

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, July 14, 1980/Asadha 23,
1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

OBITUARY REFERENCES

DEATH OF SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA, M.P.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya, a sitting Member of this House representing Serampore constituency of West Bengal. He passed away at New Delhi early this morning, at the age of 65. I had visited Shri Dinen Bhattacharya in the hospital on Friday, 11th July, 1980. He looked quite cheerful and I could never think that the end would come so soon.

Shri Bhattacharya had earlier been a Member of the Third, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha during the years 1962—67 and then 1971—79.

A veteran social worker and trade unionist, he served several trade unions as Secretary, Vice-President and President. He served as Commissioner, Serampore Municipality for more than 10 years. He had been President, All-India Rubber and Tyre Workers' Federation.

He also served as a Member of the Rules Committee during Sixth Lok Sabha. . .

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A widely travelled man, he had visited many countries.

In his death, we have lost an active parliamentarian who took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made rich contributions to the debates.

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-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): My party and I associate ourselves with the sentiments which you have expressed, on the sad demise of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya. He has been a Member of this House for many years. Throughout his long parliamentary career, he championed the cause of industrial workers. In the late 60s. and early 70s., he participated in many tripartite bodies and made a constructive contribution towards trade union interests. At the present juncture, he could have played a significant role in the field of industrial relations.

On behalf of my party and of this House, I should like you, Sir, to convey our sincere condolences to members of the bereaved family.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीस (मुजफ्फरपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने दिल की ओर से और अपनी ओर से श्री दीनेन भट्टाचार्य को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। दीनेन बाबू देश के स्वातंत्र्य संग्राम के सेनानियों में थे और इस देश के मजदूर आन्दोलन के एक महान नेताओं में थे। इस सदन में और इस सदन के बाहर जनता की समस्याओं पर और विशेषकर शोषित वर्ग के लोगों

[श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीस]

की समस्याओं पर संघर्ष उन के जीवन का कार्य रहा है। हम लोगों के वह बहुत ही मित्र रहे और इस सदन के भीतर और बाहर उन का हंसमुख चेहरा जिन परेशानियों से वह गुजरते थे उस को कभी व्यक्त नहीं करता था। हम ने इस सदन में छठी लोक सभा में और इस लोक सभा में बहुत नजदीक से उन को देखा और उन से हमारे सम्बन्ध भी रहे मगर कभी गुस्सा बगैरह करते हुए उस व्यक्ति को हमने नहीं देखा क्योंकि हमारी यह समझ है कि दीनेश बाबू जैसे व्यक्ति व्यवस्था से लड़ते थे, व्यवस्था से गुस्सा करते थे, किसी व्यक्ति से उन का गुस्सा या नफरत नहीं रहती थी। तो ऐसे एक स्वातंत्र्य संग्राम सेनानी की और इस देश के मजदूर आन्दोलन के महान कार्यकर्ता को आज हम ने खोया है। मुझे मालूम है उनका सच्चा जीवन श्रमिक वर्ग के लिए समर्पित रहा और अपना परिवार बनाने की बात उन्होंने कभी सोची भी नहीं। मगर जो भी उनके परिवार के और रिश्ते के लोग हैं उनको हम अपनी तरफ से और अपने दल की तरफ से संवेदना देना चाहते हैं और उनकी पार्टी, माक्सिस्ट कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के साथियों को विशेष रूप से हम अपनी संवेदना देना चाहते हैं।

एक बार फिर हम अपने दल की ओर से उनके श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं।

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): The death of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya was very much unexpected. Only on the 9th he attended the Session. But his health was not good. He had the asthmatic trouble. This is a chronic disease which continues for several years. But despite doctor's advice, he generally attended all these movements or agitations when any demand came from the working class. Even some employers wanted him for some negotiated settlement and all these things. So, his health was not a major consideration to him. Suddenly his health took a turn for the worst. When I enquired about him I came to know that some employer wanted him to have some settlement in a dispute for which he had to go to his consti-

tuency only on 6th or 7th; and while going and coming by plane he had been drenched by rain water in the Airports of Calcuta and Delhi and that affected his lungs. So, he complained that he had caught cold because while boarding the plane he had to walk in the rain and while alighting from the plane at Delhi Airport, he had to walk in the rain. That is why, his health suddenly deteriorated.

