

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM IN PARLIAMENT  
A COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

2010

BABU JAGJIVAN RAM IN PARLIAMENT  
A COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

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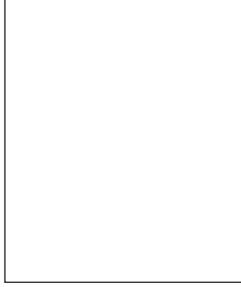
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## ABBREVIATIONS

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AICC	All India Congress Committee
ARF	All India Railways Federation
BHU	Banaras Hindu University
CPWD	Central Public Works Department
DRDO	Defence Research & Development Organisation
HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
IAF	Indian Air Force
IATA	International Airlines Travelling Association
IIPA	Indian Institute of Public Administration
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INTUC	Indian National Trade Union Congress
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCC	National Cadet Corps
NFIR	National Federation of Indian Railwaymen
NSO	National Sports Organisation
P&T	Posts and Telegraphs
PDS	Public Distribution System
TA	Territorial Army
TELCO	Tata Engineering Locomotive Company
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America



अध्यक्ष, लोक सभा  
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

## FOREWORD (Second Edition)

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Babu Jagjivan Ram was an outstanding leader who left a lasting impress of his towering and versatile personality on our country's social, political and parliamentary life. An outstanding parliamentarian, a brilliant administrator, a powerful communicator, and a dedicated leader, he personified compassion, integrity, humanism and erudition and articulated the problems and travails of the masses, particularly the deprived and the downtrodden. His deep concern and profound empathy and sensitivity for the disadvantaged, his relentless crusade against the scourge of poverty, and socio-economic inequalities endeared him to the teeming masses of the country. As his daughter, I have observed Babuji from very close quarters and would say that the injustice suffered by the socially and economically deprived sections touched a chord deep inside him. My father was made of sterner stuff and refused to be intimidated by the trauma and tribulations of his circumstances. Gifted as he was with grit, courage, tenacity, intellectual vigour and strong convictions, it was against his grain to tolerate injustice and inequality which pervaded the society and the country.

Through an eventful and distinguished public life spanning over five decades, Babuji, one of the tallest leaders of modern India, not only played an active role in our freedom movement by organising and mobilising the masses against foreign rule and repression, but also rendered invaluable services in building a rational, strong, progressive, inclusive and egalitarian India. Starting his public life as a student activist and a valiant freedom fighter, he went on to become a legislator at the young age of 28. In the years ahead, he emerged on the national scene and held such important portfolios as Labour, Railways, Agriculture, Defence, Transport and Communications, etc. in the Union Government and rose to occupy the high office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. His burning passion for egalitarianism and social change was reflected in the numerous decisions he took and several legislations he piloted as Union Minister for more than three decades.

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Babu Jagjivan Ram entered the First Lok Sabha in 1952, after distinguishing himself as a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly, the Constituent Assembly, and the Provisional Parliament. As a member of the Lok Sabha for eight consecutive terms, which covered the formative years of the Republic, he made a distinct mark in our polity, and became a leader of eminence in his own right, enormously respected across the country and the political spectrum. Throughout his long years of distinguished public life, he championed the cause of establishing an inclusive and equitable society based on socio-economic justice and equality. He was one of the stalwarts who embodied the dawn of a new era of justice, fairness, equality and socio-economic empowerment of the poor and the marginalised. His lofty vision of a rational, casteless and inclusive society and his emphasis on the need to eradicate the deeply-entrenched caste prejudices is of abiding relevance for our time and country. His lucid and powerful speeches in Parliament on political and developmental issues will ever be a source of inspiration for generations of parliamentarians. His pragmatic approach, rich administrative experience and deep understanding of a wide range of issues and problems contributed greatly towards the socio-economic advancement of the country.

