

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 24, 1988/ Agrahayana 3, 1910 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of a former colleague, Shri Nitiraj Singh Choudhary who was a Member of the fourth and fifth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1977 representing Hoshangabad constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

A veteran social workers and an advocate by profession, Shri Choudhary was associated with many local bodies, educational institutions and cooperative organisations in various capacities. He took keen interest in the uplift of the weaker sections of the society and worked with great zeal for the resettlement of displaced persons from West Pakistan in 1947-48. He was deeply interested in the development of irrigation and agriculture.

A widely travelled person, an able parliamentarian and administrator, Shri Choudhary served as Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers and held the portfolios of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals during 1970-71. and Law,

Justice and Company Affairs during 1971-74.

Shri Choudhary passed away on 28th October, 1988 at the age of 79.

We deeply mourn the 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 to express its sorrow.

The members then stood in silence for a short while

WELCOME TO PDR YEMEN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency, Dr. Saeed Abdul Khair Al-Noban Member of the Presidium and Chairman of Social and Cultural Committee of the Supreme People's Council and Hon'ble members of PDR Yemen Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble members are:

1. Mr. Ahmed Mahfood Omer, M.P.
2. Miss Hasina Mohsen Obaid, M.P.

The Delegation arrived at Delhi on 23 November, 1988 evening. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to His Excellency the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Council, and the friendly people of PDR Yeman.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Coconut Research

*184. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for coconut research; and

(b) practical application of the research findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). A Statement is give below:-

STATEMENT

(a) Sir, an amount of Rs. 1245.16 lakhs was spent during the VI Plan, while Rs. 917.94 lakhs have been utilised during the first three years (Upto 1987-88) fo the VII Plan for research on plantation crops, bulk of which was spent on coconut.

(b) The Practical application of the research findings have been in respect of improved varieties and hybrids. efficient management practices, control of common diseases and pests, rejuvenation of root-wilt disease affected palms, and development of

use of improved post harvest devices and equipment.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : As all of us are aware, coconut is a very important cash crop. But unfortunately, it has not received the attention it deserves. Every part of coconut is useful to the community right from the root to the top, including its leaf. And coconut as such is used for cooking. Also, one seventh of the oil production in the country is from coconut. When such an important crop is there, I am very sorry to note that research made so far has not been able to control the dreaded disease which is attacked. Whenever a disease is attacked, the whole coconut grown in that area will be destroyed. My understanding is that the research is made but the amount provided so far is meagre. It is there is your statement that on amount of Rs 124516. lakhs was spent during the Sixth Plan. Even that is not for coconut alone. Coconut is also used for other purposes.

I understand that there is only one coconut research centre in Kerala at Kasargod. It is absolutely necessary that there should be research centres for coconut development in maidan areas because most of the coconut is gown in maidan areas in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It is very necessary. There is particularly a very congenial atmosphere in Karnataka for the development of coconut. May I know what steps the Government is going to take to develop, particularly the research in coconut and whether Government propose to establish a centre in Karnataka, where all the infrastructure is available for research centre for the coconut?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I do not think that the Hon. Member is correct in his assessment that much is not being done for the development of coconut. On the contrary, sufficient provision has been made and steps have been taken to develop it. Hon. Member said about some disease. No doubt there are disease but research is going on. We have established as he will be pleased to know, in different parts of the