

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. XLIII

First day of the Fourteenth Session of Tenth Lok Sabha

No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 31, 1995/Sravana 9, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(The National anthem was played)

11.03 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and, through you, to the House, my colleagues.

1. Shri A.R. Antulay
2. Dr. Jagannath Mishra
3. Shri K. Karunakaran

(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

Demise of Prof. N.G. Ranga and others

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow, of the passing away of our former colleagues, namely, Prof. N.G. Ranga and Sarvashri Bhola Raut, S.T. Singh and Brijendra Singh.

Prof. N.G. Ranga was a Member of Second, Third, Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha during 1957-70 and 1980-91, representing Tenali, Chittoor, Srikakulam and Guntur Parliamentary constituencies of Andhra Pradesh. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1952-56 and 1977-79.

Earlier, he had been a member of Central Legislative Assembly and Provisional Parliament. He also served as Economic Advisor to the Government of Madras in 1929-30.

Prof. Ranga was one of the longest serving parliamentarians of India. A veteran freedom fighter, he was hailed as a grand old man of Indian politics. He was greatly

influenced by the National Movement at an early age and suffered imprisonment several times for his active participation in the freedom struggle.

A devoted political and social worker, Prof. Ranga took special interest in the welfare of peasants, weavers and *khet mazdoors* and worked for their upliftment. Due to his vast experience in leading peasant movements, he became the President of All India Kisan Conferences for five times between 1936-52. He was Vice-President of All India Cooperative Congress during 1952-59. Later, he became the President of National Union of Agriculturists in 1977.

A widely travelled person, Prof. Ranga represented India in various international conferences, he was a delegate to World Agriculturists Conference held at London in 1946 and Canada in 1949; International Labour Conference held at San Francisco in 1948. He was a member of delegations to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences held between 1954-69 and Inter-Parliamentary Union Conferences held in 1964-65.

An able and seasoned parliamentarian, Prof. Ranga during his long parliamentary career, lost hardly any opportunity to raise the problems faced by downtrodden and rural masses. He ably served on several Parliamentary Committees and Consultative Committees attached to various Ministries.

A man of letters, Prof. Ranga authored large number of books on several subjects. Best known among them : 'Credo of World Peasants', 'History of Kisan Movement', 'Revolutionary Peasant', 'Colonial and coloured People's Plan' and autobiographical work titled 'Fight for Freedom'.

In recognition of his services to the nation, he was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1991. He was felicitated by the parliamentarians on his completion of 50 years of devoted parliamentary life. He was among those parliamentarians who were always respected and heard by all sections of the House with rapt attention.

Prof. Ranga passed away on 8th June, 1995 at his native village Nidubrolu in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh at the age of 95 years.

In his death we have lost an outstanding parliamentarian, a staunch Gandhian, a crusader for the cause of the farmers.

Shri Bhola Raut was a member of the Provisional Parliament, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and

Eighth Lok Sabha representing Saran, Champaran, Bettiah and Bagaha Parliamentary constituencies of Bihar during 1950-77 and 1980-89.

An ardent champion of the depressed and neglected sections of the society, he worked ceaselessly for eradication of poverty and spread of education. He did yeomen service in establishing schools for depressed classes in Bihar. He was Secretary of Bihar State Depressed Classes League. In 1951, he became the Treasurer of All India Depressed Classes League and later served as a Secretary of the same organisation during 1966-67. He was also associated with various Safai Mazdoors' Organisations at State and National level.

During his long parliamentary career, he often raised issues relating to the problems faced by the under-privileged and downtrodden. He also served as a Member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Shri Bhola Raut died on 3rd July, 1995 near village Madhuchapar in East Champaran District of Bihar in a road accident at the age of 81 years.

Shri S.T. Singh was a member of Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency of Manipur. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1972-74.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Manipur Legislative Assembly and was Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly during 1967-68.

An active social worker, Shri S.T. Singh worked hard for the removal of 'untouchability'.

As an able administrator, he served as the advisor to the Government of Manipur during 1953-57. During his membership of this august House, he served as a member of Public Accounts Committee.

Shri S.T. Singh passed away on 3rd July, 1995 at Imphal at the age of 85 years.

