

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

---

---

### LOK SABHA

---

*Monday, April 18, 1994/Chaitra 28,  
1916 (Saka)*

---

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I have to inform the House with a profound sense of sorrow about the passing away of our colleague, Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal and a former colleague Shrimati Renu Chakravarty.

Shri Khandelwal represented Chandni Chowk constituency of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

As an active social and political worker, Shri Khandelwal had a long innings in public life of Delhi. He held various positions in several social, cultural and educational organisations. He was former President of Rotary Club of Delhi North and also former General-Secretary of the Citizens Council of Delhi. He was a former President of Sangeet Kala Vihar, Delhi.

He did a lot for the upliftment of the downtrodden people. His contribution in public service and enriching social and cultural life will always be remembered fondly by the people of Delhi.

He was a widely travelled person. He was also a member of the Delegation to Taskhent to present Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's statue in 1966.

An active parliamentarian, he made good contributions to the debates in the House.

Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal passed away in Delhi on 15th April, 1994 at the age of 66 years.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty was a Member of First, Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1952 to 1967 representing Basirhat and Barrackpore constituencies of West Bengal.

A lecturer by profession, Shrimati Chakravarty was a well known political activist and trade union leader of repute.

Her profound knowledge of the subject on which she spoke, put her as frontline parliamentarian. She was always heard in the House with rapt attention and in complete silence.

An active social worker, she worked relentlessly for the betterment and upliftment of women in the country, in her endeavour for the amelioration for women, she actively participated in various organisation such as National Federation of Indian Women and West Bengal Mahila Atma Raksha Samiti. She even suffered imprisonment for this noble cause.

Shrimati Chakravarty passed away at Calcutta at the age of 76 years.

We deeply mourn the loss to 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, in the passing away of Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal, we have lost a colleague, who endeared himself by his human qualities and made a mark for himself by sharp intellect and wit. He was very active and alert in raising issues of public interest in Parliament.

Shri Khandelwal as a businessman with keen interest in social work and the welfare of the people.

He associated himself with a number of educational institutions in the capital. Shri Khandelwal's contribution to the debates in the House was noteworthy. He showed a quick grasp of parliamentary proceedings and a willingness to participate in them with enthusiasm. The news of his untimely death was received with profound sorrow and a deep sense of loss. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of his family.

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences on the demise of Shrimati Renu Chakravarty, a former Member of this

House, very dedicated social and political leader and parliamentarian. I send my heartfelt condolences to the family, particularly to Shri Nikhil Chakravarty and his son and others. We do remember her as a very good parliamentarian in this House and also a very dedicated worker. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE: (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is so hard to believe that Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal is no more with us. Sometimes, it seems as if at the time of the zero hour he will rise from his seat and try to draw the attention of the hon'ble speaker to the problems being faced by Delhi. He is no more with us. Death is painful but an untimely death is more distressing. He was perfectly alright and had gone to visit a friend in a hospital where he was taken ill and was hospitalised. His friend recovered and has been discharged from the hospital but Shri Tara Chand set out to take his last journey. Time and again the cruel jaws of death have tried to impress upon us the transience of this life and body.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has just been said by you and the hon'ble Prime Minister, with the passing away of Shri Tara Chand we have lost a sincere and honest representative of old Delhi. It is not because he had been elected from Chandni Chowk but because he was a true Delhite and identified himself with the problems of Delhi and had associated himself with several aspects of life of the old Delhi. Basically he was not a political person. He had entered politics much later in life. But he always took great interest in public service. He established several organisations and made good contributions and was instrumental in enriching several aspects of life. His death has caused a big loss to public life. My party has also suffered a deep blow.

I read in today's newspapers that, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty has also passed away. When she had been elected to Lok Sabha for the first time in 1957, she used to occupy the front line. I had recently joined at that time. The new members, like me, used to learn a lot from her contribution to various debates, her logical way of presenting facts and her firm conviction. She knew how to put forth even the hardest of facts with humility. She was an ideal for us. She never let the differences of opinion spoil her personal cordial relations with others. I had seen her in the Central Hall long time back. Today I received the tragic news of her death. I would like to associate myself and my party with you and the hon'ble Prime Minister in offering condolences. All of us pay condolences to Shrimati Khandelwal. We share the loss of Shri Chakravarty. Please convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera)**

: Mr. Speaker, Sir I also want to associate myself and my party Janta Dal with you, the hon'ble Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition in offering condolences to the bereaved families in their time of emotional crisis. Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal used to sit next to us and sometimes we used to get annoyed whenever we used to have verbal fights. But we feel it today that how even those fights make one nostalgic when the other person is no more. Now that colleague is no more with us who used to snipe at us. This is the cruel law of nature. Today Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal has left us. Shri Atal Bihari vajpayee was correct in saying that he was much more than only a political person.

Sometimes when we talked in seclusion he would say, "Ramvilas ji, I agree with whatever you say." Today he is no more with us and we convey our condolences to his bereaved family.

We never had the good luck of working with Shrimati Renu Chakravarty. But we have always heard about her and some good Parliamentaries like her would always be remembered. I on behalf of my party and myself, pay condolences to the bereaved family.

