

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, July 18, 1989/Asadha 27, 1911
(Saka)
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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we meet today after an interval of more than two months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of Shri Bir Bahadur Singh, Union Minister for Communications and sitting member of Rajya Sabha and four of our former colleagues, namely Sarvashri. P. Muruthiah, S.K. Dey, Chapalendu Bhat-tacharya and V. Vairava Thevar.

In the death of Shri Bir Bahadur Singh the country has lost a very popular leader who worked all his life for the welfare of the poor and the down-trodden. A sitting member of Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh, Shri Bir Bahadur Singh joined the Union Council of Ministers of 25th June, 1988.

An able parliamentarian, he was first elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1967 and remained its member of 21 years.

Shri Bir Bahadur Singh will be fondly remembered for his long and distinguished service in his home State of Uttar Pradesh. He was first appointed Deputy Minister for Public Works Department in April, 1970 and held that office till October 1970. In May 1971 he was appointed Deputy Minister for Irrigation and held that office till June 1973. Later he served as Minister of State for Revenue and Excise during January 1976 to April 1977. After the elections in 1980, he was made Cabinet Minister in the State Government and held the portfolios of Irrigation, Transport and Industry from June 1980 to March, 1985. On 25th September, 1985, he became Chief Minister of the State and held that office till June 1988 when he was inducted in the Union Cabinet.

An able administrator, Shri Singh was known for his quiet perseverance and efficiency. Whatever portfolio he held, he left upon it the imprint of a skilful administrator.

A dedicated social and political leader, he had a strong commitment to economic development accompanied by social justice. He was an ardent champion of the deprived and neglected sections of society.

A widely travelled person, Shri Singh visited U.S.S.R. as member of the Youth Delegation in 1969. He led another delegation to the United Kingdom, Romania, U.S.S.R. and France in 1984.

A man of rare dedication, he had gone to France to attend the International Tele-communication Union meet and while he

was participating in the meeting on 25th May, 1989, he suffered a massive heart attack. All attempts to save him proved unsuccessful and he passed away on 30th May, 1989. He was only 54 at the time of his death. It was truly a death in harness.

Shri P. Muruthiah was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Melur constituency of the then Madras State.

An agriculturist by profession, he was a well known public man and served as member of the Madurai Municipal Council and Madurai District Board for several years.

A devoted social worker, he helped the uplift of the poor and the down-trodden and evinced keen interest in Harijan Welfare Schemes. As early as in 1937, he participated in the movement for the entry of Harijans in the Meenakshi Temple and fought untiringly for the removal of untouchability.

Shri Muruthiah passed away at Madurai on 7 March, 1989 at the age of 72.

Shri S.K. Dey was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Nagaur constituency of Rajasthan. Earlier, he had been a member of Rajya Sabha during 1956-62.

An engineer and farmer by profession, he evinced keen interest in rural community development. A renowned social worker, he worked with devotion for the rehabilitation of refugees from Pakistan from 1947 to 1952. He was associated with several social organisations in various capacities.

An able parliamentarian, he was a member of the Council of Ministers during 1956-67 and held with distinction the portfolios of Community Development, Cooperation, Panchayati Raj and Mines and Metals.

An ardent believer in the devolution of

power to the people, Shri Dey took keen interest in the planning and implementation of the community development programme in the country. He also worked on the application of Electro-Medical-Science to diagnosis and treatment of human ailments. He was associated with the United Nations as Special Adviser to the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh during 1972-73. He was a prolific writer and author of a number of books.

Shri S.K. Dey passed away at New Delhi on 24th May, 1989 at the age of 83.

Shri Chapalendu Bhattacharya was a member of the Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing Giridih constituency of Bihar.

A renowned trade unionist, he served several trade unions in various capacities. He participated actively in co-operative movement and held various offices in a number of co-operative organisations. He was also a member of the Second Coal Mining Committee of the International Labour Organisation, Geneva in 1947.

A well known social worker, he took keen interest in the welfare and uplift of Harijans and Adivasis. He also worked with great devotion for the welfare of the workers and the labour class.

A widely travelled person, Shri Bhattacharya had a flair for journalism and had several articles to his credit on patterns of social change and industries.

Shri Bhattacharya passed away at Ranchi on 30th May, 1989 at the age of 70.

Shri V. Vairava Thevar was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Thanjavur constituency of the then Madras State. Earlier, he was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1956.

An agriculturist by profession and a well

known social worker, Shri Thevar participated actively in the co-operative movement and held various offices in several co-operative organisations.

Shri Thevar passed away on 10 July, 1989 at his native place Kundamaraikkadu, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 76.

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.

Hon'ble Members, I have also to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Ayatollah Rohallah Khomeini, the leader of Islamic revolution in Iran and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Khomeini guided the destiny of Iran for more than a decade and became "Valy-e-Faqih", - the religious ruler. The outpouring of grief and concern during the weeks after his death were indicative of the place he had in the hearts and minds of his people.

On behalf of this House I would like to convey our sincere condolences to the Government and the people of Iran and to the family of late Ayatollah Khomeini.

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)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Diesel Requirement of Drought Affected States

*1. SHRIPARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of increase in the demand for diesel in the country due to drought;

(b) the names of affected States;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet this demand in the far flung rural areas of the country; and

(d) the quantity of crude oil and diesel likely to be imported on this account and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b): The States of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh have requested for Central assistance for drought during pre-Monsoon period of 1989-90 due to inadequate rainfall during this period. Uttar Pradesh has also requested for increased supply of diesel (HSD) for irrigation purposes. In view of increased demand, the off-take of HSD in these States including UP during June and July (upto 11th) 1989 have been more than the off-take during the same period last year.

(c) A contingent plan for maximisation of production, transportation and supply of HSD and monitoring of supplies/stocks in the likely affected areas has been drawn.

(d) It is too early to make any assessment in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: The hon. Minister deserves to be congratulate