Shri Brijendra Singh was a member of Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Bharatpur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Shri Brijendra Singh also served his home State as Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for one term in 1972. He was a ruler of the former princely State of Bharatpur till its merger with Rajasthan State.

Shri Bijendra Singh passed away on 8th July, 1995 at Bharatpur, Rajasthan at the age of 77 years.

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.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise to pay my respectful homage to Prof. N.G. Ranga, one of our outstanding parliamentarians, Gandhian, freedom fighter, champion of the peasants, an eminent scholar and educationist. In him, we have lost one of the illustrious sons of India, who devoted his life for strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country. Prof. Ranga had a very distinguished academic profile. As a young scholar from Oxford he jumped into the freedom struggle and spent several years of his life in prison. He had a deep understanding of the problems of Indian peasantry and was always willing to fight for their cause both before and after independence. Prof. Ranga also wrote extensively, both in English and Telugu. We have lost the distinguished parliamentarian, whom we had the privilege of honouring with the "Plaque of Parliament" on the completion of 50 years' devotion to parliamentary life.

I am also grieved to note that Shri Bhola Raut is no longer with us. He was a champion of the downtrodden and took keen interest in improving the working and living conditions of the *Safai Mazdoors* and *Karmacharis*.

I would also like to pay my condolences on the passing away of Shri Brijendra Singh, Member, Fourth Lok Sabha. Shri Singh will be remembered for converting his duck-shooting grounds into one of the world's finest bird habitats, the Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, which would encourage people's interest in ecology and bird watching.

I would also like to place on record my profound grief on the passing away of Shri S.T. Singh, Member of the Third Lok Sabha. He was keenly interested in working for the social and economic improvement of women.

I wish to place on record the deep sense of personal loss and grief felt by the nation and by all of us on the death of these illustrious Members. May their souls rest in peace.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hardly any session of the House begins without hard duty of paying homage to our demised colleagues.

I was acquainted with those late colleagues to whom your goodself and the leader of the House paid homage. I had the opportunity of working with them. Their contribution was significant from more than one angles. I would like to make a particular mention of Prof. Ranga. When I was elected to Lok

Sabha for the first time in 1957, I saw that Prof. Ranga was one of the many freedom fighters who gave an extra edge to the glory of the House. His contribution had a significance of its own. Getting education in Oxford could not separate him from the soil of his motherland. Prof. Ranga struggled throughout his life. He was the spokesman and the exponent of the peasants. The twin subjects of Agriculture and peasant were dear to him. I remember that Prof. Ranga went to Lucknow for raising his voice in support of the sugarcane producers of Uttar Pradesh. He used to get agitated on learning about the exploitation of the farmers anywhere. His eloquence left nobody unimpressed.

Acharya Ranga was associated with Congress Party. Later, he joined the opposition. Thereafter, he retreated back to the Congress. His attributes of sharp-mindedness, witty eloquence, Parliamentary discipline and skill were worth noting when he was in the opposition. He used to do positive criticism. He would say undauntedly what he considered was right. I still remember the mutual altercation that took place between Nehruji and Prof. Ranga but Nehruji, called him Acharya Ranga with all esteem and cordiality. He was really an acharya. Prof. Ranga was one of those who raised their voice against the quota permit raj for the first time in the country. Someone might differ with his ideology but his immaculate public life, sacrifice and devotion. I am using well contemplated words will remain worth emulation. During the last Lok Sabha, I watched him coming to the House in a three-wheeler. Obviously, for him politics was a medium of service rather than self service. It is another story that he occupied no public office but such people do not need any office. We have lost a great stalwart of Indian Politics in Acharya Ranga. An eminent Parliamentarian has deserted us. Shri Bhola Raut has been associated with the Parliament for many years. His sober and sweet demeanour, his consciousness of Parliamentary values and decorum and his commitment to the downtrodden class to which he himself belonged attract our respect for him.

You also made a mention of Shri S.T. Singh of Manipur and Shri Brijendra Singh of Bharatpur. They also contributed their mite in strengthening Parliamentary democracy in their own way. They are no more with us today. I, myself and on behalf of my Party, pay homage to these eminent late Parliamentarians and request you to convey our deep condolences to their bereaved families.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and Vajpayeeji. We have seen and heard Prof. Ranga in this House for years together. All such great people give inspiration to the country's politics and from them, we draw the inspiration of strengthening our nation and for a relentless struggle; Prof. Ranga was a living example of Indian culture.