[English]

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur)** : Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my Party and on my behalf, I condole the passing away of Shri Khandelwal who was with us only a few days back. He was a man of amiable disposition and very friendly nature. He sincerely fought for the causes that he believed in. Certainly, we shall be missing him. And it is always a matter of great grief when we find the seat that he occupied in this very House today remaining vacant. I convey my most sincere condolences to the members of his family.

Mrs. Renu Chakravarty was a true communist. She fought gallantly and resolutely and suffered a lot for the establishment of a society free from exploitation and bondage. She played a heroic role in leading the movement of workers, peasants and common people and also for the upliftment and emancipation of women in this country. I also remember her a significant contribution as a Minister for Cooperation in the United Front Government of West Bengal. She created a great impact in channelising the cooperative movement in the right direction so that the vulnerable sections of the community could be organised for achieving their goals through the cooperative movement which should remain in the hands of common and struggling people as a very important tool.

It is very difficult to fill the vacuum that has been created by her passing away and

we sincerely mourn her loss. I convey my party's and my sincere condolence to Shri Nikhil Chakravarty and the members of his family.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore)

: I would like to associate myself and my party in offering condolences to the families of the two Member who have left us.

I never had the good luck to enjoy the personal acquaintance of Shri Khandelwal but I am well aware of the fact that he was an extremely popular figure in Delhi, especially old Delhi, as a result of the long record of public service which he had. He was a very active Member of the House. Of course, we used to see and hear him here in this House and suddenness of his passing away adds to the sorrow and grief that we feel today.

About Shrimati Renu Chakravarty, I do not now what should I say. She was Deputy Leader of our group in the Lok Sabha for many years. She was one of the old-timers, veterans of this House. She was ailing for a long time, a very painful illness also, which ultimately took the toll of her life. She was not only an outstanding Parliamentarian but she was a very active and bold leader of the people's movement. She sacrificed a lot for that. Not only she suffered imprisonment but I remember that for some years she had worked underground awaiting police arrest when our party was illegal. She was a woman of great courage, fortitude and firm conviction in the ideals which she professed. It is a very big loss to our movement. I spoke yesterday on the telephone to her husband and son in Calcutta shortly after she passed away and I assured them that the entire Lok Sabha and the Parliament here would be sharing their grief and would convey their condolences to them for this tragic loss.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I join you, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and other distinguished leaders of this House to express my grief, sorrow and anguish at the passing away of Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal and Shrimati Renu Chakravarty.

Shri Khandelwal was an energetic Member of this House. He was very alert and alive to the needs of the people of Delhi. He has done his duty well and we feel strongly about his absence from this House.

So far as Shrimati Renu Chakravarty is concerned, I had the privilege of coming in close contact with her. She was representing the North 24 Baganas to which I also belong.

I had the unique opportunity of coming in close contact with her when she lived several months underground with a small baby in her arm. She, I remember was being haunted by the Police in West Bengal when there was a great peasant uprising in Kaldwip and Bara Kamalapur.

Sir, I came in close contact with her during the election campaign in 1952 and subsequently we had the privilege of working together as her colleague organising campaign for her election. So, she was an accomplished lady and she was also highly educated in foreign countries. But to my great surprise, being such an accomplished lady with modern outlook, with modern life style and educated abroad, I found that she was so freely mixing up with the rural womenfolk and remained with them by sharing their griefs and happiness and became a true communist leader of our country. This very aspect of the matter has drawn some of us in the revolutionary struggle of the country. Sir, she had contributed very much in the cooperative movement of West Bengal as

the Minister in charge of Department of Cooperatives.

So far as her performance in this House in concerned, I cannot stand witness to it because I was not here when she was working as a Member of the House. But when I entered the Rajya Sabha, she was here and I had received my preliminary training on Parliamentary Practices from her. Sir, by remembering all those days I express my grief, anguish and pay tributes to her and heart-felt condolences to her son, Mr Sumit and her husband, a prominent journalist of our country, Mr. Nikil Chakravartty.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir on passing away of Mr. Tara Chand Khandelwal we have lost a sincere and devoted Parliamentarian. During this life time. Mr. Khandelwal had fought for the cause of the traders and also the weaker sections of the society. So, the services rendered by Mr. Khandelwal are remarkable and will be remembered. The contribution made by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty are also commendable.

On behalf of AIADMK, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families of Mr. Khandelwal and Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I deeply mourn the sad and sudden demise of Mr. Khandelwal. The death has taken away a mild mannered and an active Member from among us.

Sir, I convey my heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family and his Party.

Regarding the death of Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Sir, I had no personal ac-

quaintance with her, but we have heard very much about Shrimati Renu Chakravartty as an eminent Parliamentarian.

Sir, I share the views given expression to by the hon. Prime Minister and the Leaders. My condolences may be conveyed to her family, particularly, to Mr. Nikil Chakravartty.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : I associate myself and my socialist party with the hon'ble leader of the House, Leader of the opposition, and leaders of other parties in expressing our condolences. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved families.

[*English*]

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

11.23 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow viz 19th April, 1994 at 11.00 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Visit of US Assistant Secretary of State**

321. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: