

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Saturday, July 20, 1991 | Asadha 29,
1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleague Shri Chhaviram Argal

Shri Chhaviram Argal was a member of the Sixth and Ninth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 and 1989-91 representing Morena constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier he had been a member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1972-77

An agriculturist and lawyer by profession Shri Argal was an active political and social worker. He started his career as a teacher and worked ceaselessly for the upliftment of poor and weaker sections of the society and removal of social evils including abolition of dowry and child marriage. He was associated with various social organisations besides being President of District Ambedkar Committee, Morena and Member of Spices Board

He made valuable contributions to the proceedings of the House. Shri Argal also served as a member on the various Parliamentary Committees.

His tragic end came in a road accident while saving the life of a fellow citizen on 16 July, 1991 at the young age of 48 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.04 Hrs

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) Sir, inspite of your direction the Home Minister has not come out with a statement on the incident at Pilibhit. Conflicting news reports are coming and there is news to cover up that incident also. The Home Minister should come out with a statement today itself.

SHRI FARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) Sir, the Home Minister should make a statement regarding the deteriorating law and order situation in the context of Rajendra Park incident. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAI KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) You have not indicated about the circulation of that paper. We left it to you. You have not indicated anything to us. This is just a reminder. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Puri) Mr Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter

Almost all newspapers of today have carried a news report which is about world famous Sri Jagannath Temple:—

[English]

"two stones and stone beams were missing from the roof of the interior of the Sri Jagannath Temple..... Besides, few minor cracks on the stones were also detected and another stone was found to be loose during an inspection of the inside of the sanctum sanctorum of the temple by the Archaeological Survey of India."

[Translation]

My submission is that a year ago, a stone slab had fallen from a height of 180 feet in this world famous temple. Now this sensational news has come from the Archaeological Survey of India that two stones and stone beams are missing. During the last one thousand years, no cracks had appeared in this world famous temple. Such reports have appeared only during the last one year or so. The Archaeological Survey of India is looking after the work relating to the maintenance etc. of this temple. I would request the Ministry of Human Resource Development to send a team of experts of the said department to the temple in order to carry out repairs wherever cracks have appeared. I would also request the Government to give an assurance to the countrymen that the temple would be protected against such dangers in future.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the government is going to take some steps in the case of Ankurwad Temple. The temple which the hon. Member has referred to is also a very famous temple of our country. The government is seized of the matter and will do whatever is possible. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one more point be added to it...

MR. SPEAKER: No, you take your seat. I have already replied to that.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India, particularly the Coal Ministry, through you, to the utter negligence and to the step-motherly attitude meted out to Orissa, particularly in the coalfields, with respect to employment of local youth and also other facilities to be given to displaced people, the landless people.

Orissa is a major coal producing State but it is unfortunate that this is the only major coal producing State where a subsidiary coal company under the Coal India Limited is yet to be set up. Therefore, without any further delay, the Government of India should set up one coal company in Orissa, with headquarters in the coal-belt at an appropriate place. Earlier, the Government had taken a decision about it. Particularly when a large number of local unemployed youths are coming out, it is unfortunate that employment is being made at its headquarters at Bilaspur but local youths, even men from Orissa, are being neglected. Therefore, I would like to request through you that immediate attention should be paid to this aspect and also to the overall development of the coal area in Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the decision of the Supreme Court came into effect, it is estimated that different coal companies under the control of Coal India Limited had collected cess amounting to over rupees 500 crores. But these companies have not paid this amount to the Government of Bihar despite the fact that they have collected this cess from their consumers. It is needless to say that no company is authorised to keep the cess so collected with them. These units of Coal India Limited—a Government of India undertaking—have collected