

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 3, 1993/Agrahayana 12.

1915 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, to seek your permission to follow a little different procedure today.

11.0½ hrs.

WELCOME TO THE KAZAKH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the honourable Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Serikbolsun Abdildaevich Abdildin, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mrs. Laura Esengeldievana Abdildina and the honourable Members of the Kazakh Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other honourable Members of the delegation are :—

1. Mr. Bulat Bakhitzhanovich Dzhanasaev
2. Mr. Ideal Galievich Musalimov
3. Mr. Vladimir Alexandrovich Gulyaev
4. Mr. Kadyr Ginayatovich Myrzaliev
5. Ms. Lidia Vasilyevna Kochetova

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 1 December, 1993 afternoon. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the President, Prime Minister, Parliament, Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

11.02½ hrs

RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I had received a letter dated 3 September, 1993 from Shri Sharad Pawar, an elected Member from Baramati constituency of Maharashtra, resigning from membership of Lok Sabha.

I have accepted his resignation with effect from 3 September, 1993.

I have also to inform that I have received a letter dated 2 December, 1993 from Shri Madan Lal Khurana, an elected member from South Delhi constituency of the National Capital Territory of Delhi resigning from membership of Lok Sabha.

I have accepted his resignation with effect from 2 December, 1993.

11.03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a profound sense of sorrow of the passing away of our esteemed colleague Shri Frank Anthony.

Shri Anthony had a long and close association with this august House. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly, Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, First to Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha. Thus he had to his credit a parliamentary career for over half a century with some break in between. He made valuable contribution to the debate in the House.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Anthony was a leading public figure. He was a constitutional expert of eminence. During his long and distinguished public life, he was actively involved in various capacities with organisations and institutions of varied hues, namely Viceroy's National Defence Council, National Integration Council, National Defence Council, to name a few.

An educationist he promoted several educational institutions including public schools known for high standard and excellence.

A man with a literary bent of mind, he authored the well acclaimed book entitled 'Britain's Betrayal in India—The Story of the Anglo-Indian Community'.

A leading representative of the Anglo-Indian Community, Shri Anthony furthered the cause of social upliftment.

A widely travelled person, he was principal delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 and was a member of Indian parliamentary Delegations to the commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences held in 1948 in London and in 1957 in New Delhi.

In his death, the country has lost an eminent public figure and an able parliamentarian. The void created by his death is hard to fill and his absence will be deeply felt by all of us.

Shri Anthony passed away in New Delhi on 2 December, 1993 at the age of 85 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 PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have lost yet another stalwart of India's public life. One of the founding members of the Constituent Assembly has left us and perhaps left a void which would be extremely difficult to fill. It is with deep sense of loss and grief that I stand here today to bid adieu to our longest serving colleague in this House.

Shri Frank Anthony was an outstanding Member of this august House. He had the unique distinction of being a Member of every Lok Sabha to date, except one. Shri Frank Anthony's association with national politics goes back to 1942, when he first became a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly. He contributed to the framing of our Constitution as a member of the Constituent Assembly. A lawyer by profession, his speeches in this House always bore the imprint of his knowledge and understanding of law and his commitment to the national welfare.

Shri Anthony devoted his life to one of the prime requirements for a strong and progressive nation, viz. education. He started several

schools and was associated with many educational institutions. He was ever willing to lend his support to charitable causes and philanthropic endeavours. I am sure, we all remember the way he crusaded for the rights of minority educational institutions. He spent a lot of his time and energy for vindicating their rights, fighting for them.

Shri Frank Anthony represented the Anglo-Indian community in this House. His espousal of their cause always kept in mind their genuine welfare. He wove the concerns of his community in the true secular spirit in the larger fabric of national interests. His erudite speeches will be long missed in this House. The void left behind him will be extremely difficult to fill.

May his soul rest in peace.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today again we are gathered here in connection with a sorrowful context. Yesterday only, we have paid homage to some honourable Members of the House.

Death of Frank Anthony has left a void in the polity of India. Shri Anthony was not only a senior educationist but also an eminent politician with clear-cut viewpoint. He always expressed, his views strongly and clearly in the Parliament. He was connected with several social institutions which denotes his multifarious personality. He made valuable contribution in the field of education. His absence will be felt deeply by us. On behalf of all the hon. members of my party, I pay my homage to him and I request the hon. Speaker to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, I pay my homage to Shri Frank Anthony. He had been associated with this Parliament for a long time. With his presence in the House it seemed that some elderly person was sitting with us in the House. His speeches had an imprint of his long experience that he had acquired from the Constituent Assembly to the present day, and have a moral inculcation for us. Today on his death

I pay tributes to him on behalf of my party. Since he was a very elderly person and as per our culture, we pay tributes to such an elderly person upon his death by playing bands etc. I feel that he was a very elderly person and he served the country throughout his entire life. So, on behalf of my party, I congratulate him for his deeds. I request you to convey the condolences of this House to the bereaved family.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to mourn the passing away of Shri Anthony. His passing away is a personal loss to me. He was a friend of my father. We belong to the same profession and I had the privilege of enjoying his affection. He was a distinguished lawyer and belonged to a generation when successful and leading lawyers did not restrict themselves only to their professions but took active interest in the freedom movement and various nation building and public welfare activities. Shri Anthony did not only serve his own community but also the nation in full measure as a Member of the Constituent Assembly, Member of the Provisional Parliament and also of this House. Sir, his has been a lasting contribution and he will be remembered for his commitment to the rule of law and Constitutional norm. He was very close to the Nehru family. He always mentioned the fact that he appeared for Shrimati Gandhi when she had to face certain legal proceedings. An active Parliamentarian, an Educationist, a Philanthropist, a builder of institution, Shri Anthony's was a many-faceted life and we will always cherish his memory.

