that connection.

Sir, as far as he himself is concerned, I can say that, apart from being a very successful lawyer, he was a very learned man. I used to go to him, rather I had the honour of going to him, not only when he was the Presi-

dent here but before also and I had the occasion of so many talks with him on the subject of Persian literature. I had learnt from him very much about the Persian language and the Persian poets of Iran as also the Urdu poets of India in those times. He loved Persian very much. He was well-versed in it and in fact he remembered so many verses and poems of those poets. He was a learned man, a beloved leader of the country and a servant of the country. On account of these qualities he was raised to the status of the Presidentship of our country. He worked as the President of India for so many years. After working as the President of India so ably, Sir, he retired and since then he was engaging his attention on writing something, which probably he might have completed. But about that I do not know. He went to foreign countries also and made his name there and also made the people of other countries understand what India was and how many learned people were there and also what pride India could take in that respect. Well, I need not take any more time of the House to say something in this connection.

With these few words, Sir, I request that you may convey the condolences of this House to the members of family of the departed soul.

श्री गंगाशरण सिंह (बिहार) : माननीय सभापति महोदय गांधी जी की मृत्यु के बाद निश्चित रूप से मैं कह सकता हूँ कि जहाँ तक मैं समझता हूँ देश को इतना बड़ा आघात सहने को अवसर नहीं आया था। राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी के देहांत से आज जो स्थान देश में रिक्त हुआ है उनकी पूर्ति हो सकना संभव नहीं है। आज ऐसा लगता है जैसे हमारे आदर्श का जो पूजाभूत रूप था वह हमारे सामने से तिरोहित हो गया है। आज बहुत सी चीजों को मिलाने वाली हमारी बड़ी टूट गयी है। बहुत सी चीजों को एकत्र रखने वाला जो सामंजस्य था वह आज हमसे दूर हो गया है। उनका अभाव

[श्री गंगाशरण सिंह]

आज एक ऐसी शून्यता पैदा कर रहा है जो शून्यता भरने के बजाय धीरे धीरे हम अधिक अनुभव करेंगे।

श्रीमन्. मेरे लिये इस समय विशेष कह सकना इसलिये भी संभव नहीं है कि मेरा सौभाग्य रहा पिछले ४२ वर्षों में उनके साथ रहने का और यह सौभाग्य भी रहा कि पिछले ३२ वर्षों में विचारों में उनसे कभी कभी मतभेद होने पर भी उनका स्नेह और उनका विश्वास दोनों मुझे बराबर प्राप्त होते रहे और आखिरी समय तक उसमें कमी नहीं हुई। उसके दर्जनों उदाहरण मेरे जीवन में आये और मैं तो ऐसा अनुभव करता हूँ जैसे स्वयं मेरे अपने पिता की या बड़े भाई की मृत्यु हो गई है।

राजेन्द्र बाबू अपनी महानता को जितनी सरलता के साथ वहन कर सकते थे वह शक्ति बहुत कम लोगों में पायी जाती है। महान बहुत प्रकार के होते हैं। लेकिन बहुतां की महानता भयावह होती है। राजेन्द्र बाबू की महानता आकर्षक थी, प्यारी थी और वह अपनी तरफ खींचने वाली थी। बहुतां की महानता ऐसी होती है जिनकी महानता को देख कर आदमी के दिल में अपने बारे में एक तरह की हीनता का अनुभव होता है और जैसा कि हमारे राष्ट्र के एक मुख्य कवि ने एक महापुरुष के संबंध में कहा था वैसी अनुभूति होती है कि :

पद पूजन का भी क्या उपाय
तू गौरव गिरि उत्तुंग काय ॥

लेकिन राजेन्द्र बाबू उन लोगों में से थे कि छोटे से छोटा आदमी भी उनके समीप अपने को हीन नहीं अनुभव करता था, वह अपनापन अनुभव करता था और अपनी कमजोरी के लिये उसमें हीनता का अनुभव नहीं होता था बल्कि कमजोरी दूर करने की रणपाता था। जेल में भी, जेल के बाहर भी और आश्रम में भी मुझे उनके साथ निकट रहने का और उन्हें देखने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ। बहुत

से महापुरुष ऐसे होते हैं जिनका एक और तो पूर्ण विकसित होता है लेकिन दूसरा और कुछ खाली सा रहता है। मैंने निकट से देखा कि राजेन्द्र बाबू जो बाहर थे वही भीतर थे, जो बाहर में था वही अंतर में था।

