

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, April 27, 1984/  
Vaisakha 7, 1906 (SAKA)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी जी,  
बाज तो बाकई आ गए आप ?

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर : सर, इनको स्टेटमेंट  
देने के लिए कहिए।

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : स्पेशली बीन  
फीरोजपुर।

### Obituary References

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Sarvashri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi and Jaspat Roy Kapoor.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 from Darrang Constituency of Assam.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Tripathi actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment several times.

An eminent trade unionist, he attended several international labour conferences abroad. He was elected member of the Governing body of International Labour Organisation in 1954.

A well-known social and political worker, he relentlessly worked for removal of untouchability, promotion of adult and basic education and was associated with several educational, social and other organisations.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Tripathi was author of several books and numerous articles on literary, political and trade union subjects.

Shri Tripathi passed away on 14 April, 1984 at Lucknow at the age of 74 years.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1946-52. He was later elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952 and again in 1956.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Kapoor actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment several times.

A noted parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and served on several Parliamentary Committees.

A prominent educationist, political and social worker, he was associated with several educational institutions and other organisations.

Shri Kapoor passed away on 22nd April, 1984 at Agra at the age of 88 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 House may stand in silence for a shortwhile while to express its sorrow.

*The Members then stood in silences for a short while.*

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Harassment of Gulf-Passengers by Customs Officials at Trivandrum Airport

\*840. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints from the Gulf-passengers about the harassment at the hands of the Customs officials at Trivandrum airport; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) No, Sir. However, a few complaints have been received against the assessment of duty on goods in excess of the free allowance admissible under the Baggage Rules in respect of passengers cleared through Trivandrum Airport. The number of such complaints is insignificant compared to the volume of passenger traffic handled by this Airport.

(b) Since such complaints relate to quantum of free allowance and the rate of duty as chargeable under the statutory rules, and both of these aspects had received the Government's attention only recently when the allowances were liberalised and rate of duty lowered from 1.3.1983, no immediate remedial steps are called for.

SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS : The hon. Minister has agreed that some complaints have been received regarding charging of duty on excess baggage. The Minister says that he has received only a few complaints, but the fact of the matter is that almost

all the passengers who landed at Trivandrum airport have made this sort of complaint. Trivandrum customs is a nightmare for the Gulf-passengers. The news of harassment has created a scare amongst Gulf Malayalees. Most of them are poor labourers who earn a lot of foreign exchange for the country. We should, therefore, be more sympathetic towards them. In this connection, I would like to know what action has been taken against the officials involved in the complaints received, and whether the Minister has issued any instructions to the customs not to harass the innocent Gulf passengers.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA : It is only with references to some of the complaints which were received that with effect from 1.3.1983, we have provided for some liberalisations :

- (a) Limit of free allowance for adults raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1250.
- (b) Electronics goods permitted duty free within the free allowance.
- (c) Duty charged only on value in excess of the unutilised free allowance.
- (d) Highest slab of 33% reduced to 235% (now 240%).

A new rule has also been added particularly for the benefit of the passengers from Gulf who return after termination of employment after one year allowing duty free entry of personal effects used for six months upto Rs. 5000/-.

This action was taken taking into account the complaints that were received by the Government.

It is however, a fact that there is a congestion at Trivandrum airport, and there is bound to be some delay when a passenger comes from the Gulf; he has to pass through the Immigration formalities, and the Immigration authorities also take some time for clearance. We will also have to bear in mind that the baggage has to