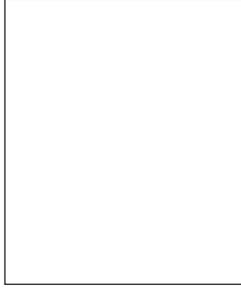
Babuji's long association with the trade union movement afforded him the opportunity to acquire an insight and perspective into the multifarious problems faced by the working class. Later, it was this deep perspective that influenced him, as the Union Labour Minister, in passing such landmark labour laws as the Factories Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, etc. to ameliorate the lot of the workers. It was this that earned him the sobriquet of the Father of Labour Legislations in India. The key role played by him in effecting the Green Revolution in the country is too unforgettable. He was also the Defence Minister during the 1971 war with Pakistan which led to the creation of Bangladesh. Political analysts and others have recorded, and rightly so, that Babuji left his deep imprint on every portfolio that he held during his public life.

Shri Jagjivan Ram was undoubtedly one of the shining examples of success amidst adversity and socio-economic handicaps. His humble and disadvantaged background did not prevent him from forcefully speaking out and struggling against the pernicious and inhuman caste system and its attendant evils which were corroding the society and the country. He was never deterred by difficulties and formidable odds and earned a place of admiration and reverence in the annals of social reformers in our country. His luminous message that all are equal, regardless of the primordial identities of caste, creed and religion, as also economic background and status, will always be remembered by the people of India.

This publication titled '*Babu Jagjivan Ram in Parliament— A Commemorative Volume*' attempts to bring out the varied dimensions of Babu Jagjivan Ram's multi-faceted personality, his rich and illustrious legacy and the enormous contributions he made in reinforcing the democratic fabric of our nation. I compliment the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, and the Lok Sabha Secretariat for bringing out a reprint of this well-received publication. I am sure, it will be found useful and informative by academics, researchers, parliamentarians and students of modern India's parliamentary history as a volume that will provide an insight into the profound thinking and scholarship of late Babu Jagjivan Ram.

New Delhi  
March 2010

MEIRA KUMAR (Smt.)  
*Speaker, Lok Sabha*



SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
LOK SABHA

## PREFACE (Second Edition)

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Babu Jagjivan Ram was one of the most prominent leaders during our country's struggle for freedom as also in post-Independence India. A veteran parliamentarian, an accomplished administrator, a dedicated social worker and a revered mass leader, Babuji was a tireless and vocal champion of the poor and the marginalised. His pivotal role in bringing the issues and concerns of the deprived sections of country to the centre-stage of India's politics was historic.

Babuji was an embodiment of the struggle waged by the marginalised sections of society for socio-economic equality and empowerment. As a member of the Constituent Assembly, he spared no effort to ensure that free India would be rid of the obnoxious practices such as social discrimination based on caste consideration. Reservations provided to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Legislatures, in public employment, education, etc. were strongly supported by him to ensure the socio-economic progress and prosperity of these segments. He carried forward this concern relentlessly in the decades ahead, both in Parliament and in the Government.

Babu Jagjivan Ram's life is an inspiring story of a leader who achieved great heights which was reached not by any patronage but by his sheer brilliance and competence. He had a stature and standing that surpassed the high offices he occupied and he was a pillar of strength for the Indian polity during various crises. As Union Minister and later as Deputy Prime Minister, he held several important portfolios leaving his indelible mark on every Ministry he held. He made invaluable contributions for the welfare of the labour class and for maintaining industrial peace, thereby strengthening the productive forces of the country.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a role model for Parliamentarians. His conduct in the House reflected his innate respect for parliamentarism and his profound

concern for upholding the high standards of parliamentary conduct. He represented a parliamentary culture, the hallmark of which was deep respect for the Chair and commitment to the lofty traditions of democracy. Babuji epitomised in him all the virtues of an ideal parliamentarian; naturally, whenever he rose to speak in the House, members of both the Treasury and Opposition Benches heard him with rapt attention. No wonder, his speeches have been acclaimed as some of the best parliamentary orations.

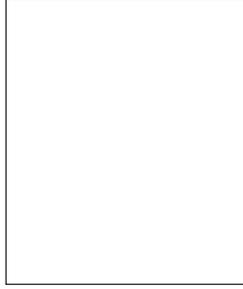
This publication, originally brought out in 2005, contains articles reflecting the views and perspectives of distinguished leaders, many of whom were Shri Jagjivan Ram's colleagues, as well as Babuji's own speeches in Parliament.