जब कभी कोई जिम्मेदारी की बात आती थी तो बिना किसी तरह का आगा हीछा किये हुए उसको वहन करने की शक्ति उनमें थी, शौर्य उनमें था। कांग्रेस के प्रेसिडेंट व सबसे पहले सन् १९३४ में हुए। लेकिन उसके बाद के कांग्रेस के इतिहास पर गौर करने पर यह पता चलता है कि कांग्रेस में जब कभी संकट आया और खासकर जब कांग्रेस में आंतरिक संकट आया जिस समय कांग्रेस का भार वहन करना बहुत आसान नहीं था और बहुत से लोगों ने उस भार को वहन करने में अपनी असमर्थता प्रगट की- उस समय अपनी असुविधा का ह्याल न करके और बहुत सी दूसरी चीजों का ह्याल न करके राजेन्द्र बाबू ने जिम्मेदारी को निभाया। इस तरह अभी तक बहुत कम लोगों का ध्यान गया है। राजेन्द्र बाबू पहली बार के बाद जब कांग्रेस के प्रेसिडेंट हुये उस समय कांग्रेस के प्रेसिडेंट का काम बहुत सुखकर नहीं था, वह सचमुच कांटों का ताज था। सुभास बाबू के इस्तीफे के बाद और कृगलानी जी के इस्तीफे के बाद कांग्रेस का सभापतित्व कबूल करना बहुत बड़ा शौर्य का काम था और जो कांग्रेस के पुराने लोग हैं व इस बात को अनुभव करेंगे। जहां उनमें सरलता थी जहां उनमें त्याग था, जहां उनमें महानता थी, और जहां उनमें बुद्धिमत्ता थी, वहां उनमें शौर्य भी कम नहीं था और मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश का हर आदमी उन्हीं की तरह बुद्धिमत्ता रखते हुये, उन्हीं की तरह महान होते हुये, भी उनकी सरलता, सादगी और अपनेपन को उसी तरह से अगर अपना सके और उनके रास्ते पर कुछ चल सके तो यह उनके प्रति सबसे बड़ी श्रद्धांजली होगी। अभी शायद राजेन्द्र बाबू की महत्ता का हम उतना अनुभव नहीं कर सकते हैं किन्तु आगे आने वाला इतिहास सिर्फ हमारे प्रथम राष्ट्रपति को नहीं बल्कि राजेन्द्र बाबू के

शरीर के भीतर जो व्यक्तित्व छिपा था उस व्यक्तित्व को पहिचानेगा, आगे आने वाला समय और भविष्य ही उनका मूल्य आंक सकेगा और मुझे उम्मीद है कि भविष्य में आने वाली पीढ़ी अपने आचरण के लिये राजेन् बाबू को आदर्श मानेगी ।

वह आज हमारे बीच में नहीं है और इस आघात से हम और आप सभी इतने विचलित हैं कि उनके बारे में ठीक से विचार कर सकना भी संभव नहीं है । इन शब्दों के साथ—जो कुछ हमारे हाउस के लीडर हाफिज साहब ने कहा है उससे मैं पूर्णतः सहमत हूँ, उसमें सहयोग देता हूँ—मैं आप से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोगों की यह फीलिंग, हम लोगों की मनोभावना उनके परिवार के पास तक पहुँचा देने का कष्ट करें ।

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): Mr. Chairman, this morning brought the sad news of the demise of a person beloved in the whole country. As the previous speaker has said, Dr. Rajendra Prasad combined in him many many rare qualities—his deep learning combined with his utter humility, his sense of understanding and yet his attitude of trying to accommodate people and of rising up to a situation, and so on. He could have made a very successful career financially as many people do in normal life, but he chose the career of sacrifice and service when Mahatma Gandhi came to this country and gave the call to the people. That can be only compared to what happened at the time of Jesus Christ when he came forward and said: "Follow me, I will make you fishers of men." Rajendra Babu was one of the earliest to follow Gandhiji who made them fishers of men and who paved the way for the independence of this country.

Sir, it is difficult to express oneself fully particularly for those who have been very close to him not only in the political sphere but also for those who have been sort of members of his

family. I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the two previous speakers, and I join in the request to you, Sir, that the feelings of this House may be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

सभापति जी मृत्यु ने जिन्हें हम से छीन लिया लेकिन जिनकी कीर्तिगाथा काल के भाल पर अमिट अक्षरों से अंकित रहेगी, उन राजेन्द्र बाबू की स्मृति में मैं भी अपनी विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ ।