The medical staff in the hospital tried their level best, they made their maximum effort to save him, but, unfortunately he could not be saved. The life of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya was the life of a true revolutionary; he was a devoted politician and from his early age he joined the freedom movement. He was born in 1915 but went to jail in 1930 Movement at the age of 15. Since that time, several times, he had to undergo imprisonment in 1940, 1949, 1950 and even subsequent years also. He was attracted towards the trade union movement as well as the communist movement at a very earlier age. He was unmarried and according to our term, we called him whole-timer. He was a full-timer political worker and a trade-unionist; and he was a very veteran trade-unionist. He was the General Secretary of the Hindustan Motors Workers' Union. In the trade union movement, he was a man of all India stature. Because of his honesty, integrity and frankness, he was outspoken. Those who knew him, those who had seen him here, they know that he was a very outspoken man. He acted as the Chief Whip of our group in Parliament and subsequently as Deputy Leader for a long time. He was very active both in his parliamentary life as well as his political and trade union activity. The death of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya is a big loss for the working class movement as well as democratic movement and for our Party also. He was a very big leader in West Bengal. It is a very big loss to us particularly. I request you to convey the sentiments of the entire House to his relatives and family.

*SHRI S. MURUGIAN (Tirupattur): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and on my own behalf, I wish to express my deep grief on the sudden demise of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya, who was with us till the other day. He was a prominent and veteran trade union leader. The trade union movement in the country has lost a leader committed to its growth. He was a revolutionary, yet he was wedded to democratic ideals. Only the other-day, sitting in front of me he was participating in the debate and pointing out certain patent mistakes in the speech of an hon. Member. Though he was old in age, yet he was youthful in spirit and outlook.

I join you, the Leader of the House and the Leader of Communist Party (Marxist) in the sentiments of sorrow expressed on his passing away and request you kindly to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल (जयपुर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य के निधन के संबंध में जो भावनाएँ आपने व्यक्त की हैं और सदन की नेता महोदया और अन्य नेताओं ने जो विचार प्रकट किए हैं, मैं अपने आप को भी उनमें सम्मिलित करता हूँ।

श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य से मेरा परिचय सन् 1977 में जब मैं पहली बार इस सदन में आया था, तब हुआ था। पिछले तीन वर्षों में मैंने उनको बहुत नजदीक से देखा और यह पाया कि उनके मन में व्यक्तिता: किसी के खिलाफ कोई गुस्सा या नाराजगी नहीं थी, लेकिन जब मजदूरों के हुकूम के हनन का कोई सवाल आता था तो उनके काफी वेदना होती थी और गुस्से का इजहार भी करते थे। सदन के माननीय सदस्यों को अहसास होगा, शास्त्री जी और मुझे तो पता है, गत बृहस्पतिवार या बुधवार को भी किसी मसले पर उनको गुस्सा आने लगा था। हम उनको रोका करते थे और कहते थे कि आप इतना गुस्सा न करें। वे बड़े सहज स्वभाव, सरल स्वभाव और हंसमुख रहने वाले व

सदैव जीवन भर मजदूरों के लिए संघर्ष करने वाले नेता थे, जो आज हमारे बीच से उठ गए। यह क्षति उनके परिवार की ही नहीं है, जिस आन्दोलन से वे संबंधित थे, उस आन्दोलन की भी बहुत बड़ी क्षति हुई है। इसलिए उनके परिवारजनों और रिश्तेदारों को तो संवेदना संदेश भिजवाइए ही, लेकिन साथ ही कम्यूनिस्ट पार्टी (मार्क्स-सिस्ट) और उनके साथी कार्यकर्ताओं तक भी हमारी भावनाएँ पहुँचाएँ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं हृदय से उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और भगवान से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि दिवंगत आत्मा को शान्ति प्रदान करें।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN (Satara): Mr. Speaker, I knew Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya when I came to Parliament, the third Lok Sabha. From then onwards I have seen him function in the House in one capacity or another. He represented the Communist Party of India and then the Marxist Communist Party. He had no family of his own in the sense he did not marry; the working class movement was his family; his party was perhaps his family. He was a man completely devoted to the cause of the country; since the early days of his life he participated in the freedom struggle and he was a man of absolute dedication to the cause of the people, particularly to the working class. In the House he appeared in the later years; whenever he was on his legs, he looked like an angry old man. But when he sat down, he was smiling. The cause of his anger was the issue concerned. The man himself was not an angry person. He was a pleasant man to talk to.

I am very sad as 65 is not a very old age in the sense persons, at the moment, can and do live upto the age of 75 and 80 and still beyond that. Therefore, I think, it is rather a premature death of a very active revolutionary and it is a very big loss to the Communist Marxist Party. We convey

[Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan]

our deep sympathies to the party and naturally we convey also that the loss of the Lok Sabha is the loss of the nation.

