

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 30, 1995 / Agrayayana 9, 1917 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

Demise of Shri Dinesh Singh and others

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow, of the passing away of the Union Minister Shri Dinesh Singh and three other former colleagues namely, Sarvashri Onkar Lal Bohra, Martand Singh and Lakhan Lal Kapoor.

Shri Dinesh Singh was a member of Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Banda, Salon, Pratapgarh parliamentary constituencies of Uttar Pradesh during 1957-77 and 1984-91.

He also remained a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1977-82 and was presently a sitting Member of that House since July, 1993.

An able administrator and a well known social and political worker, Shri Singh served with distinction in various capacities in the Union Council of Ministers, including the portfolio of the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

During his long parliamentary career lasting about three decades, he served with distinction this august House as a Member on various Parliamentary Committees and other Consultative Committees of various Ministries. He had special interest in the field of economics, trade and foreign affairs. He represented the country in various capacities in the international organisations such as FAO, ESCAP, GATT, UNCTAD. He also led Indian delegation to the U.N. General Assembly and other international organisations.

A man of varied interests, he participated in numerous social, educational, cultural and sports activities and was member of number of such organisations and trusts.

Shri Dinesh Singh authored and published books on various subjects, important among them being 'Towards New Horizons, 1971', 'India and the Changing Asian Scene, 1973'. He also contributed articles to magazines and national dailies on contemporary subjects.

During his membership in both the Houses of Parliament, he took active part in the proceedings of the House and left a mark in the Parliamentary debates.

Shri Dinesh Singh who had not been keeping good health for some time, passed away today morning at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi at the age of 70 years.

Shri Onkar Lal Bohra was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha representing Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan during 1967-70.

A journalist by profession, Shri Bohra was the editor of a weekly named Vishal Rajasthan. He was an active social and political worker and was the founder and Secretary of Gandhi Seva Sadan, Vallabh Nagar, Rajasthan. He also served as the President of Relief Society, Udaipur.

Shri Onkar Lal Bohra passed away on 2nd November, 1995 at Bombay at the age of 67 years.

Shri Martand Singh was a Member of Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Rewa Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1971-77 and 1980-89.

An agriculturist and businessman by profession, Shri Martand Singh was the ruler of erstwhile Rewa State. He was also Raj Pramukh of Vindhya Pradesh. He was a very popular and active social worker. As a philanthropist, he built hospitals, dispensaries and organised camps for providing medical aid to indigent and sick people. He donated his palace at Satna and other properties for establishment of educational institutions like Banaras Hindu University and College in Satna.

A widely travelled person, he evinced keen interest in the fields of sports, education, photography, archaeology and wildlife preservation. He established and developed National Park at Bandhogarh. He had served as a member of All India Wildlife Preservation Board and as the Director of Madhya Pradesh Udyog Vikas Nigam, Bhopal. He also made special efforts for development of irrigation, industries transport, electrification and rail services in his area.

Shri Martand Singh passed away on 20 November, 1995 at Rewa at the age of 72 years.

Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor was a Member of the Fourth and Sixth Lok Sabha representing Kishanganj and Purnea Parliamentary constituencies of Bihar during 1967-70 and 1977-79 respectively.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1957-62.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Kapoor plunged into freedom movement at the young age of thirteen and was imprisoned for participating in the 1937-38 Land Satyagrah. He was charged for inter-State conspiracy during Quit India Movement and was sentenced three times with transportation of life for a period totalling 75 years but released in 1946.

A staunch believer of Socialist movement, he actively participated in the trade union movement and worked untiringly for the welfare of workers. He was associated with several labour unions and served them in different capacities. He also worked hard for rural reconstruction and establishment of cottage and small scale industries.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Kapoor served as a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings and the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor passed away on 24th November, 1995 at New Delhi at the age of 72 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 our Cabinet colleagues, Shri Dinesh Singh who passed away early this morning. Shri Dinesh Singh was one of our distinguished Parliamentarians, an able administrator and an expert in the field of diplomacy and also in the field of international commerce. In him, we have lost one of the very able sons of India who devoted his life in the service of the country. Shri Dinesh Singh was a Member of the Lok Sabha continuously from 1957 to 1977 and in that period he also served as Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, COMMERCE and INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and INTERNAL TRADE. Later he also held the portfolios of the Ministries of WATER RESOURCES and COMMERCE. In all his responsibilities he left a deep mark on the affairs of the Ministry concerned.

Sir, I have lost a very valued colleague and friend. His services to the country will be long remembered. He steered the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS at several difficult times and our country's foreign policy benefited a lot from his negotiating and Parliamentary skills. 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 Dinesh Singh ji.

