

3639

INDIAN EXPRESS
20 FEB 1973

Handsome Parliament tribute to Rajaji

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19.

The Lok Sabha today paid handsome tributes to C. Rajagopalachari and seven others who had been members of Parliament at one time or another and who passed away during this inter-session period.

Speaker G. S. Dhillon and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi described Mr. Rajagopalachari as a front-ranking freedom fighter and also as one of the outstanding statesmen not only to India but of the world.

His eminence, they said, derived not from the many distinguished offices he had held but from his sharp and powerful intellect and dedication to cause, his deep concern for the great issues of mankind such as problems of war and peace and protecting spiritual values from being overwhelmed by material pressures. He was one of the great parliamentarians India had produced. His profound understanding of political and administrative problems would remain a model for generations to come.

Others to whom the Lok Sabha paid its tributes today were: Dr. Shaikatullah Ansari, Mr. Bakar Ali Mirza, Mr. K. K. Chatterji, Mr. G. D. Somani, Maj. Gen. Himmat Singh, Mr. M. Rampure, and Mr. Jialal Mandal.

Leaders of various political parties joined the Prime Minister in paying tributes to Rajaji and others.

The House observed a two-minute silence before adjourning for the day.

Mr. Dhillon said in Rajaji's personality there was a unique combination of a politician, philosopher, journalist and a man of letters. He became an institution by himself by virtue of his sacrifice, simplicity and missionary zeal. In recognition of his great services he was awarded the highest honour of "Bharat Ratna" in 1954.

Mrs. Gandhi said Rajaji was the last Governor-General and the first and only Indian to hold that office marking the triumph of struggle for independence.

Mrs. Gandhi said Rajaji was an eloquent "exponent of Indian culture" and indeed the "guardian of human culture."

Mrs. Gandhi said Dr. Shaikat-

ullah Shah Ansari embodied the values of secular culture. She praised his work as a representative in the International Control Commission on Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

She said that Mr. Bakar Ali Mirza served Andhra Pradesh in many activities and was a conscientious parliamentarian. Mr. K. K. Chatterji spent his adult life in the thick of politics.

Greatest

Mr. A. B. Vajpayee (JS) said the death of Rajaji had severed the link between the old and modern India. He would be considered as one of the greatest men of the century.

Mr. G. Vishwanathan (DMK) said one might not agree with the views of Rajaji but would agree with his logic.

Referring to Mr. G. D. Somani, Mrs. Gandhi said he took active interest in many institutions of trade.

Describing Maj. Gen. Himmat Singhji as a "large hearted man" deeply concerned with the welfare of the people, she said he commanded high respect as the Deputy Minister for Defence Services.

She said Mr. M. Rampure was the founder of a number of educational and social institutions in Gulbarga. Mr. Jialal Mandal devoted greater part of his life in the political and social activities.

The Rajya Sabha too mourned the death of Rajaji and others.

Among the others the House mourned were Mr. V. R. Mohan, Choudhary, Mr. A. Mohammad, Mr. Adduru Balaram Reddy, Mr. Abdul Qalyum Ansari and Mr. Liladhar Barooah.

Chairman G. S. Pathak praised the noteworthy contribution of Mr. Rajagopalachari to the service of the nation. He also recalled the contribution of the other late members to the House and the nation.

Mr. S. N. Mishra (Old Cong.) described him as one of the dizzy heights of humanity. His simple way of living should be an example for all.

Mr. P. K. Deo (Swa.) and Mr. Samar Guha (SP) said Rajaji was a giant among intellectuals and freedom fighters.

Mr. K. Hanumanthaiya (Cong) said Rajaji was a "model" for the Opposition as he had shown how a perfect opposition should work.

CPI morcha



swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

PERSONAL

As you are aware, the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of several States are due to be held in March.

Notwithstanding the severe reverses we suffered in the recent Elections to the Lok Sabha and in the State Assembly Election in Madras (and also, to some extent, in Orissa), we intend contesting the forthcoming State Assembly Elections in a big way, especially in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. And we propose to do so on our own steam, as a Party "recognised" as an All-India Party by the Election Commission and without any "alliances" with any other Party (except perhaps by way of electoral adjustments at purely local levels.)

- (1) It was a fatal mistake for us to have contested the recent Lok Sabha Elections on a mere "anti-Indira" platform in alliance with other Parties with whom we had nothing, not even an agreed programme, in common.

The so-called "Grand Alliance"

- completely blunted our ideology i.e. our principles, policies and programmes;
- landed us into impossible "contradictions" in endeavouring to mount our election campaign; and
- did not even work amicably at the ground level in many of the constituencies we contested.

- (2) Fortunately, our Party organisation still remains strong and active, especially in the four States where we intend to mount an all-out campaign.
- (3) Our ideology, and consequently our principles, policies and programmes continue to be both distinctive and valid; and they still command considerable acceptance with the rural public.