

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Wednesday February 26, 1992/Phalguna  
7, 1913 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow to the passing away of our esteemed friends, namely, Sarvashri A. Senapathi Gounder and O.V. Alagesan.

Shri A. Senapathi Gounder was a sitting Member of the House from Palani constituency of the State of Tamil Nadu. Shri Gounder passed away on the 25th February, 1992 in the early morning at Erode in Tamil Nadu at the age of 76.

Shri Gounder had also been a Member of the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Palani constituency of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, he had been a Member of the former Madras State Legislative Assembly as also of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during 1952-71.

A prominent social worker, he worked ceaselessly for the upliftment of weaker

sections of the society and took keen interest in the development of his constituency.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Gounder was associated with various organisations, particularly those relating to cooperative agricultural rural bank, dairy farming, etc. He was author of several publications including those dealing with philosophy of Hinduism and modern agricultural techniques.

As a parliamentarian, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution thereto.

Shri O.V. Alagesan was a Member of Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1946-52. Later on, he represented Chingleput constituency of the erstwhile State of Madras during First and Third Lok Sabha (1952-57 and 1962-67), Tiruttani and Arakonam constituencies of Tamil Nadu during Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha (1971-79).

He served with distinction on the Union Council of Ministers and held various important portfolios. He was also our Ambassador to Ethiopia during 1968-71.

As an active parliamentarian, he left an indelible imprint on the proceedings of the House. He had also served effectively on various Committees of the House.

A versatile personality, Shri Alagesan was a reputed social reformer and a distinguished administrator. He relentlessly worked for the removal of social evils like untouchability and prohibition.

As a freedom fighter, he actively partici-

pated in freedom struggle and underwent imprisonment for several years.

Shri Alagasan was great promoter of education and Indian culture and had founded Bhaktavatsalam Educational Trust. He translated into Tamil 'Glimpses of World History' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

In his death we have lost a devoted patriot, a freedom fighter and a link with the Gandhi-Nehru era. His contribution to the public life will be long remembered.

Shri O.V. Alagasan passed away on 3 January, 1992 at the age of 81 at Madras.

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.*

11.05hrs.

### ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

#### Decline in Industrial Growth Rate

\*21. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Industrial growth rate declines further" appearing in the Financial Express dated December 5, 1991;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the factors leading to the decline in the Growth rate; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the Index of Industrial Production compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation, the overall rate of growth during April-June, 1991 was (-) 2.3 per cent. The rate of growth during the period April-October, 1991 has been (-) 0.8 per cent. However, a number of industries have performed well during the current financial year. The production of infrastructure industries such as coal, steel, cement and electricity has shown a marked improvement during the current year. Similarly, jute textiles and paper and paper product industries have also performed well. The industries that have contributed most significantly to the decline are capital goods and consumer durables.

(c) There are various factors like infrastructure constraints, shortage of raw materials, particularly of imported raw-materials because of foreign exchange constraints, credit squeeze, a demand recession in the market, etc.

(d) Government has brought out a statement on Industrial Policy which was tabled in the Lok Sabha on 24th July, 1991. The New Industrial Policy is aimed at improving industrial production by relaxing controls and removing bureaucratic delays. Steps are being taken by the Government to make available raw materials, essential components, etc., by relaxing import restrictions. The Reserve Bank of India has already made some announcements in this regard. The Government is also trying to ensure availa-