We express our profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar, for her guidance in bringing out the reprint of this publication. We are also deeply beholden to her for contributing an insightful Foreword for the volume.

We are sure this publication will be welcomed by parliamentarians, political leaders and the reading public.

New Delhi  
March 2010

P.D.T. ACHARY  
Secretary-General  
Lok Sabha



अध्यक्ष, लोक सभा  
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

## FOREWORD (First Edition)

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Babu Jagjivan Ram occupies a distinctive position in the history of modern India. He was a veteran freedom fighter, great organizer, brilliant orator, committed social and political activist, an active trade union leader, champion of the backward classes, distinguished parliamentarian, true democrat and an able administrator. He was indeed a multi-faceted personality.

Through a public life spanning over five decades, he rendered invaluable services towards building a strong, vibrant, dynamic and modern India. Starting his public life as a student activist and freedom fighter, he went on to become a legislator in the State at a very young age of 28, during the days of the Freedom Movement itself, and later came to occupy the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the country.

He entered the first Lok Sabha, in 1952, after making his mark as a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly, the Constituent Assembly and the Provisional Parliament. A Parliamentarian of eight consecutive terms, which covered the formative years of our Republic, Babu Jagjivan Ram shone brilliantly in our public life and came up to be a leader of eminence, on his own right, respected across the country. Throughout his long years of public life, his was a powerful voice in articulating the concerns of the common man, particularly, that of the Scheduled Castes, Backward classes and of the working class.

Babu Jagjivan Ram always espoused the cause of establishing a society based on social justice and political and economic equality. Throughout his life, he had fought for eradicating the evils of casteism and for mitigating the sufferings and deprivation of the backward classes. He was one of the titans who symbolized the dawn of a new era of assertion, equality and empowerment for the depressed classes.

His long association with the trade union movement gave him the opportunity to have a direct experience of the problems of the working class. Later, it was this understanding that influenced him, as the Union Labour Minister, in taking several initiatives to improve the lot of the workers.

Babu Jagjivan Ram always maintained a dignified demeanor in the Parliament and outside. He is still remembered for his calm and composed disposition even amidst the stormiest moments in the House. He was always unprovoked by the Opposition attacks. He was known for his logical arguments, persuasive power and debating skills and also for his ability to carry all sections of the House with him. During his long Ministerial career, he held almost all important portfolios, *viz.* Labour, Defence, Railways, Food, Agriculture, Irrigation, Employment, Rehabilitation, Transport and Communications and left an indelible imprint of his personality on all those Departments.

His unmatched passion for democracy and democratic values came to light when he resigned from the Party, with which he was associated for nearly half a century, on a matter of principle, in the wake of the political developments in the country in early 1977. His dissent and political challenge to the Congress Party had indeed made history and was a turning point in the developments that the country witnessed in the later half of the 1970s.

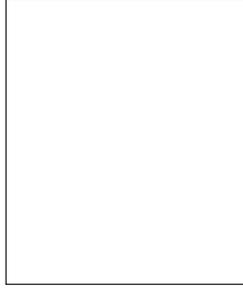
I have had the good fortune of watching Jagjivan Ram as a parliamentarian from 1971 to 1986 in the Lok Sabha. His concern and commitment for the establishment of an egalitarian society and the pioneering contributions he made for the betterment of the poor, the downtrodden and the working class, have left a deep imprint on my mind. I cherish the dialogues I have had with him during my early years in Parliament as rewarding experiences.

Jagjivan Ram, undoubtedly, was one of the brightest examples of success amidst adversity. His humble background could not deter him from standing up against the age-old caste and community prejudices. Rather, he fought his way and earned a place of distinction in the annals of social reforms in India.

This publication attempts to place on record the various aspects of Babu Jagjivan Ram's versatile personality and of the immense contribution he made in strengthening the democratic institutions of our nation. The cooperation and support we received from his accomplished daughter and the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Meira Kumar, in this venture, merit special mention here. I congratulate the dedicated team of officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, associated with this project, for bringing out a publication of this nature on a very short notice. I am sure, it will be found to be of immense value to the researchers, academics, students, parliamentarians and all others interested in the history of modern India and of the events and the personalities who contributed towards its evolution.