I convey my deep sympathies to the members of his family and we associate with what the hon. Prime Minister and Sharadji have said about Shri Anthony.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) :
Speaker Sir, we deeply mourn the loss of Shri Frank Anthony. He, I am told, died peacefully. Of course, he was 86 years old, which is a ripe old age. He had a long innings as a Parliamentarian and had really become a sort of institution in this House.

(d/1115/ks)

We were all accustomed and had become so accustomed to seeing him here. In his younger days, of course, he was much more sprightly and vigorous. In recent years, one could see that age was taking a toll of him. But he never failed to attend the sittings of the House very conscientiously and made several attempts, though, not always successfully, to catch your eye, or the eyes of previous hon. Speakers because he wanted always to have his say which occasionally, of course, he did with great felicity of expression and thought. Being a nominated Member, he was sometimes the but undeserved butt I should say of some derogatory remarks ridiculing his positions. But I think that it was wrong to ridicule a man of his stature for that.

As far as the Anglo-Indian community is concerned, I think, over the years, at the national level, they could not have hoped to have a better spokesman for their interests than Mr. Anthony. He was always reminding us, reminding this House of the fact that his community, although numerically small and dwindling, had played an outstanding role for our country in defence and particularly in the field of sports. He was always very courteous, very polite to everybody and an excellent speaker and an outstanding criminal lawyer who defended many lost causes I know.

So, Sir, the whole House, I think, will miss him sorely. I extend my sympathies, I believe to, his only surviving relative his sister, Mrs. Anthony had passed away some years ago. He had no children. I offer my sincere condolences to General Williams also, who is a surviving colleague from the Anglo-Indian community.

On behalf of my party, I would request you to convey our condolences to all concerned.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Mr. Frank Anthony at his 86th year suddenly passed away. He was one of the stalwarts of Anglo-Indian community. He was associated with the Indian Parliament for over 40 years since the First Lok Sabha. He was an active member of the Constituent Assembly as well. He was an able lawyer and a Parliamentarian. His contributions to the proceedings of this House

from time to time, from one Lok Sabha to another Lok Sabha are remarkable. The services rendered by him, as an educationist and a socialist, in various capacities are also valuable. His memory will live for ever.

On behalf of AIADMK, I convey my sympathies and condolences to the bereaved family of Mr. Anthony.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Anthony had passed away. We are all sad on the sad demise of Mr. Anthony. A distinguished personality and a great son of India, he had been a Member of this House continuously for ten Lok Sabhas, except one Lok Sabha and also his contribution in making this Constitution as a Member of the Constituent Assembly was great.

His passing away is an irreparable loss to the nation and particularly, I must say that he was a champion for the causes of his own minority community, the Anglo-Indian community.

In particular, he was always defending the rights of the minorities. We also feel that we have lost a fighter who always protected the rights of the minorities.

There are so many institutions which were established by him in Bangalore, a Frank Anthony School has been working very successfully.

I convey my deep feelings of sympathy to his family and pray that his soul may rest in peace.

MAJ. GEN. R.G. WILLIAMS (NOMINATED ANGLO-INDIAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir it is with deep emotion and profound grief that I rise to place on record the sad demise of Mr. Frank Anthony at the National Heart Institute New Delhi, on 2nd December, 1993, at 11.40 a.m. Mr. Frank Anthony was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1942 to 1946, a Member of the Constituent Assembly from 1946 to 1950 and a Member of the Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952. Thereafter, he was nominated repeatedly to represent the Anglo-Indian community from the First to the present Tenth Lok Sabha with the exception of the Sixth and Ninth Lok Sabhas—an almost unbroken spell of 40 years in the deliberations of this august and historic House in which he played a very active, constructive and spectacular part.

To recall Mr. Anthony's own words, he had the honour and the privilege of witnessing the unrolling of the scroll of India's parliamentary history.

Mr. Frank Anthony was a leader with a difference and of unusually high calibre. An exemplary leader who was always caring for the rights of the minorities; he was large hearted and generous and toiled indefatigably for the political and cultural survival of the Anglo-Indian community and the prosperity of its younger generations through the pursuit of higher academic and professional qualifications. Towards this end, he founded three Public Schools and two Junior Schools in Calcutta, Bangalore and Delhi and had disbursed lakhs of rupees annually in scholarships over the past quarter of a century.

Mr. Frank Anthony has had the proud privilege of being the undisputed, accredited and revered leader of the Anglo-Indian community over the past 51 years. He was a lighthouse of hope and courage, standing out serene and confident despite the political and communal storms that raged around him in unabated fury.

His selfless service, inspired and committed leadership has added yet another diadem of incomparable lustre to the rich heritage of this nation. This has been epitomised in his epic struggle to secure a place of respect and recognition for the Anglo-Indian community in resurgent and independent India—a task he has pursued with unrelenting zeal and steadfast determination.

It is my fervent prayer that the aware of Mr. Anthony's good deeds, outstanding achievements and exemplary qualities of heart and mind will remain for some time to illumine his friends, contemporaries and well-wishers in this august House. May God rest his soul.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may now stand in silence for a short while.

11.25 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the deceased, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 O'clock on Monday, the 6th December, 1993.