His name will be written in golden letters in India's farmers' movement. Politics is subject to a lot of mud-slinging, the political life is in crisis today and its credibility is being hotly debated by the people throughout the country in a manner that is quite painful. However, ideal and down to earth leaders like Prof. Ranga were in this House for years during their public life, served this country to the best of their ability and had a better understanding of the pains and pangs of Indian peasantry. I have worked with late Choudhary Sahib for years together. Prof. Ranga topped the list of persons he referred to reverently. He voiced his concern for the problems of the farmers and of rural India within the Congress, during the freedom struggle and also after independence. His soul parted from us without a spot on it after rendering all round service to the country. Besides paying a homage to him from the depths of my heart, wish that this country may continue to produce great men of his like and the political workers in particular may continue to draw inspiration from their ideals and their lives.

The credit of carving modern Bharatpur goes to Shri Brijendra Singh. He was a 'Farmer Prince'. He had an infatuation for the peasants and for his land. He contributed his mite in setting up many institutions in Bharatpur.

Shri Bhola Raut came from that part of India from where Gandhiji launched India's freedom struggle and historic Champaran movement. The fragrance of that pious soil was conspicuous in Bhola Rautji. He struggled equally within and outside this House. He fought for a cause with equal strength in the House and outside it.

I was not much acquainted with Shri S.T. Singh. I pay my homage to these late Parliamentarians along with Prof. Ranga and hope and believe that we will work and devote ourselves to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of Prof. Ranga. With these words, I deeply mourn the death of all those Parliamentarians.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party and myself, I associate with what has been said with regard to the eminent former colleagues of ours, whom we have lost during this inter-session period. And I beg to convey our sincere sense of grief and sorrow.

Sir, we all have had the privilege of knowing Prof. Ranga very closely; and since the Fifth Lok Sabha, I had the great privilege of seeing him discharging his functions as a very respected Member of Parliament. He used to actively participate in the deliberations of this House, and whenever issues confronting the kisans and peasantry came up before the House, we had from him very important contributions towards meeting their problems.

As a matter of fact, I feel that he had, by his dedicated service to parliamentary democracy, become a part of the parliamentary life of India and it is very difficult to fill the void that has been created by his passing away. His contribution to the amelioration of the conditions of the peasantry of this country will always be remembered and in him the country the lost valient and a dedicated fighter for the vulnerable sections of the community. Once again I pay my respects to the memory of Prof. N.G. Ranga and other distinguished former Members of Parliament whom we have lost. I would request you to kindly convey our feeling of profound loss and our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, among those whose loss we are mourning today was one who had become one of the institutions of this Parliament. I refer to Prof. N.G. Ranga. When I just came to this House, of course, I was a young man at that time and he was already a veteran in Parliament. He was very outspoken and very fortnight in his views with which, of course, we differed very often. As a young Communist at that time, I earned his wrath and criticism many times. I must say that later on towards the end of his career and life, he became so friendly and affectionate. By nature, he was like that. He was an incapable foe and enemy of public sector. This is one of the reasons why he frequently crossed swords here with Jawaharlal Nehru. But he stuck to his views very doggedly.

Apart from the fact that he was one of the outstanding champions of the farmers of this country all his life, in between once for a short period, he gravitated towards the late lamented Swantantra Party and became its leader in this House. But somehow he always got the impression that he never felt quite at home there. It was not a Party primarily representing farmers, but rather businessmen and in due course he went back again to the Congress Party. But here we have seen him day after day, sitting from 11 o'clock in the morning till the House adjourned. I wish there were other Members too who were as punctilious about this as he was. He was a model, I should say, of parliamentary etiquette and rectitude. He used to sit here throughout the day. Some people thought he was sleeping because his eyes were closed, but he was very much wide awake and alert and every now and then he used to interrupt and interject with his famous "hear, hear", which he remember so well. We all really miss him greatly. I wish to pay sincere tribute to his memory and to the work that he did all his life. He was a man of very simple and austere habits personally. I have seen him here during the lunch hours taking a couple of idlis or something and remaining like that the whole day.