New Delhi  
July 2005

SOMNATH CHATTERJEE  
*Speaker, Lok Sabha*



SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
LOK SABHA

## PREFACE (First Edition)

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a front-ranking parliamentarian who was widely respected as a person and a statesman. He was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly, the Constituent Assembly, the Provisional Parliament and the first eight Lok Sabhas. Jagjivan Ram was endowed with a strong intellect, clear vision, great strength of character, firmness of conviction and purpose and had an astounding capacity for sustained hard work. Jagjivan Ram was both an outstanding parliamentarian and a great administrator whose approach to solving problems was guided by a perfect mix of idealism and pragmatism.

Babuji rose from a humble family back-ground and a caste which was socially discriminated against. His circumstances did not prevent him from attaining higher education. From his very childhood, he developed oratorical skill and participated in debates both at school and college levels. His encounter with caste-discrimination in his student life strengthened his resolution to fight against caste prejudices.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was one of the leading spokespersons of the depressed classes in India. Babuji believed that the caste system is so pernicious and all pervasive that the backward communities themselves are imitating more the customs and manners of the upper castes rather than breaking the shackles. He further believed that such a mental framework is unsuitable for the development of the community itself and also for the development of democracy. He sought to instill a new sense of confidence among them. He visualized reform through legislation and constitutional means.

If there is any aspect of the life of Babuji which is little known to the present-day world, it is Babu Jagjivan Ram's role as a freedom fighter. Babu Jagjivan Ram dedicated his whole life to lay foundation for a truly equal and democratic society. He made significant contributions to the administrative

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system to ensure the betterment of not only the downtrodden but of all the people, irrespective of caste. His interest in social and political work began during his student career when he started attending various meetings of the Congress Party. Babu Jagjivan Ram was a stalwart in Bihar politics. He was the Secretary of the Bihar Branch of the Harijan Sevak Sangh. He was closely associated with Gandhiji who called him a 'jewel'. He always raised the issues relating to Harijans at various political platforms and also brought them to the notice of Gandhiji. For nearly half a century he had served the country and the people with rare distinction, as a social worker, as a political leader and as a parliamentarian.

In the post-Independence period, Babuji played a key role in policy making of the Government as a Union Cabinet Minister for more than three decades. His long political career has been distinctly marked by many achievements. In Parliament, Babu Jagjivan Ram was a jewel for the treasury benches. For his achievements as the Labour Minister, he is called the father of labour legislation in India. He had indeed made valuable contributions for the labour class and industrial peace and thereby enhanced the productive forces of the country. It was during his tenure that landmark labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 were passed.

As the Minister of Transport and Communications, he felt that the transport and communication system developed by the British was inadequate for the needs of our country. He attempted to modernize and revamp the transport and communication system according to Indian requirements. He was the first to understand the need for a National Transport Policy for independent India. One of his major achievements was to bring post offices nearer to the rural people. Being an efficient Railway Minister, he is referred to as the "*Pitamah*" of Railways. He paid special attention to modernization of Railways and welfare of the Railway workers. The success of the Green Revolution was a major achievement of Babuji in his stint as Minister of Food and Agriculture. During his tenure as the Defence Minister, Defence Research was a special area of his attention. His effective leadership and whole-hearted support to the armed forces were the major factors for India winning the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

Babuji had a clear-cut vision of bureaucracy. He always commanded the respect of the bureaucracy, irrespective of the Ministry he was holding. He felt that a "committed" bureaucracy was necessary for effective implementation of the programmes of the Government.

Apart from his commitment to public life, he was a deeply religious person. He had profound respect for the cultural values of the country. The epic *Ramayana* was a favourite of Babuji. A recipient of several "*Abhinandan*

*Granthas*", he was also a member of the Theosophical Society and the Arya Samaj. He was a voracious reader, an eloquent speaker and a writer. He had written both in Hindi and English. His book on "*Caste Challenges in India*" is a remarkable work.

