

LOK SABHA

*Friday, November 25, 1988/Agrahayana 4,
1910 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

TRIBUTES TO SHRI G.V. MAVALANKAR ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTH
CENTENARY

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As Hon'ble Members are aware, the birth centenary of the first Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri G.V. Mavalankar, falls on 27th November, 1988. Aptly described as the 'Father of our Parliament' by the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Mavalankar was fondly called 'Dada Sahib' by his friends and admirers. A great patriot, Dada Sahib Mavalankar gave up his legal practice and joined the freedom struggle in the footsteps of the Mahatama. He had to undergo several terms of imprisonment during the course of the independence movement.

On assumption of the office by the Congress Government in 1937, Shri Mavalankar was elected as the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly. Later in 1946, he moved to the central arena and was the natural choice for the Presidentship of the Central Legislative Assembly. He continued in that post till August, 1947. In November, 1947, he was unanimously elected Speaker of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative). In January, 1950, he became the Speaker of the Provisional Parliament. After the General Elections of 1952, he was again conferred the unique honour of Speakership of the First Lok Sabha. He

guided the deliberations of the House till his death in February, 1956. The dignity, uprightness and impartiality with which he functioned in the House earned him not only the esteem and love of all sections of the House but also enriched and enhanced the prestige and dignity of the office of the Speaker.

Dada Sahib Mavalankar played a key role in the building up of parliamentary democracy in India. The country was indeed very fortunate to have a person of his calibre and background to occupy the Chair in the crucial transitional years of the new born democracy leading to the establishment of a fullfledged parliamentary system. Mavalankar's deep study and profound knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures, backed by his firm grasp of legal principles, helped him to lay down sound traditions and practices. He had in abundance the qualities that make a successful Speaker.

He stood for the authority of the House and the rights of its members. The struggling backbenchers received from him as much courtesy and consideration as the stalwarts on the front benches. Shri Mavalankar is remembered as a great Speaker whose influence continues and shall continue in the Legislatures all over the country for years to come.

As the first Speaker of Independent India's Parliament, he laid down healthy conventions in the formative stages of Parliament and it was largely due to the conventions which he set up that Parliament was able to proceed peacefully and got a shape and direction.

Known as one of the most outstanding Speakers of modern times, his name and fame spread all over the world specially in

England and the Commonwealth countries. He led several parliamentary delegations to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences and Commonwealth Speakers' Conferences.

As a mark of high esteem in which he was held, he was elected at the Jamaica meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as its Chairman. He also presided for a number of years over the Annual Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative bodies in India where he played a very crucial role in evolving uniform practices and procedures for the Legislatures all over India and building up healthy parliamentary democracy in the country.

On this occasion, I would recall the glowing tributes paid to Dada Sahib Mavalankar by Prime Minister Nehru. Unveiling the portrait of Shri Mavalankar in the Central Hall of Parliament on 7th September, 1956, Panditji had said:-

"Some people are born to some particular high office; some grow into it and some are being pushed into it. About Dada Sahib Mavalankar it might well be said that he was born into the Speakership of the Lok Sabha. He fitted in it like a glove and he maintained throughout these several years the high dignity and wisdom, not only in his decisions, but in his general demeanour."

For long periods to come Dada Sahib Mavalankar's name would be associated with the Lok Sabha and Parliament for the stamp and impress of his personality and for the great contribution that he made in upholding the dignity of the House and zealously guarding the rights of its members.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Sir, in the House we have persons like Prof. Ranga, a veteran Constituent Assembly member. It would have been in the fitness of things if some members were allowed to associate themselves with the tributes that you have given to Mr. Mavalankar. This is the best place where we can do on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Shri G.V. Mavalankar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to have a symposium. At that time members are going to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, you have spoken on behalf of everybody.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to open an exhibition today and tomorrow we will be having a function in the Central Hall.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revised Export Target During Current Year

*204. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the overall export target set for the financial year 1988-89;
- (b) the achievement made so far;
- (c) whether Government have a proposal to revise the target of exports;
- (d) if so, the new target fixed; and
- (e) the steps taken to boost export in all sectors in order to achieve higher target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The overall export target for the financial year 1988-89 has been fixed at Rs. 18795 crores.

According to the provisional trade statistics available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, India's