चिंतन-मनन में, भाव में, भाषा में, खान-पान में, चाल ढाल में, रूप-रंग में डाक्टर राजेन्द्र प्रसाद भारत की सनातन संस्कृति के नित्यनूतन प्रतिनिधि थे । विद्वत्ता के साथ विनय, शासन के साथ सौजन्य, वज्र के समान कठोर किन्तु कुसुम के समान मृदुल, उनका जीवन भावी संतति के लिये सदैव प्रेरणा देता रहेगा ।

वह अजात शत्रु थे । सब दलों के, सब मतों के मानने वालों के हृदय में उनके प्रति समान आदर था । वे सब के अपने थे और उनके निकट जा कर, उनके सान्निध्य में ऐसा लगता था जैसे किसी ऋषि की छत्रछाया में हम बैठे हैं । पद पा कर भी उन्हें मद नहीं हुआ । राष्ट्रपति भवन में भी वे सदाकत-आश्रम का वातावरण ले आये । राजा जनक की तरह से विदेह रहे ।

भरत के बाद निस्पृहता का आदर्श उनके जीवन में हमने चरितार्थ देखा । उनके साथ एक युग समाप्त हो रहा है । अतीत को वर्तमान से जोड़ने वाली परम्परा मिटती हुई दिखायी देती है ।

परमात्मा से हम प्रार्थना करें कि वह हमें इस वज्रपात को सहन करने की शक्ति दे और उनके स्वपनों के भारत की रचना करने का सामर्थ्य दे जिससे हम उनके ऋण से उद्धार हो सकें ।

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we are deeply grieved at the sudden and shocking news that reached us early this morning. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was one of the tallest leaders of the Indian National Movement. His illustrious role in the freedom struggle of the country constitutes a glorious chapter in itself and will shine for ever in the memory of millions of the country. The gap which he leaves in the fabric of our national life is not easy to fill. Yet there can be no greater homage to him than to pledge ourselves anew to help the country steer clear of the difficulties that confront us now. We join the Leader of this House and the country in recording our deep sorrow at the demise of one of the greatest sons of our Motherland.

On behalf of the Communist Group I request you, Sir, to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Republican Party of India, Sir, I whole-heartedly associate myself with the resolution moved by my friend, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, the Leader of the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Rajendra Prasad had a very brilliant career all his life. He was one of the Ministers in the first Cabinet and since then was devoting all his time for the uplift of the country. He was the President of the Constituent Assembly. From 1950 to 1962 he was the President of India.

Sir, for independence he had devoted all his life. I had contact with him when he was invited to Aurangabad to lay the foundation stone of the Miland Mahavidyalaya which was run by our Rev. leader Baba Saheb Ambedkar, and through him also we got the information that he was really a sincere, honest and reliable leader in the Congress. I whole-heartedly associate myself with the resolution, Sir.

SHRI A. D. MANTI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, may I have the melancholy

privilege of associating myself with the feeling tributes that have been paid by the previous speakers to the great memory of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the sense of grief which they have expressed at the loss which the nation has sustained? Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a very extraordinary person in many ways, and it is a tribute to his career that his complete identification with the purpose and the mission of Gandhiji made Gandhiji regard him as his foremost disciple. In his lifetime, if he had so chosen, he would have made full use of his very impressive educational and scholastic attainments for building up wealth on his own and for becoming one of the foremost lawyers in the country. But he did not do so. He sacrificed his wealth, his present and his future by throwing himself into the relentless struggle that Gandhiji had launched against British imperialism at the time for Indian independence. It is a remarkable feature of his character that in spite of his having been involved in the revolutionary struggle, he did not allow any trace of bitterness or hate to cloud his outlook. It has been said that the conquest of hate and the creation of love are the last and final steps to sainthood, and I think the House will agree when I say that Dr. Rajendra Prasad in his lifetime had reached sainthood in the way in which he conducted himself. He was a man of God and of religion who had strayed into the by-ways of politics.

Sir, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was Chairman of our Constituent Assembly, and it was on account of his healing words that there was a substantial measure of unanimity over the Constitution that the Constituent Assembly had framed and which enabled the people of India to give unto themselves the democratic Constitution under which we live.

We had the privilege of seeing him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for a period of ten years as our President. When

the history of these times comes to be written, then alone will the public know the influence that he brought to bear on the affairs of administration. It has been said by Walter Bagehot that the role of the British Monarchy is "to guide, counsel and warn," and I think that as the titular head of our Republic, he discharged his functions which Walter Bagehot had assigned to the British Monarchy.

One of the last heroic figures who had been cast in the sacrificial mould of Gandhiji has gone away from the scene leaving us extremely poor, but reminding us of our tremendous responsibilities in carrying on the Gandhian tradition which is the framework of our present and of our future.