Please convey these feelings to all concerned.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): The Members of my party share the profound grief of this House in the sudden and sad passing of our dear colleague Shri Dinen Bhattacharya. He was a man with lofty ideals, and deep devotion and dedication to the cause of the down-trodden, particularly the working class of our country. His record as a freedom fighter, a trade unionist, a person who was dedicated to the cause of industrial peace and the lofty ideals of the society he wanted to build in this country, can only be described as illustrious. He was a parliamentarian, a conscientious parliamentarian who was fearless and uncompromising in advocating the causes that he believed in, and yet he was the embodiment of charm and affability and friendliness. In his passing this House has lost a very alert, able, dedicated, honest parliamentarian of tremendous integrity. To many of us who knew Dinen Da, it is a great personal loss, irreparable loss. We will remember his friendship, his efficiency, his dedication to causes which we all value.

I join the other Members who have requested you to convey our deep sense of grief and loss to the members of the bereaved family and to the organisations with which Dinen Da was associated.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): The sudden death of Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya is not only shocking, but a great loss for all of us. Yesterday, I saw him in the hospital. I was told he was already sinking and the doctors were of the opinion that there was no hope for him but he was still alive gasping for breath. I also spoke

to him the last day when he was here. I was joking with him outside. I asked him how his health was. He said to me that he was feeling better but he caught cold suddenly. Now I hear from Samar Babu that it was all due to his getting wet in rain. Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya said he had caught cold and, therefore, was finding difficult to breathe. Any way we are not in a position to control these things and one can only presume that whatever assistance, medical assistance; can be given, is given. Nevertheless, these mishaps do occur. For many many years when we were in one party, Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya and I worked very closely together actually in the trade union movement. In the last few years, before independence particularly, I remember we were very closely working together among the jute mill workers around Calcutta. You know, Sir, in those days, these jute mill workers were considered to be the most exploited workers in our country. The mills were all owned by the British companies at that time. The bustees in which these workers used to live were once described by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru as being unfit for human habitation. Dinen Babu, myself and many others had spent many years roaming about in those bustees trying to organise these workers and we participated in many of their struggles and strikes.

Later on, when Dinen Babu was elected to this House, as other colleagues have also mentioned, he was always a very stubborn champion of democratic causes and of the rights of the working class. He was one of our old-timers in every sense of the word. So, I do not wish to add unnecessarily to what has been said. We feel the loss very very deeply and we wish to express our deepest sympathies to our comrades of the Marxist Communist Party and to Dinen Babu's own family, though I do not think he had much of a family left. But his brother was here yesterday and to him also and to others, we express our deepest condolences. Dinen Babu's memory will al-

ways be respected, I am sure, in this House for his many qualities, to which other colleagues have referred and I join with them in expressing my party's sorrow.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN (Trivandrum): Sir, my friends in this House and myself share the feelings expressed by you and the leaders of various political parties on the sudden and sad demise of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya. Shri Dinen Bhattacharya was busily engaged in the national movement and working class movement even from his boyhood and he did not get time to think of his family. He had remained unmarried throughout his life. But as a man who hailed from Bengal, which was known for Indian nationalism even during the days of the Indian renaissance, he had taken the whole of India as his family and the members of the working class as his family members. As a member of the working committee of the CITU, Vice-President of the West Bengal unit and President and Secretary of various trade unions, he had risen to be a trade union leader of national stature. As a member of the third, fifth, sixth and present Lok Sabha, he proved himself to be a very good parliamentarian. As a member of so many relief committees and libraries, he proved himself to be a very good and outstanding social worker. On his death, we have lost a very good parliamentarian and social worker and a trade union leader dedicated to the cause of the masses and the weaker sections. We have lost him at a very critical juncture when the whole working class movement, the leftist parties and the democratic socialist forces of our nation are direly in need of soldiers like him for finding solutions to the varying problems confronting our country.

On behalf of the members of the Democratic Socialist Party in this House, on behalf of our leader, Shri H. N. Bahuguna and on my own behalf, I express our heart-felt condolences and request Shri Samar Mukherjee to con-

vey our feelings to the comrades of his party and the working class.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Sir, I joint with the other hon. members to express my party's grief and sorrow on the death of Mr. Dinen Bhattacharya. He was born in 1915 and at the early age of 15, in 1930 he was arrested in the course of the country's freedom struggle. Till 1947, he was arrested several times. He was a veteran trade unionist and Joint Secretary of the Hindustan Motors Ltd. Workers' Union, of which he was the founder. He was a dedicated, honest, sincere and outspoken person. On behalf of my Party, the RSP, I express my heart-felt grief to be extended to the Politbureau of CPI(M) because he belonged to this family group throughout his life.

