PRIME MINISTER EXPRESS DEEP SORROW
ON DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI

SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT

New Delhi, February 6, 1952

Announcing the death of His Majesty King George VI in the Parliament, a few minutes after the news of the sad event had reached Delhi this afternoon, the Prime Minister said that it came as a surprise and shock. The Prime Minister said:

"I have to convey sad news to this House. It is with deep regret that I have to inform hon. Members and you, Sir, that a short while ago, occurred the death of His Majesty King George the Sixth of the United Kingdom. As we all know, he had been unwell for a considerable time but had recently recovered and was recuperating and was in fact thinking of undertaking a voyage to recuperate still further. So the news that came a few minutes ago was in the nature of a surprise and a shock and I am sure that this House will deeply sympathise with Her Majesty the Queen, the Princesses and the people of England, with whom the King was so popular. Whatever the views of persons may be here or elsewhere on the question of royalty or republicanism, each country decides for itself; we decided in favour of a republic and we are the Republic of India but it is a significant thing in this world of Republics how the British Royal House has stood firm, firm not in law merely, but firm in the affection of the people of the United Kingdom.

"All of us who have had an opportunity of visiting England or other parts of the United Kingdom know the extraordinary feelings of affection felt by the people for King George. Therefore, I have no doubt that his death will come as a great sorrow and shock to them... I would beg of you, Sir, and I would ..."
Sir, and I would suggest to the House that you might convey to Her Majesty the Queen our deep sorrow at this event and may I also suggest, Sir, that Parliament does not meet tomorrow in view of this happening,"

After the Prime Minister's speech, the Hon'ble the Speaker announced that he would be sending a telegram to Her Majesty the Queen and that Parliament would not meet tomorrow.

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