Sir, may I express, on behalf of the unattached Members of this House, our sincere grief to the nation which has been his family and also to the members of his personal family on the great loss that they have sustained? Their loss is ours; their grief is ours, and all that I can say is that since he was a man of God and a man of religion, may God give his soul solace and peace that he fully earned.

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM (Nominated): Sir, I endorse all that has been said by the Leader of the House and the subsequent speakers on behalf of the various groups in this House. Today is not an occasion when it would be appropriate to speak at any length about the great man who has passed away. I speak primarily because I had the good fortune to know him now for over forty years and I had the greater good fortune to have been associated with him at closer quarters in the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress for twenty years. Many great men are great when you see them at a distance, some great men continue to be great when you see them in their closest intimacy. Greatness is not reflected only in their dealings with great things; it is when they deal with small matters and function in the intimacies of personal life and personal contacts that

we come to realise the greatness of the man. And I consider that we have lost one of our greatest men. I do not know if there are politicians in the world who have risen to his height of moral stature. And he gave grace and dignity as well as a certain special virtue to the office he held, whether it was during the period of struggle or during the period of power. He typified humility and gentleness, he represented many of the virtues which distinguish Indian culture. And he leaves behind him the fragrance of a life worthily lived in every sense of the word, the memory of a life of great sacrifice and great unselfishness and an example which in every way needs to be followed by the coming generation of this country.

काकासाहेब कालेजकर (नाम-निर्देशित):
गांधी युग के लोग एक के पीछे एक जा रहे हैं। स्वाभाविक है। लेकिन राजेन्द्र बाबू का जाना सारे राष्ट्र को बहुत बड़ा धक्का देने वाला है। राजेन्द्र बाबू जितने विद्वान थे उतने ही ज्यादा संत पुरुष थे। उनका सौजन्य सारे राष्ट्र को अपनी तरफ खींच सका था और जिस इमोशनल इन्टीग्रेशन, भावात्मक एकता के लिये हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं, इस भावात्मक एकता की वे स्वयं परिपूर्ण मूर्ति थे। मुझे उनका अनुभव तो हमारे राष्ट्रभाषा प्रचार के कारण ज्यादा रहा हालांकि सब काम में हम साथ रहते थे। राष्ट्रभाषा प्रचार में सारे भारत में अगर हमें किसी ने अधिक से अधिक मदद की है तो गांधी जी के बाद राजेन्द्र बाबू ने ही की है और जब गांधी जी ने हिन्दुस्तानी प्रचार सभा की स्थापना की तब उन्होंने कहा : इसका अध्यक्ष स्थान तो राजेन्द्र बाबू ही बराबर ले सकते हैं। सब प्रांत के, सब भाषा के, सब धर्म के लोगों के मन में उनके प्रति आदर है और जब मैं हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर कभी जाता था और अपने राष्ट्रपति के बारे में कहने का मौका मिलता था तब मैं कहता था कि हमें इस बात का गौरव है कि हमारे राष्ट्रपति उत्तम से उत्तम विद्वान, राजनीति कुशल, संस्कार संपन्न और धन समपन्न होते हुये भी किसान की तरह से दीख पड़ते हैं, इस बात

[काकासाहेब कालेलकर]

का हमें बड़ा गौरव है कि हमारे राष्ट्रपति राष्ट्रपति भवन में रहते हुये भी किसान की तरह ही रहते हैं, और सब लोगों के साथ एक रूप हो जाते हैं। वे दस वर्ष से अधिक राष्ट्रपति रहे लेकिन मैं तो उन्हें राष्ट्र मूर्ति के रूप में देखता आया हूँ। सारे राष्ट्र की संस्कृति, सारे राष्ट्र का भाग्य, सारे राष्ट्र की महत्वाकांक्षा उनके अंदर एकत्रित हुई थी और राष्ट्र का भविष्य उनके द्वारा बराबर प्रेरित होता था। पर देश के लोगों ने भी देखा कि वे भारत की संस्कृति के उत्तम से उत्तम प्रतीक हैं। उनके जाने से हमारे सिर पर यह बहुत बोझा आ गया है कि उन्होंने जो सज्जनता और सर्व समन्वय की बुद्धि बताई उससे हम बिलकुल कम न रहें। उनका आदर्श करने का उत्तम तरीका यही है कि उनके हृदय की जितनी उदारता थी उससे हम पाठ सीखें और उनका अनुकरण करने की कोशिश करें।

PROF. A. R. WADIA (Nominated):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are meeting today under a great shadow to mourn the death of one of the greatest and noblest of our countrymen. Rajen Babu, as he was lovingly known to millions of his countrymen, was intrinsically great, and yet, he was very humble in his behaviour. But his very humility conquered our heart and his grateful countrymen raised him to the highest position in the State. Rajen Babu was a perfect gentleman, a great patriot, a great Indian, a great Gandhian and a genuine man of God. He has left behind him a great memory and a great inspiration to all of us. May his soul rest in peace.

