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Friday, November 27, 1987
Agrahayana 6, 1909 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Ninth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, November 27, 1987/Agrahayana 6,
1909 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we mourn the passing away of Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra, a distinguished and valued colleague, a senior Parliamentarian. The country, my Party and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, in particular, have lost a veteran leader.

Dograji jumped into the national movement when he was still very young. He fought by the side of Sheikh Abdullah for the democratic rights and for the identification of the national and secular forces in Jammu & Kashmir. After the merger of the State, he held many important ministerial posts. His work as a legislator and a Minister was marked by his dedication and his thoroughness. He always remained approachable and unostentatious. These qualities earned him the respect of all.

My sympathy and condolences and those of my Party go to the members of his family and his large circle of colleagues and friends.

Sir, we also mourn the death of our former colleagues, Shri Narain Din, Shri Ram Avtar Sharma and Shri Sheo Narain, who made an active contribution to parliamentary work. I extend my sympathy to their families.

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PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only the other day Dograji was seen moving very vigorously in the House with all enthusiasm. He was a Member of the House, but at the same time the most important aspect of his contribution was that he was a Member of the Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir which set its approval of integration with India. In a way, he was a Member who had remained a link between the people of Kashmir and the rest of India because he was instrumental to putting the seal of approval for Kashmir's integration with India. I had the opportunity of working with him in the Estimates Committee; we moved together in different parts of the country as Members of the Estimates Committee and we found that he was extremely analytical; he was very enthusiastic about his work and, more than that, the warmth of his feeling was always displayed during the proceedings of the Estimates Committee.

I must also put on record my homage to Shri Sheo Narain who came from the Scheduled Caste and always worked for their interest. For more than once he was a Member of this House, and when I was a member of the Janata Cabinet as a Railway Minister, he was working with me as my colleague, Minister of State for Railways and the down-trodden sections of the society always looked to him for his friendship and guidance.

Unfortunately, Shri Narain Din and also Shri Ram Avtar Sharma who were distinguished Members of this House, are also no more here.

Sir, I convey my condolences and request you that you may offer condolences to the bereaved members of the family.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Sir, I share the feelings of the Leader of the House and my colleague

[Shri C. Madhav Reddi]

Mr. Madhu Dandavate on passing away of Dograji and other Members. On behalf of my party I pay my homage to the departed souls.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I could not expect that Dograji would pass away so soon because I saw him yesterday only; he was very active till the last moment of his life. He was active in the various activities as a Member of Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly and I found him always very much active in various social and parliamentary activities. I, on behalf of my party, express my heart-felt condolences for the bereaved families and for others who also have passed away—Shri Narain Din, Shri Ram Avtar Sharma and Shri Sheo Narain. I also request you to convey our feelings to the members of the family.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, death has taken away one of the most senior Members of this House so suddenly. I was not here yesterday. But I was told that Mr. Dogra was very much here in his normal self. I have known him and seen him in the House for many many years and he was always a very considerate and very friendly Member, serious also, extremely serious in his attitude to the work of the House. In his younger days, he was something of a leftist, associated with leftist ideas and leftist movements. And I believe that he had not shed those ideas completely from what one knew of him. In a way, he was a big asset in this House as a senior Member of the ruling party which has suffered a big loss and the loss for the entire House, of course.

On behalf of my party and myself, I mourn his going away deeply and other Members whom we are mourning also. I also want to make a particular reference to Shri Sheo Narain who was here for many years, a very popular and somewhat jocular type of figure here. Everybody used to take advantage of his simple nature, sometimes to crack a joke at his expense. I was also guilty of that sometimes. But he took it all in very good humour and very good spirit and he was

really an excellent person apart from being a regular and active Member.

Shri Ram Avtar Sharma and Shri Narain Din were also Members whom we are going to miss very much.

On behalf of my party I express my deepest condolences to their families and dependants.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, I fully share the feelings expressed by the Prime Minister and by other Hon. Members. On behalf of my party, we express our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families.

PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir: I join the Prime Minister in expressing deep condolences on behalf of my party and on my own behalf on the sad demise of a stalwart, a great veteran leader Shri G. L. Dogra. It is a great loss to the Nation. He belonged to Congress (I) party. But I have known him closely as a great nationalist, as a great patriot and above all as a very disciplined soldier wedded to a cause.

It is rather a greater loss to the J&K State because I must inform those Members who may not have known Shri G. L. Dogra closely that from the Jammu region, apart from Sardar Budh Singh, no other significant personality than Shri Dogra came forward to join Sheikh Mohammad Abdulla in the fight against the autocratic rule and for the promotion of nationalist and socialist ideas in the J&K State.

Comrade Indrajit Gupta was just now saying that in his early days he was a socialist. I must inform Comrade Indrajit Gupta that until his last breath Shri G. D. Dogra remained left of centre and wedded to the socialist ideas, particularly the ones enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Actually, words fail me to describe the loss that this august institution has suffered in the demise of Shri G. L. Dogra. In J&K State, where he had joined freedom struggle at a very young age, he had the privilege of being in the cabinet of Sheikh Mohammad Abdulla from the very begin-

ning and he continued to be a close associate of Janab Sheikh Sahab until he (Sheikh Sahab) breathed his last. Even though there were some differences of opinion, Shri G. L. Dogra stood like a rock to see that the National Conference and the Congress Party come closer because both the parties have stood for socialism, secularism and democracy.

