

matters and, above all, in the training for good citizenship. Basic education has been adopted as the model, but progress in this has thus far been unfortunately slow. Many schemes for the improvement of basic, secondary and social education are under consideration and a Commission on Secondary Education has been appointed.

30. An over-all view of the situation in India indicates allround general progress at an increasing pace. This is a matter for satisfaction. But the goal we have set before us is still far and requires greater and continuous effort and an increasing pace of change. We aim at a Welfare State in which all the people of this country are partners, sharing alike the benefits and the obligations. So long as there is poverty and unemployment, a section of the community derives no benefit from this partnership. It is, therefore, necessary for us to aim at full and productive employment.

31. A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the financial year 1953-54 will be laid before you. The Members of the House of the People will be required to consider and pass the demands for grants.

32. The House of the People will also be asked to vote supplementary grants to meet additional expenditure during the current financial year.

33. There are 24 Bills pending before you. Some of them have passed the Committee stage. A few of them, which are still under consideration by the Committees, will be brought before you with their recommendations during the course of this session.

34. Among the other legislative measures that it is intended to bring before you, the following may be especially mentioned: The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, the Bill on National Housing, the Air Services Corporation Bill, the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, and the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill.

35. I earnestly trust that wisdom and tolerance and the spirit of co-operative endeavour will guide you in your labours and will yield results for the good of the country and the people whom we are all privileged to serve.

DEATH OF SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Mr. Chairman, before this House enters upon the labours of this session, may I refer to the passing away of a colleague of ours and the Leader of this House, Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar? During the last session he was unable to attend to the business of this House because of his illness, and we all thought that it was, if I might call it so, a temporary illness which would pass, because we could not reconcile ourselves to the thought that he would not come back. We had come to rely upon him in so many matters that, as often happens, he became, in his own way, a kind of institution in Government to whom all turned for advice whenever any difficulty arose. And so we took this institution for granted. When untowards events take place, they rather shake up the whole fabric of things. So it has been in this case, and though we grieve for him, in reality we grieve for ourselves, because he is not there for us to turn to. We may send our messages of sympathy to his family and others, and it is right that we should do so; but those who require most sympathy are ourselves.

Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar had a background and a record which, I suppose, is unusual in this House or among members of Government. Starting in the junior scale of Government service, he rose step by step till he seemed to be peculiarly fitted for any difficult problem or post of responsibility that might arise. In the course of his long and varied career he was, as the House might know, Prime Minister of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for five or six years. Those years were difficult years. Those years were war

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

years mostly, when there was trouble all over India. There would undoubtedly have been trouble in Kashmir too but for his wise guidance of affairs there. And then, later on, when the burden of forming a Government came upon us, naturally we tried to get, so far as we could, others to help us, others who had not been previously associated with us. And among those others, Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar was an outstanding person on whom immediately every one's eyes fell and thoughts turned. He joined us. Speaking for myself, I had heard of him, and respected him from a distance, but I did not know him well. Nor did he know me intimately. But gradually, working together from day to day, we came to know each other more and more intimately, and I came to look upon him with ever-growing respect and affection. And it is difficult for me to say—I realise that more now than even perhaps I did before—how much my colleagues in Government and more especially I relied upon his advice whenever any problem of difficulty arose.

As the House knows, he was responsible for carrying on the work of various Ministries from time to time. He was Minister for Railways and Transport—a very big undertaking. Then he became Minister for States, and then Minister for Defence. But apart from all these very heavy posts of responsibility, he was put specially in charge always whenever any new problem arose. Thus, he was in a sense a specialist to advise us generally about our relations with Pakistan. As the House knows, they had caused us considerable difficulty in the past. He was a specialist in regard to Kashmir, not only because of his past knowledge of Kashmir as Prime Minister there—his knowledge not only of the problem but of the individuals there, of the principal actors on the scene there, who had acted during the last 10 or 12 years on every side and in every party—but also because of his full grasp of that problem from the legal, constitutional and public points of view.

