

**OBITUARY REFERENCE—DEMISE  
OF DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR**

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I deeply regret to inform the House that a Member of this House who had played a very leading part in many matters passed away a short while ago. I refer to Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar for many, many years had been a very controversial figure in Indian public affairs, but there can be no doubt about his outstanding quality, his scholarship, and the intensity with which he pursued his convictions, sometimes rather with greater intensity than perhaps required by the particular subject, which sometimes reacted in a contrary way. But he was the symbol of that intense feeling which we must always remember, the intense feeling of the suppressed classes in India who have suffered for ages past under our previous social systems, and it is as well that we recognise this burden that all of us should carry and should always remember. It may be that some of us thought, as I have just said, that he overdid the expression of that feeling, but I do not think that, apart from the manner of utterance or language, anybody should challenge the Tightness of the intensity of his feeling in that matter which should be felt by all of us and perhaps even more so by those who have not in themselves or in their groups or classes had to suffer from that. He was that. Therefore he became this symbol. But we in Parliament remember him for many other things and more particularly for the very prominent part he played in the making of our Constitution, and perhaps that fact will be remembered even longer than his other activities. I am quite sure that every Member of this House will want us to send our deep condolences and message of sympathy to his family and to express our deep sorrow at his demise.

It is the custom of this House, I believe, Sir, that when a Member dies in Delhi, the House adjourns for the rest of the day. I leave it to you, Sir, and to the House, but I would suggest that it is right and proper for us to follow that custom.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister. I am sure every Member of this House shares the same sentiments. We have all heard with profound sorrow and a sense of shock of the sudden death of Dr. Ambedkar. He was present in the House only the day before yesterday and was in his usual mood, talking and joking with his friends. Many may not agree with him and his political philosophy but he was one of our prominent Members and he was always listened to with respect. His speeches were marked by scholarship, erudition and deep study. He will, however, be remembered as one of the great architects of our Constitution. He was also very anxious to see that the Hindu Law was enacted and most of it has been enacted. It is a great loss to this House particularly, and, as a mark of respect, I request the House to stand up for two minutes.

*(The House stood in silence for two minutes.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fifty three minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 7th December 1956.