In particular, I must go on record saying that he was one of the builders of the alliance that was formed in J&K State between Congress-I and the National Conference. I must also share with you, Sir, that he felt chagrined recently because behind the scenes some manipulators, who have no perspectives in politics were still trying to weaken this alliance and I must say that it is a great loss to the alliance in J&K State.

I deeply mourn his death and join all the Members here in condoling his death as a great loss to the nation and more particularly an irreparable loss to the people of J&K State.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my deep grief over the sad demise of Shri G. L. Dogra. I had been with him for one year in the Estimates Committee. I always found him self-disciplined and of accommodative nature. I share my grief with the Prime Minister and Leader of the House. He has expressed his views regarding the death of Shri Ram Avtar Sharma, Shri Sheo Narain and Shri Narain Din.

I had the opportunity to work with Shri Sheo Narain in the Sixth Lok Sabha. He was a nationalist, patriot and wedded to the service of the people.

I once again express my deep grief over the demise of these leaders.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just when I started from my residence to come to Parliament today, I came to know of the death of Dogra Sahib. But I feel very sad because only yesterday he was sitting on

the front seat upto 6 O'Clock. One of my colleagues yesterday told him that there is difference between what one professes and what he practices. Then my colleague who was a Member from Kashmir burst into laughter.

I met him only here as a Member of Parliament. He was a seasoned person and a man of high moral values. What more can I say about him, I can only pray to God that his soul may rest in peace.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by Hon'ble Prime Minister and my other colleagues with regard to the work done and contribution made by Shri Girdhari Lalji Dogra, Shri Narain Din and Shri Ram Avtar Sharma who were our colleagues in this Parliament and who are now no more.

I on behalf of my party and on my own behalf express my condolences to his friends, relatives and members of bereaved families.

[English]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party I rise to share in the sorrow that has been expressed on the sad demise of Dograji. It is difficult to believe that he is no more. We still feel as if to say he is in the House. We still feel him walking, talking and participating. But such are the ways of Providence that we have to submit to his will. We offer our heart-felt condolences to the family of the deceased. We also mourn the passing away of our other ex-Members.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very sad to say that in recent years so many of our colleagues are passing away. The passing away of Shri G. L. Dogra is a great loss for our country. He was a veteran freedom fighter, a veteran administrator and a veteran parliamentarian. I join the Prime Minister and other leaders of the Opposition in expressing my condolences to Dograji and other ex-Members of the House also.

MR. SPEAKER : It is indeed with a very heavy heart that today we mourn the sad demise of Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra, a sitting Member from the Udhampur constituency of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, Shri Dogra was a Member of the 7th Lok Sabha during 1980-84 and a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Jammu & Kashmir for as long as 23 years, i.e. from 1957 to 1980. Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra served his State with deep dedication and distinction. He was a Member of the Council of Ministers of the J&K State right from 1948 to 1975 except for a brief break during 1957 to 1961 and held various portfolios. He was also a Member of the Constituent Assembly of the State of Jammu & Kashmir during 1951 to 1957 and was Chairman of its Drafting Committee.

He was here yesterday. He was the last person to leave this House and unfortunately became the last time for him. Not only as a Member of this Lok Sabha I know him, I know him quite for a long long time. I knew the very fine qualities as a person, as a humanitarian, as a friend, he had. Really it was a shock in the early morning hours when we heard this thing had happened. But nobody can do anything about it. We can just only feel the loss, the irreparable loss, in the sad demise of our dear friend.

Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra was a very active parliamentarian and took keen interest in the working of Parliamentary Committees. He served for several years as a Member of the Privileges Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Estimates.

During the last few weeks we have lost three other former Members of this House, namely Shri Narain Din (Member, Second Lok Sabha), Shri Ram Avtar Sharma (Member, Fourth Lok Sabha) and Shri Sheo Narain (Member, Sixth Lok Sabha).

Shri Narain Din was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Shahjahanpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

A well known social worker, he was associated with several organisations in

various capacities. He championed the cause of the depressed classes and fought for their rightful place in the society. He took keen interest in spreading education among the downtrodden by opening educational institutions for them.

Shri Narain Din passed away at Lucknow on 28 October, 1987 at the age of 72 years.

Shri Ram Avtar Sharma was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Gwalior constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Ram Avtar Sharma participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment in 1947. An industrialist, he was the Vice-President of Madhya Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1962-63. He was also associated with several social and religious organisations. A widely travelled person, he took keen interest in Hindi literature.

Shri Sharma passed away at Gwalior on 29 October, 1987 at the age of 80 years.

Shri Sheo Narain was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Basti constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1962-67 and 1967-70 respectively. He had also been a Member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh during 1952-57 and 1958-62 respectively. He served as a Member of the Union Council of Ministers during 1977-79.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Sheo Narain served on the Public Accounts Committee in 1977. An agriculturist by profession, he worked for Harijan uplift.

Shri Sheo Narain passed away at Basti on 11 November, 1987 at the age of 74 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence
for a short while as a mark of respect to
the deceased.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

11.24 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
November 30, 1987 Agrahayana 9,
1909 (Saka).*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands
adjourned to meet again on Monday, the
30th November, 1987 at 11 A.M.