

**Need to honour India's first Defence
Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh**

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Sir, it relates to honouring India's first Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh.

Sir, India's first Defence Minister, late Sardar Baldev Singh, was in the team of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru when the first interim Government was formed in 1946, and he was taken as a representative of the Sikhs. He went with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohd. Ali Jinnah to represent India at the time of declaration of Independence of the country in London. He refused to accept any allurements and declared the decision of the Sikh community to remain in India. This historic announcement led to the division of Punjab, and India was able to get east Punjab. Sardar Baldev Singh was appointed India's first Defence Minister in 1947, and he was responsible for modernising the Indian Army and handling of the attack on Kashmir by the raiders.

Till today, nothing has been done to honour his deeds. I request that the Government should at least release a commemorative postal stamp and install a life-size statue in the Defence Ministry campus.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with his Special Mention.

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with his Special Mention.

Demand for setting up a Supreme Court Bench at Nagpur

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I am very lucky. Whenever you are in the Chair, I get opportunities. So, for me you are a lucky person.

Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make my Special Mention for setting up a Supreme Court bench at Nagpur. While inaugurating the first phase of the ambitious e-courts project, interlinking of all the courts across the country on 9th July, our former President envisaged change in the "face of judiciary" within the next five years. He advised the Supreme Court administration for fuller utilisation of national e-governance, and visualised a scenario of "a citizen filing a civil dispute case using National ID Card and getting justice within two weeks". Simultaneously, the Chief Justice of India also assured liquidation of huge arrears within a foreseeable future.

Establishing "evening courts" introducing "plea-bargaining system," setting up "fast track courts" etc., undoubtedly, contribute towards liquidation of arrears at district level. Let us also make a beginning from the Supreme Court of India, functioning at Delhi, involving litigants' woes facing harrowing time chasing the apex court for getting justice by their constant shuttling from four corners of our vast country of Delhi. Therefore, if a bench of Supreme Court could be established at Nagpur, it will go a long way towards not only liquidating the pending arrears but also assuring quicker delivery of justice in new cases. The UPA Government under the inspiring guidance of its chairperson in consultation with the Supreme Court and other legal luminaries may initiate a time-bound process so that Supreme Court bench could be established at Nagpur. A recent U.N. Report and the Government of India have already identified this city as a future metropolis. Besides its central location, its growing civic communication, aviation and power infrastructure would admirably fit in for setting up a bench of the Supreme Court of India at Nagpur.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I associate myself with his Special Mention.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with his Special Mention.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with his Special Mention.