I also express sorrow at the passing away of three more former Members of the House — Sarvashri Onkar Lal Bohra, Martand Singh, Lakhan Lal Kapoor. They have served the country and the Parliament, each in his own way and we are grieved at the loss.

May their souls rest in peace !

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such obituary references are generally made on the

first day of each session but it is very rarely that such obituary references are made twice in the first week of a Session. This time, the names of some of our old colleagues could probably have been taken up for obituary purpose on the first day itself but may be the delay was caused because the Secretariat might have been confirming their death. However, we had learnt on the same day that the health condition of our colleagues, Shri Dinesh Singh ji, had further deteriorated and he was admitted to the hospital in a state of coma. Since then we were anxious about his recovery from the latest health deterioration. We received the sad news of his demise today morning. He had a long Parliamentary career to his credit. He enjoyed cordial relations with everybody. He definitely had command on certain subjects and had rendered his services to the Government and the country. When I was in Rajya Sabha, I enjoyed a close proximity with him during his membership of that House for one term since 1977.

I associate myself with the feelings expressed by you and the Hon. Prime Minister. I have personal relationship with Shri Dinesh Singh ji, Shri Martand Singh ji the ruler of erstwhile Rewa State and Shri Onkar Lal Bohra ji. I myself and on behalf of my party, pay our respectful homage to all of them and to Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor and convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Hon. Speaker, the Prime Minister and Advani ji. A member of this House, late Dinesh Singh ji was a lively person and a very cultured person. For the last 20 years, he could be seen in this House or the other House or if not there, in the Central Hall. He was paragon of all virtues. To my mind, the name of late Dinesh Singh ji should top the list of names, known for implementing the country's foreign policy successfully, in the history of India.

I have no association with Shri Onkar Lal Bohra ji. I pay my homage to him and to the ruler of Rewa State, Shri Martand Singh ji. The white tiger is a unique gift of nature to our Earth. The presence of this graceful species in India has earned us laurels in the world. The credit of bringing the white tiger from jungle to his old palace and then preserving, upbringing and multiplying their number goes to the ruler of Rewa state, Shri Martand Singh ji. I had a personal relationship with him. He will be long remembered for discovering and preserving this animal.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I associate with what has been said here and deeply mourn the loss of distinguished leaders of our country who have made significant contributions in different spheres of life and for the country's development.

Mr. Dinesh Singh had distinguished himself in different spheres of life particularly as a Member of this House and as Minister in charge of different portfolios. We have had the good fortune of enjoying his acquaintance - not only

acquaintance but also his friendship. He has left an imprint as an able administrator. We appreciated his availability to the Members of the Parliament. Whenever we wanted to meet him, we could readily get an appointment. He was always very attentive and tried his best to solve the problems that were brought to him.

He was an articulate person. What charmed everybody was his humility and his cultural finesse. I have always felt personally that he permeated a feeling of decency and affection which endeared him to everybody.

I know how deeply he was concerned in learning about the developments in different parts of the country. He was a good friend of our Chief Minister. I know whenever our CM would be here, he would play host. And he wanted to know how in West Bengal we were implementing our land reforms, what has been the effect of it and how the poor people of our State have been trying to consolidate their achievements. That showed he was not only thinking of his party or his people but he also tried to keep himself abreast of the developments taking place throughout the country.

We have lost a very good friend, a good administrator and a good man. I mourn the loss of all our friends and I request you to please convey our deepest sense of sympathy and condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, we are deeply grieved at the sudden demise of our old friend, Shri Dinesh Singh. Of course, during the last few years, when he was suffering from a physical disability, which virtually prevented him from attending to his normal duties, one felt some misgivings as to whether he would be able to regain his normal health or not. Anyway, now he has left us. I mourn the loss of not only one of our very capable statesman and Ministers but he was also a close personal friend and so affable and so affectionate and so friendly in his disposition towards everybody. He was so polite, so courteous in his manners and his behaviour. But in the realm of foreign affairs, he proved himself to be really very expert. He was a keen student of international affairs.