Problems arose about rehabilitation. My colleague the Minister for Rehabilitation went to him whenever difficulty arose,—not only the present Minister, but the Minister before him too. And so, in a variety of other ways, he became a wise elder brother, speaking from his experience and giving us advice whenever we needed it.

This House knows him well; and he functioned for some time as the Leader of this House. But I should like to tell this House that in the course of the last day and a half I have received a very large number of messages of sympathy from all over the country and many from abroad. Among those messages of sympathy many have come which were expected, that is to say, from persons whom he had known, and his colleagues in the State Governments—he was associated with the States Ministry, and other States too—but the messages which have moved me most have come from organisations of workers in various parts of India. It was not necessary for them to send a message. There was no formality for them to send it. But they did send it. The wording of these messages shows the affection in which he was held by them—railway workers, workers in ordinance factories, with which he was connected recently as Minister for Defence. So I was moved when these messages came to me, and I realised even more than I had done previously how far-reaching and pervading and good had been his influence in this country, not only in the inner circles of Government—that I knew—but something wider than that, and deeper than that.

Then again, the feeling came to me of the lack of him now, and that feeling was a painful one, because it was not clear to me how that gap could be filled. Anyhow we have to face such contingencies from time to time. Life goes on, and generations pass away, and others come. Some of us more or less of Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar's generation will also pass away, and others will have to shoulder the burden. But, so long as we have to carry on, we have to learn the lesson of Shri

Gopalaswami Ayyangar who stood at his post, as a soldier, till his strength utterly left. He sought no repose or leisure in retirement which he might have done. So, we mourn for him and for ourselves in the passing away of a great son of India and a great soldier of this country.

I would like you, Sir, and, in this I am quite sure I reflect the sentiments of each single Member of this House, to record our high appreciation of Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar and to convey the deepest sympathies of this House to his wife and family.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Friends, I have no doubt that you would like me to associate all sections of this House and myself with the sentiments that have been so feelingly expressed by our Prime Minister regarding Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar.

I remember, in the year 1905, attending a meeting in Madras convened for the purpose of congratulating him on selection to the Madras Civil Service on the results of a competitive test. At that meeting, the Principal of the College where he was serving as History Tutor, foretold for him a career of brilliance and usefulness to the country. Having just listened to the Prime Minister, we would all say that the anticipations then made were amply fulfilled. He brought to his work a wholehearted devotion, balanced judgment, vast administrative knowledge and experience and a capacity for understanding details without losing sight of main principles. As the Leader of this House, he established wise conventions and commanded the confidence of all sections of this House.

I may also tell you—perhaps many of you may not know—that he had a great interest in reading. He was sensitive to trends of modern thought and conversant with the larger movements which were taking place. He kept an open mind, without losing faith in his own convictions. His death has

created a gap which will be difficult to fill and the country has lost a great administrator and this House, a great Leader.

I have no doubt you will agree with what the Prime Minister has said that the least that we could do is for me to communicate our high appreciation of his services and our sense of deep sorrow at his passing away.

DEATH OF SHRI M. L. PURI

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to invite your attention to the passing away of another Member of this House, early in January, Shri M. L. Puri. He was a distinguished Member of the legal profession, took a keen interest in educational activities and served on the panel of Vice-Chairmen in this House and. I am informed, that when he presided over this House, he did so with great ability and distinction.

I should like to communicate, on behalf of all sections of this House, our deepest sympathies to the members of his family.

May I now request you to rise in your seats for two minutes in token of our respect for the two departed colleagues.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to the calendar of sittings circulated to Members, discussion on the President's Address is to commence on 12th February, i.e. tomorrow. I understand that 12th February has been declared a holiday due to Shivratri—apparently Shivratri day is on the 12th when people observe fasts and pujas. So, the Council will sit on the 13th and not on the 12th. I hope the Members agree to this change.