The present publication is our humble tribute to Babuji who had dedicated his life for political work, social advancement and people's welfare and progress. We express our deep gratitude to esteemed Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha for his encouragement and strong support for bringing out this publication. I am deeply beholden to him for contributing such an enriching 'Foreword' to this publication. We also express our profound thanks to the Hon'ble President of India, Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Buta Singh, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, Shri R.L. Bhatia, Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Balram Jaxhar and Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala for sending their messages for the publication. Their contributions have indeed added value to the content of this publication.

The publication consists of five parts : *Part I* of the publication attempts to provide a *Profile* of Babu Jagjivan Ram. The profile gives a detailed account of the multi-faceted personality of Babuji. The profile highlights the phases of Babuji's personal and public life, the various positions he held, the social and political challenges and the situations he confronted, which will enable the readers to know the different facets of Babuji's personality. It describes Babuji's struggles and contributions, both in the political and legislative fields, during pre-Independence as well as post-Independence periods. It presents a picture of Babuji's eventful life, the causes he stood for, the milestones he achieved and the deep impact he had left on our lives.

*Part II* of the publication contains *Articles* on Shri Jagjivan Ram penned by his close associates and contemporaries. Among our honoured contributors, we have Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Defence and Leader of the House in Lok Sabha, Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Smt. Meira Kumar, daughter of Shri Jagjivan Ram and currently the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Shri Bali Ram Bhagat, former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Mohan Singh, Member of Lok Sabha, Dr. Mohan Dharia, former Union Minister and former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant, former Union Minister and former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,

Dr. (Smt.) Sarojini Mahishi, former Union Minister of State and Shri Avtar Singh Rikhy, former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. I am grateful to all of them for having responded to our request and enriching our publication with their valued contributions. We would, however, like to emphasize that the views expressed in various articles are those of the individual authors and the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for the opinions expressed by the authors or the facts cited by them.

*Part III* of the publication gives select speeches of Babu Jagjivan Ram on the Floor of the Houses. Some of the speeches are in English, some are in Hindi and some of them are bilingual, *i.e.* using both the Floor languages. The speeches included in this part will help to provide us a glimpse of his in-depth knowledge of the subjects and his concern for the under-privileged and the downtrodden. Original language of the speeches has been retained at most of the places except where it is absolutely necessary to make certain changes for maintaining continuity.

*Part IV* comprises tributes paid to him by eminent personalities, his close friends and associates in both the Houses of Parliament. It also contains the speeches delivered by dignitaries on the occasion of 'Unveiling of the Statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram' in the Parliament House.

The Monograph contains Babuji's photographs, reflecting his childhood and family life, his immense contribution during India's freedom struggle, and his period of struggle and achievements in public life. We also have some of his photographs from his biography, "*Dekhi Suni Beeti Batein*", authored by his wife, Smt. Indrani Devi. We are thankful to Smt. Meira Kumar for providing us with some good quality photographs for inclusion in the publication.

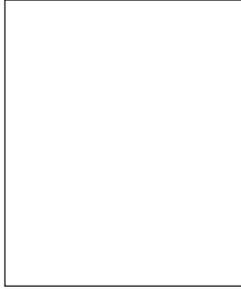
This publication is the result of the hard work put in by the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I am thankful to Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair, Additional Secretary; Shri N.K. Sapra, Joint Secretary; Shri R.T. Pillai, Director; Smt. Sadhana Rani Gupta, Joint Director; Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Deputy Director; Shri Harsh Chaturvedi and Shri Sebastian Mathews, Assistant Directors; Shri Prasant Kumar Mallick, Research Officer; Smt. Anita Kaushik and Shri Baikunthanath Mohapatra, Research Assistants for their committed and dedicated work. Thanks are also due to the Parliamentary Museum and Archives for providing good quality photographs and to Shri Radhey Shyam, Chief Controller of Printing and Publications for providing us printed copies well in time. I also thank the Printers, Shri Sudhir Kumar Jain of M/s. Jainco Art India for the excellent job they have done in such a short time.

We hope the publication will prove useful to students, researchers, academicians and to those who hold the ideals of Babuji close to their hearts.