He was not a man of any kind of luxury-loving or comfort-loving habits. We have few people like this left now. I also wish to add my voice of condolences to the loss of the other friends.

Shri Bhola Raut was a very fitting representative, I should say, of the indomitable peasantry of Champaran which waged so many heroic struggles against landlordism, usury and exploitation. Shri Bhola Raut was one of their spokesmen.

Shri S.T. Singh from Manipur also served the House well while he was here. About the last Ruler of Bharatpur, Sir, I am glad the hon. Prime Minister referred to the fact that he was primarily responsible for setting up the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. We all know that whoever has visited that place has seen that there is still a big stone plaque which gives details date by date of all the duck-shoots which used to be organised in the old days by the old Bharatpur Rulers; which Viceroy, which Governor was invited at what time and how many pairs of ducks they shot during the course of the day sometimes hundred, sometimes thousands. The figures are all given. Now, it has become a pre-eminent Bird Sanctuary of this country thanks to the last Ruler whom we are mourning now. It is really a fitting tribute to his love of birds and animal life. I wish to convey my own and my Party's condolences, Sir, through you, to the bereaved members of his family and wish that the souls of all the other Members who passed away rest in peace.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of our Party, we offer our condolences to the passing away of Prof. Rangaji, a close associate of our political mentor Arignar Anna, a true Gandhian in the sense that he was a man of simple living and high thinking. He was one of the examples for the youngsters to be followed. So, I join the Chair in offering our condolences, on behalf of our Party, to the bereaved family members of Prof. Ranga. Shri Indrajit Gupta rightly said that though Prof. Ranga was the Deputy-Leader of the Treasury Benches, he encouraged whoever made good points by saying "hear, hear." It was his inspiration to me that I could pull on a good Parliamentary life. Also, we offer our condolences to the bereaved families of the other hon. Members who passed away. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prof. N.G. Ranga was a highly esteemed patriarch of Indian politics and shimmered on the horizon of Indian politics for around 60 years like sheeny star. The country would always remember him as a farmer leader enjoying faith of all the sundry. Right from his young days till he breathed his last, he waged a war for the cause of farmers and poor people of this country. He led them in a committed manner and great confidence. His life would always inspire those who love and respect the poor, farmers and hardworking masses of this country.

Sir, much has been said here about him which is true in

every respect. But what really impressed me was that he loved the youngsters so much that he would always greet them very cordially.

I will never forget one thing in my life. I had organised a national conference in Delhi's Talkatora Stadium in 1990 to discuss social issues. At that time, there were several social moot issues. Several people had opposed this conference but despite all the opposition I had invited Rangaji.

Rangaji participated in the conference. There he spoke for an hour and took those people to task who were opposing the issues concerning social justice. He said that Gandhiji had launched the struggle for freedom for these issues only and it was patriotic to strengthen these issues. It really inspired me and my colleagues to run that agitation. And as an assertion of this fact, he always fought for the problems, rights, self respect and pride of the poor. His life would inspire people.

Sir on behalf of my party and myself, I join you and leader of the House in paying tribute to other former colleagues, Shri Bholu Raut, Shri S.T. Singh and Shri Brijender Singh.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the death of Professor N.G. Ranga, the nation, particularly, this great institution of Parliament has lost a real friend and philosopher. He has played a unique role in the affairs of this country, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was he who carried the message of Mahatma to the remotest villages, inspiring the farmers, the weavers, the ladies, the rural artisans that in the Independent India, their interests will be saved and they will have a bright future. He had understood the need to impart good education to the political workers. He had conducted hundreds of political training classes giving basic knowledge of politics, economics, history and several other aspects relating to public life which have thrown up great eminent leaders who later occupied very important positions in different political parties of this country.

He was the real friend of the farmers and the rural people. He was having the courage to oppose the co-operative farming propounded by the great Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru who was the darling of the Indian masses in those days. He very vehemently opposed it because it was not in the interest of the nation and the farmers. That is why, he opposed it.

He was, as Shri Indrajit Gupta has narrated, very kind and he was giving encouragement to all the young parliamentarians, to whatever political parties they belonged. He used to affectionately tell them about certain deficiencies and used to give good suggestions about how they could still give better performance.

