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Title: Need to form a National Committee under Chairmanship of Prime Minister to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rabindranath Tagore.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA(GHATAL): Madam, Rabindranath Tagore's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary begins in the year 2010. Who Rabindranath Tagore was is known to all not only in this country but abroad also. He is not only one of the greatest poets of the world but he was a social activist also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : He was a social activist and he stood firm against all forms of divisive forces and fundamentalism. His friendship with the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, is all well known. He is one of the few personalities who had shaped and influenced the national history of the country. Therefore, the question arises that his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary year should be celebrated in this country in a befitting way. There is a need for a national committee to be set up under the presidentship of the Prime Minister of the country.

There has to be a national plan, national programme to ensure that he is remembered in the way he should be done because Tagore and his thoughts are relevant to India as never before.

Madam, therefore, I urge upon the Government to kindly assure the House that it will be taking up immediate steps for celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore by not only setting up a Committee, but also drawing up a National Plan involving important social, cultural, and political personalities of the world and to ensure that it really becomes a National event.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your slip to the Table and associate yourself with the matter raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER:

Sk. Saidul Haque is allowed to associate on this issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Madam, I would just like to mention one other point. It was decided that the Liberhan Commission Report will be discussed today, but it is absent from today's Order Paper. I was the mover, and I was informed about it. Suddenly, yesterday, I had received a telephone call saying that it is being postponed. I do not know whether the Government is interested to have a discussion on it or it is being withdrawn for the whole Session. ...(*Interruptions*)

I would seek your intervention for the Government to clarify whether they are really going to have a discussion on the Liberhan Commission Report. It was all decided with regard to the discussion on the Liberhan Commission Report. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: It was the Speaker's decision.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You kindly sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: I do not think that the Speaker's decision should be questioned in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It was the Speaker's decision.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Madam, let the Government clarify on this matter. ...(Interruptions)