New Delhi  
*July 2005*

G. C. MALHOTRA  
*Secretary-General  
Lok Sabha*

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



राष्ट्रपति  
भारत गणतंत्र  
PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

## MESSAGE

It is an important event that the Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Late Shri Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his Death Anniversary in July 2005.

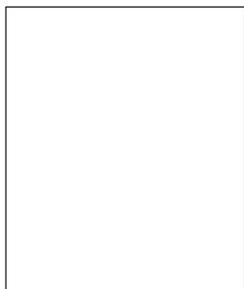
Shri Jagjivan Ram was an inspiring leader who played an active role in our freedom struggle by organising people against oppression. His contribution to nation building after independence will always be remembered, especially as a leader who contributed to India's development in many fields, as a Cabinet Minister. His message that all are equal irrespective of their social background will also be remembered.

On this occasion, I pay my homage to this great son of India and wish the occasion all success.

New Delhi  
10 June 2005

(A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



उप-राष्ट्रपति, भारत  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF INDIA

## MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Late Babu Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his Death Anniversary in July 2005.

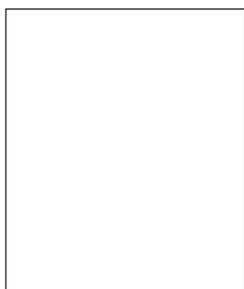
Shri Jagjivan Ram was a redoubtable figure during India's struggle for Independence as also in the post-Independence politics. A veteran parliamentarian, a dedicated social worker and a prominent mass leader, Shri Jagjivan Ram was a tireless champion of the poor and the downtrodden. His role in bringing the issues of the deprived sections to the centre-stage of Indian politics was historic. In his long career in public life, he was widely respected for his mature reflection, administrative acumen and political vision. A man of innate simplicity and humility, he left a distinct mark on a wide range of nation-building activities. His services to the country and the people are truly unforgettable.

This is a welcome opportunity to recall his memorable contributions made to the country. He remains an abiding source of strength and inspiration to us all. My respectful homage to this illustrious son of India.

New Delhi  
12 May 2005

(BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



प्रधान मंत्री  
PRIME MINISTER

## MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Shri Jagjivan Ram on the solemn occasion of his death anniversary.

One of the outstanding leaders of our nation, Late Shri Jagjivan Ram had a stature and standing that surpassed the high offices he occupied. Coming from a disadvantaged background, he rose to occupy exalted positions through his talent and commitment. A product of our freedom struggle, he was imbued with a spirit of service. Mahatma Gandhi described him as a priceless jewel and wrote "My heart goes out in respectful admiration to Jagjivan Ram for his having emerged as the purest gold out of fire".

His passion for social justice and social change was reflected in the numerous decisions he took and several legislations he piloted as a Minister in the Union Cabinet for more than three decades. Combining the vision of Mahatma Gandhi with the modern approach of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, he remained a forward looking leader and excelled as an able administrator.

Shri Jagjivan Ram's vision of a casteless society and his emphasis on a mental revolution to wipe out caste prejudices is of abiding relevance for our time. The Monograph highlighting his role in our public life constitutes a valuable publication. I am sure that it would enrich the corpus of literature on Babu Jagjivan Ram and enable readers to understand his many splendoured personality and his role as one of the makers of modern India.

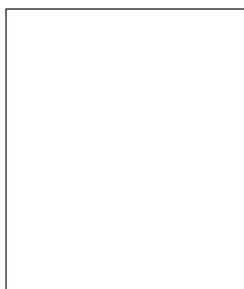
I wish the publication all success.

New Delhi  
4 July 2005

(MANMOHAN SINGH)

(xvii)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



विदेश मंत्री, भारत  
MINISTER OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## MESSAGE

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a close associate of Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during our struggle for Independence and thereafter, in Panditji's vision of India as a modern, self-confident nation, devoted to economic and social development, with a scientific outlook and a rational temperament. Babuji, the first member of the Scheduled Castes to become a Union Minister, held several important portfolios in the Cabinet, leaving his indelible mark on every Ministry he led, be it Labour, Civil Aviation, Communications, or Railways, before leaving the Cabinet to devote himself to full-time party activities under the Kamaraj Plan in 1963. When Babuji rejoined the Government under Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1966 and was appointed the Minister for Agriculture, he ushered in the Green Revolution, ensuring self-sufficiency and today, surplus food production. He was the Defence Minister during the 1971 War with Pakistan, ably assisting Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Bismarck observed that a really great man is known by three signs: generosity in design, humanity in execution and modernization in success, and these were richly blended in Babuji.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a veteran social reformer, a seasoned politician yet a man who had moulded his life in the pattern of ascetics of the country. His whole approach was rational, yet compassionate and sympathetic.