With these words, I associate myself with this. On behalf of our party, I pay tribute and homage to the great leader of kisans. We request you to convey our feelings to the members of his family.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join you, the Prime Minister and other distinguished colleagues of this House in paying, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, tributes to the memory of Prof. N.G. Ranga.

You have rightly pointed out that Prof. Ranga was one of the eminent freedom fighters in our country who has spread the message of freedom and independence to the farthest villages of our country. I am happy to remember that he had close relationship during the freedom struggle with Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. He was a crusader of the peasants' causes in our country. As a matter of fact, from the history of the Kisan Movement in our country, it is found that he was one of the pioneers in organising the peasant masses in our country. Subsequently other peasant organisations did develop; but he started the work at the earliest.

He was an erudite scholar. I had certain opportunities of travelling with him in different parts of our country and as a young Member of Parliament I was always fortunate enough to have his affection. He has to his credit a number of books of value and of great interest for the readership. He was a Parliamentarian of unique skill. The country will do well in emulating his simple life and his devotion to the cause of the poor.

With these words, I request you to please convey our sincere condolences to his numerous friends and relatives and condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Poonnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join you and the leaders of various parties here in expressing our deep sorrow and pain at the demise of Prof. Ranga and other distinguished colleagues.

As far as Prof. Ranga is concerned, we rightly called him the "Grand Old Man of Parliament". He was a politician, a great scholar and a crusader for the cause of the downtrodden. I know very well that he was a person who believed in simple living and high thinking. He was so affectionate, so kind and cordial that we cannot forget his friendship even today. I convey my heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family of Prof. Ranga.

As far as the other distinguished Parliamentarians are concerned, I express my deep sorrow at their passing away and request you to please convey to their families our deep condolences.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Speaker, the Hon. Prime Minister and the leaders of other parties in paying tributes. I pay tributes to all those colleagues who are no more alive, especially Prof. Rangaji to whom I was very close and I used to go for morning walk with him on Talkatora Road and North Avenue. He always used to walk with a stick. He was a very simple person who loved all, irrespective of party affiliations. He was very cordial with people. I myself and on behalf of my party RSP express our condolences on the sad demise of our former colleagues and request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD (Saharanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of my party, Samajwadi Party and myself, associate myself in paying tributes to Prof. Ranga and our three other former colleagues. I am reminded of something said by Prof. Ranga and I am sure that he must have said it to everyone. He used to say that for the last few years, Parliamentary proceedings, have been dominated by the lung power. I feel that you can prove to be really helpful in bringing down dominance of this lung power and fulfilling Prof. Ranga's desire. It would be a befitting tribute to Prof. Ranga, and the souls of our other departed colleagues, if we can get rid of the lung power and maintain the dignity of the Parliament. With this, I, myself and on behalf of my party, pay tributes to the departed souls.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not know anyone personally except Shri Bhola Raut. I had a chance to work with him for a few days. He was a man with a humble background and he always encouraged the workers. I am sorry to say that I did not have a chance to work with a great Parliamentary like Prof. Ranga. I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the hon. Speaker, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and other leaders, for the other two former colleagues and pray that the souls of such great people may rest in peace. Please convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

With these words I pay my tributes.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Prof. Ranga's policy of truth and straight forwardness had already come to India but it was opposed at that time. However now it has been accepted. He was an undaunted and straight forward leader. I, myself and on behalf of my party, pay tributes to the memory of the departed leaders.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.47 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may please resume their seats.

11.49 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MOUs Signed in Power Sector

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*2. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed a number of MOUs in the energy sector during 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the number of projects to become operational in the near future along with the quantum of additional electricity to be generated as a result thereof;

(c) whether the investment in energy sector is continuing through these MOUs; and

(d) the steps being taken for successful implementation of those MOUs?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (d). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) : As per the information received from various State Governments/State Electricity Boards as on date 57 MOUs have been signed from 1.1.1995 to 18.2.1995 for setting up of power projects in the private sector involving a capacity of about 21270 MW. Competitive bidding has been made mandatory for awarding power projects to private developers after 18.2.1995.

(c) The investment from the above proposals would be known after the projects achieve financial closure.

(d) Government of India reviews the progress of all private sector proposals including those awarded through the MOU route from time to time to remove the bottlenecks, for expeditious implementation of the projects.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to scarcity of energy the Government has formulated this policy that