श्री गोडे मुशहरि (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
महापति महोदय, श्री राजेन्द्र बाबू हिन्दुस्तान के उन महान व्यक्तियों में से थे जिनका नाम इतिहास में अमर रहेगा। वे हमारे देश के पहले राष्ट्रपति थे और उन्होंने अपनी जिन्दगी जिस सादगी से गुजारी उससे हम सब लोगों को सबक लेना पड़ेगा। हम आशा करते थे कि इस संकट काल में हमें उनके

तजुबों का और उनके सही मार्ग दर्शन का सहारा मिलेगा लेकिन दुर्भाग्यवश इस संकटकाल में एक और संकट हमारे सामने उनकी मृत्यु से खड़ा हो गया। वैसे उनका त्याग और उनकी जिन्दगी हम सब लोगों के लिये एक सबक रहेगी और आगे के लिये भी इतिहास में उनका एक ऐसा स्वर्णिम अध्याय होगा जिसको हिन्दुस्तान की जो आगे की जनता है हमेशा के लिये अपने जीवन का एक आधार मानती रहेगी।

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR (Punjab): Mr. Chairman, we do meet this morning under the shadow of a very great sorrow that has come on the nation. I am privileged to be permitted to join with the Leader of the House and all the other Members who have spoken this morning in paying my tribute also to the memory of a unique and rare personality. As one who was closely associated with Bapu I had the privilege of coming into close contact with all the leaders that were part and parcel of Bapu's life and whom he loved and trusted, and I know what a very high place our beloved and revered Rajen Babu held in Bapu's heart. Bapu once told me that if anyone had understood the cult, if I may use that phrase, of non-violence from the heart, it was Rajen Babu, and I believe that that appraisal of him by Bapu is enough to assure him a place in our hearts for ever. Rajen Babu was a man of faith, dedicated to selfless service and he has entered into that rest, as the poet has put it, that remaineth for the people of God, and all is well with him, but his departure leaves a gap in public life which can never be filled. The only way and the best way to honour him and the fragrant and inspiring memory that he has left is to try in our own lives to follow his wonderful example.

श्री मैथिलीशरण गुप्त (नाम-निर्देशित):

आदर्श मूर्ति हो गई भंग
वह गई पूज्य राजेन्द्र संग।
पर छू सकता है कालचक्र,
उनके जीवन का कौन अंग?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is with the most profound feelings of sorrow that I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by all sections of this House on the passing away of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. It may be said of him more truly than of anyone else that he was a perfect gentleman, the embodiment of the best in Indian life, a symbol of the good Indian. His services to the nation have already become a saga in the history of the emancipation of our country. There are many people in this country who worked and suffered in the cause of our freedom struggle. Rajen Babu belonged to the foremost among them. His extreme simplicity, great humility and complete lack of ostentation marked him out as a man of the people, the people he struggled to secure freedom for, and guided in shaping a worthy life in the newly won freedom. He attained positions of high honour and eminence without ever seeking them. When the country attained independence, there was no doubt that he was already earmarked for a position of importance in the affairs of its administration. When the Constituent Assembly was set up in 1946 to frame independent India's Constitution, he was the obvious and unanimous choice to be its President to guide its deliberations. On the occasion of his election to this office, in his speech thanking the members for the honour they had conferred on him, he referred to the difficult circumstances in which the Assembly was meeting and said how he would overcome them in the following memorable words:

"All that we need is honesty of purpose, firmness of determination, a desire to understand each other's

viewpoint, that we shall do justice, that we shall behave as fairly, as squarely as possible towards everyone else, and with that determination, with that resolve, I cannot see why we should not be able to overcome the obstacles in our way."

These sentiments, as we all know, were an expression of his own conduct throughout and he lived up to them. As the first President of India for two continuous terms he adorned this place of highest honour and authority with rare distinction. He set the standards for correct constitutional behaviour. He was a true Satyagrahi brought up in the traditions of the silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to his memory.

The nation mourns the loss of a great leader, a great patriot and a noble soul, and we in this House mourn with the people. I request Members to rise in their seats and observe silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to his memory.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for two minutes).

I shall ask the Secretary to convey to the members of the family of Dr. Rajendra Prasad our deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow, March 2, 1963.

The House then adjourned at thirty-eight minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Saturday, March 2, 1963.