Gandhiji had said:

"I shall work for an India which the poorest shall feel that is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India where there shall be no high class and no class of people; an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony."

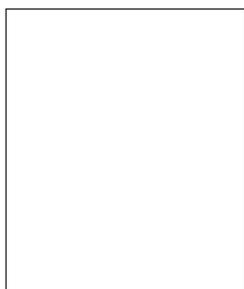
Babuji worked tirelessly throughout his life to make Gandhiji's dream a reality.

Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji had called Babuji's untimely demise 'a great loss for India'. As we commemorate his Death Anniversary, I can only echo that sentiment.

New Delhi  
2 July 2005

(K. NATWAR SINGH)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



GOVERNOR  
MADHYA PRADESH

### MESSAGE

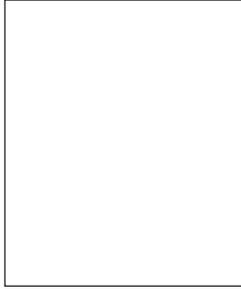
I am happy to learn that a Monograph will be published on the occasion of the Death Anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram in July 2005. People of the mark of Babuji never die. They remain eternal in the history. Babuji was not an individual. He was an institution in himself. He was out and out a patriot. To him political positions were just instruments to serve the people and nation. He always fought for the cause of the poor and the downtrodden. He was a man of principles and never compromised whatever be the political gains and losses. He was courageous and bold. He was one of the best parliamentarians of his time. It is a laudable decision to include his speeches in the Monograph. This would enrich it and inspire the future generations, besides enabling them to understand the ideals and socio-economic and political thoughts of Babuji.

I wish the publication all success.

Bhopal  
17 May 2005

(DR. BAL RAM JAKHAR)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



DEPUTY SPEAKER  
LOK SABHA

## MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Late Shri Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his Death Anniversary.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was an illustrious leader who served the country with utmost sincerity, commitment and devotion during the days of freedom struggle and in Independent India. A self-made man, he won the enduring affection of the teeming masses through his multi-faceted talents and tenacity of purpose. As a true friend of the poor and the downtrodden, he brought about a significant change in the way the society viewed the backward classes. He elevated politics to a higher plane, to a loftier standard. His realism and varied administrative experience and a profound understanding of various social and economic issues contributed enormously towards India's socio-economic transformation.

As Union Minister holding such diverse portfolios as Labour, Communications, Railways, Agriculture and Defence, he left an indelible imprint of his personality on various areas. The remarkable role played by him in bringing about the Green Revolution in the country hardly needs any reiteration. As the Defence Minister, he led the country to a glorious victory during the 1971 war.

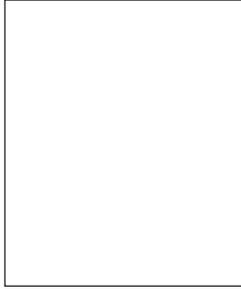
It is indeed befitting that the Lok Sabha Secretariat should bring out a Monograph on Shri Jagjivan Ram who was not only a brilliant administrator but also a distinguished parliamentarian with an abiding commitment to

parliamentary traditions and conventions. I hope, and I am sure, this publication will provide a valuable insight into Babu Jagjivan Ram's multifaceted personality as well as his cherished ideals.

New Delhi  
13 May 2005

(CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



GOVERNOR  
KERALA

## MESSAGE

One of the foremost leaders of our freedom struggle, Shri Jagjivan Ram served the nation with single-minded devotion for more than five decades. Babuji, as he was popularly known, played a pivotal role in India's political evolution, during both the pre and post-Independent periods, distinguishing himself in every high post assigned to him. A tall leader and towering personality, he was a true Gandhian, striving for the cause of the downtrodden, in word and deed. He always upheld the lofty principles of human dignity, and was steadfast against oppression of every sort.