All these years I remember that whenever one had an opportunity to discuss with him, one could find that he had been brought up, perhaps, in the mould of many young men who followed Pandit Nehru's footsteps and tried to adhere to his ideologies and concepts. He is no more now and we are extremely grieved about it and about the other three friends who have also departed were very important personalities in their own way. They served the country and the nation to the best of their ability. I am extremely sorry that we are suffering so many losses all together at the very beginning of this Session. So, Sir, I express my party's sincere condolences on this occasion and request you to convey our sympathies to the bereaved families.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I associate myself with the leader of the party in expressing my profound

sorrow on the sudden and sad demise of Mr. Dinesh Singh. On his death, we have lost a senior politician, a very good parliamentarian and a staunch social worker. During his life time, he served in many fields. His active political career started in 1962 as the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. Then, he was elevated as a Cabinet Minister and had handled many portfolios efficiently. He wrote many books and articles on various topics. He took special interest in economic affairs, wildlife and photography. The loss of Mr. Dinesh Singh is a very great loss to our country. The contributions made by other three former colleagues are also remarkable. On behalf of AIADMK, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Dinesh Singh ji made his advent into the political horizon of the country as talented and progressive youth. Prior to plunging into politics, he was an able and skilled diplomat. He was the Foreign Minister of a universal repute. Shri Dinesh Singh played an active role in the national politics throughout his life. He was a soft spoken person. He never hurt the feelings of the other person through his utterances. He performed with all his ability and competence any duty or responsibility entrusted to him. In his capacity as a Foreign Minister, he will be remembered particularly for trying to forge a unity among the countries of Asia and Africa. From the very outset, he evinced a keen interest in his portfolio and made a significant contribution to the Non-Aligned Movement. He lived a very disciplined life. His life was a reflection of high standards in every field. In his demise, our country has lost an able administrator and a national leader.

Shri Onkar Lalji Bohra was one of my friends. He was a dedicated person of high ideals. He was a lifetime editor of a Hindi daily.

Shri Martand Singhji made a significant contribution to creative works. He had a creative tinge of mind in every field and his contribution will be remembered not only by the people of Madhya Pradesh but of the whole country.

Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor was a revolutionary, socialist leader and took a great part in the struggle for independence. He lived fearless life called a spade a spade.

In the demise of all these distinguished leaders, the country has suffered a great loss. I, on behalf of my party and myself pay homage to them and request you to convey our condolences to their bereaved families.

Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor had been our leader of the Socialist Movement. Jaiprakash hi had escaped the Hazaribagh jail during the movement of 1942 by jumping over the prison wall. Shri Lakhan Lal Kapoor also did the same deed and escaped the jail in 1942 during the freedom struggle. He rendered an all-out service to the nation and stood by the poor all along.

He struggled all through his life. On behalf of my party and myself, I pay homage to all the departed friends. I conclude by praying that their bereaved families may be able to endure the loss.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would join you, the Leader of the House and other distinguished Members here in expressing our grief and sorrow on the sudden passing away of Shri Dinesh Singh. You have rightly mentioned that Shri Dinesh Singh was a Member of both the Houses of Parliament and I had the opportunity of listening to him as a Member of both the Houses. He enlivened and enriched the debates whenever he did participate in any debate.

Sir, he, according to my opinion, was one of the policy makers of our foreign relations. He contributed immensely and significantly towards the formulation of the Government of India's foreign policy based on non-alignment, peace and disarmament. The world community will ever remember the contributions of India in this regard. He was a tall personality in formulating that well-appreciated, nationally accepted, foreign policy of our country.

Sir, in his passing away, we have lost, the country has lost one of the tall personalities, a statesman, an administrator, a suave and cultured personality and an erudite scholar. I, on behalf of myself and my party express our sincere condolences and would request you to convey our condolences to the members of the families of the departed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I express my deep condolences on the demise of Dinesh Singh ji and three other leaders. Today, the whole House wears a mournful look on their death.

I would like that our condolences are conveyed to their families.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the loss suffered by the sad demise of Shri Dinesh Singh and others is irreparable. Dinesh Singh Sahib was an articulate person of cultural fineness. His death is really a great loss to whole India. I would request you to convey the feelings of my party and myself to the bereaved family.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, we are deeply grieved at the sudden demise of Shri Dinesh Singh, Union Cabinet Minister and one of the tallest political personalities of the Indian political history. His name normally goes synonymous with the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS and a personality having a long innings in the political history of India.

Though he was ill in the recent past, we suddenly lost Shri Dinesh Singh. Sir, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, Telugu Desam led by Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu. I request you to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Sir, on behalf of myself and my party, the Manipur People's Party, I join in mourning the passing away of Shri Dinesh Singh who is an eminent person and political leader, and an able administrator. I also express our deep sorrow at the passing away of the other former Members of Parliament. I request you to convey my Party's message to the bereaved families.

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

11.30 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 1st of December, 1995 at 11 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Petrol Retail Outlets and LPG Agencies

*61. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'petrol and patronage flow together' appearing in the Indian Express dated August 11, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of LPG agencies and petrol retail outlets allotted out of turn under discretionary quota, State-wise;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has given some directions to the Ministry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereof;

(f) the number of requests pending with his Ministry for the allotment of gas agencies and petrol retail outlets under discretionary power; and

(g) the details of all such pending requests and the reasons for not considering those requests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.