

RAJYA SABHA*Monday, 27th February 1956*

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

REFERENCES TO THE PASSING AWAY OF SHRI G. V. MAVALANKAR, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): Hon. Members must have heard with profound sorrow the very sad news of the death of Shri Mavalankar. He had been suffering from heart disease for a long time. Some days ago he had a fresh attack. Reports however published this morning were reassuring. He appeared to have got over the crisis and we thought that he had turned the corner and was now firmly placed on the road to recovery. So we were all the more shocked and stunned when we were informed about his demise as we had been looking forward now to his early recovery.

It is difficult, when we are all of us almost overwhelmed with grief, to say much about Mavalankarji. He was a truly great man, a pure soul, a leader of men, one who laboured selflessly and steadily at the cost of his health for the relief and succour of the needy, the suffering and the down-trodden people. He never spared himself. He was a true disciple of Gandhiji. In him one of the best and noblest of men has passed away and the country has been put to irreparable enormous loss. He was a man of profound culture and he served those in need and befriended those towards whom nobody would ordinarily give his attention. He was a pure gem and reflected and radiated light, kindness, cleanliness and purity wherever he went. He filled every place with distinction. As a Speaker, he was perfect. For a man like that, it is difficult to find suitable words to give expression to one's own regard

and admiration for his numberless qualities of head and heart. For some of us, it is also a real personal loss. We respected him, we loved him, we looked to him for guidance whenever we were faced with a difficulty. His example will live in the annals of our history and it will ever inspire the people who could look up to a great man's example with utmost confidence for their own guidance and for learning the true tenets and doctrines of selfless service in action. I would request you, Sir, to convey to his sons and other members of his family the heart-felt condolences and sympathy of this House and also to adjourn the House as a mark of respect for the departed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We all share the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, Mr. Govind Ballabh Pant. Only the other day, I had occasion to refer to the vast knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures which Shri Mavalankar had. I did not realise then that so soon we would have to mourn his loss. He was the Speaker of the Bombay Assembly, the Speaker of the Provisional Parliament and the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He tried to build up healthy parliamentary traditions and the task of a Presiding Officer is not an easy one when you have so many groups and so many individuals of marked views. He did his best to hold the scales even and left behind a great tradition. I had known him for many years and his activities in other fields also appealed to me a great deal. He was the President of the Ahmedabad Municipality. He was closely associated with the Gujarat University and he was the Chairman of the Gandhi Memorial Trust and Kasturba National Trust. In all these different spheres, his one interest was the relief of suffering humanity and he worked for that great ideal. We have lost a distinguished public servant and a great Speaker of our Parliament—the Lok Sabha. I shall certainly convey, Mr. Pant, our sense of loss and grief

[Mr. Chairman.]
at the passing away of Shri Mavalankar. We stand up for two minutes in token of our expression of sorrow before we adjourn.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will stand adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at eleven minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 28th February 1956..