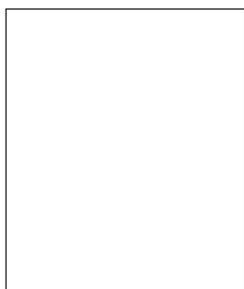
While at Banaras Hindu University, he organised Scheduled Castes braving the social taboos and discriminations. He participated in the Quit India Movement, and was inducted into the Interim Government at the Centre, led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. An active member of the Constituent Assembly, he was also a long-term member of the Lok Sabha, from the First to the Eighth, to be precise. Equally remarkable was his contribution as a highly ranked Cabinet Minister, a position he held for thirty three years. His stint as Deputy Prime Minister too was meritorious.

I often recall my long association with Shri Jagjivan Ram, that dates back to 1972. I have had many an occasion to interact with him regarding matters of governance, good governance, to be exact. I have watched him from close quarters, observing his style of work, which invariably aimed at mitigating the plight of the marginalised sections of society. There was always a sure-fire touch of conviction and commitment about whatever he said and did.

Thiruvananthapuram  
20 May 2005

(R. L. BHATIA)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



GOVERNOR  
BIHAR

### MESSAGE

I am happy to know that a Monograph on Late Shri Jagjivan Ram is going to be brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on the occasion of his Death Anniversary in July 2005.

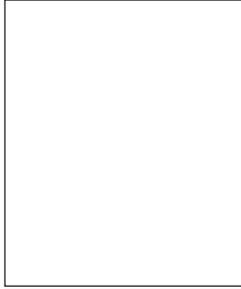
Babuji, as he was popularly known, was a great statesman, a great freedom fighter, a great leader and a multi-faceted personality. He served the nation in different capacities such as member of Central Legislative Assembly/ Constituent Assembly/ the Provisional Parliament/ First to Eighth Lok Sabhas and also remained Cabinet Minister for about 33 years and Deputy Prime Minister from 24 January to 27 July 1979. As a Union Minister, whichever portfolios he held, he made remarkable imprint. A symbol of humanity, Babuji was a champion of Dalits, the weaker sections and the downtrodden and was responsible for their upliftment.

I send my best wishes for the success of the Monograph being brought out to mark the occasion.

Patna  
10 June 2005

(BUTA SINGH)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



GOVERNOR  
TAMIL NADU

### MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Late Shri Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his Death Anniversary in July 2005.

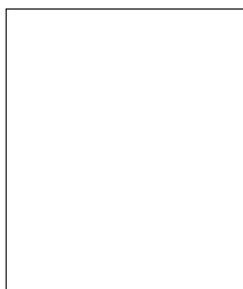
Shri Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as 'Babuji', was a great social reformer and a freedom fighter who took active part in the freedom movement. He had held office as the Deputy Prime Minister, Union Minister and was a distinguished Parliamentarian who had made great contributions for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden and for the growth of our Nation.

I am confident that the Monograph would certainly throw light on the principles of Babu Jagjivan Ram and pave the way for fostering peace and communal harmony.

Chennai  
19 May 2005

(SURJIT SINGH BARNALA)

[FIRST EDITION, 2005]



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN  
RAJYA SABHA

### MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the Lok Sabha Secretariat is bringing out a Monograph on Late Shri Jagjivan Ram on the occasion of his Death Anniversary.

A passionate and devoted leader, he always remained loyal to the cause of the poor and the exploited. His practical approach and articulate ways were so compelling that many noted leaders of today term him as their mentor. His contribution and service to the nation is commendable and a source of inspiration for the followers. Despite coming from a humble family background, he rose to the level of 'Deputy Prime Minister' citing example for others.

A leading figure in the political and cultural life of the country, he will always be remembered for his sterling qualities and his diverse contributions towards enriching our polity and society. On his Death Anniversary, we offer our salutations to this distinguished son of India.

New Delhi  
23 June 2005

(K. RAHMAN KHAN)