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप (आंवला): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री दीनेन भट्टाचार्य के निधन पर सदन को बड़ा दुःख है। उसमें मेरा दल और मैं दोनों ही सम्मिलित हैं।

भट्टाचार्य जी देश के मजदूर आन्दोलन के प्रमुख स्तम्भों में थे जिन्होंने जीवनभर मजदूरों और गरीबों के लिए संघर्ष किया। वे एक सच्चे पार्लियामेन्टेरियन थे और उन्होंने पूरे देश और अपने दल को ही अपना एक परिवार बना लिया था। उन्होंने अपने जीवन में शादी न कर के बड़ी कुर्बानी की और मरते समय तक वे इस देश के गरीबों और मजदूरों के लिए संघर्ष करते रहे, उनके हित-साधक बने रहे। उन्होंने स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में हिस्सा लिया और उसके बाद भी वे जीवन में बराबर संघर्ष करते रहे। देश में एक सच्चे प्रहरी की तरह और एक सच्चे पार्लियामेन्टेरियन बन कर उन्होंने जो कुछ भी देश के लिए किया उसे हम भुला नहीं पायेंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी तरफ से और अपने दल जनता (एस) की तरफ से उनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि उनके दल को, उनके समस्त साथियों को और उनके परिवार को हमारे संवेदना संदेश भेज दें।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I join you and other esteemed friends of the House in expressing my sorrow and grief and more so, shock at the sudden passing away of my comrade Dinen Bhattacharya. Sir, Comrade Dinen Bhattacharya had a life of revolutionary brilliance. He in his early age of life joined the freedom movement of our country. He was a great patriot and suffered imprisonment on various occasions to bring the freedom of our country. In the course of his participation in the freedom movement he realised that the real independence could be won if there was a change in the character of the society and the State. Therefore, he dedicated himself to the cause of organising the working class of our country because he deeply felt that unless the working class of our country was truly liberated, the meaning of freedom would be of no avail. Therefore, he devoted himself to the cause of organising the working class of the country and soon he became one of the trusted leaders of the trade union movement in our country.

Sir, in his death, his Party, the Communist (Marxist) Party of India, has lost a valient fighter. In his loss this House has lost a good parliamentarian. More so, in his death the entire working class of our country has lost a valient, dedicated champion of their cause. In this House we have witnessed that he was one of those who defended the cause of the working class and democratic movement of our country.

I, on behalf of my Party, the Forward Block, express my deep sense of condolence and sympathy to the bereaved family and to the Party to which he belonged. I hope and expect that you will convey this deep sense of sorrow, grief and anguish to the Marxist Communist Party of India and his bereaved family.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): Today we all mourn the very sad and sudden passing away of

our dear colleague, Shri Dinen Bhattacharya. I join you, the Prime Minister and other leaders of parties in expressing my grief at the very sad and sudden demise of Shri Bhattacharya. He was with us a couple of days ago. It is very sad that he breathed his last yesterday night at the hospital.

By his passing away, we have lost, the country has lost, a great freedom fighter. I understand that he had courted arrest at the early age of 14. This demonstrates the spirit which animated him to fight for the freedom of this country. He was also a veteran trade unionist, and he devoted his entire life to the cause of the down-trodden, to the cause of the working class, and particularly to the cause of the labourers. He was a great trade unionist and as such was also a Member of the Central CITU.

By his passing away, we have lost a great personality. A life of service and devotion has come to an end.

I request you, Sir, to convey the condolences on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League to the bereaved family. I also express my sympathy to my dear colleague, Shri Samar Mukherjee and all the members of the Marxist Communist Party of India because they have suffered a great loss, a loss which is irreparable. I hope they will have the fortitude to bear this great loss. May his soul rest in peace.

श्री खयाजा मुबारक शाह (बारामूला): जनाब स्पीकर साहब, मि. दिनेन भट्टाचार्य की अचानक मौत पर जिस रंज और गम का आपने इजहार फरमाया है और उनके बारे में जिन खयालात का इजहार दूसरे मंत्री साहिबान ने किया है, मैं अपनी और अपनी पार्टी नेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस की तरफ से उन में शरीक होता हूँ। कुछ ही अर्सा हुआ मरने उन से मिलने का इत्तिफाक हुआ था। मैंने उनके दिल को देखा है। उनके दिल में किसी के खिलाफ कोई गम नहीं था, कोई गुस्सा नहीं था, कोई नफरत नहीं थी।

मैं समझता हूँ कि उनके बारे में सही तौर पर कहा जा सकता है:

गर्म दम गुफ्तगू

नर्म दम जुस्तजू ।

उनका ट्रेड यूनियन के साथ, मजदूरों के साथ शरीरके जुरम होना, शरीरके गुफ्तगू होना इस बात की गवाही है कि वह एक जिन्दा दिल रखते थे एक गर्म दिल रखते थे जिस में एक कसक थी, एक जोश था इंसानी हमदर्दी का । वह हम से दूर हुए । लेकिन

एसे मरने वाले मरते हैं लेकिन फना होते नहीं ,

हम से जे चले जाते हैं लेकिन जुदा होते नहीं ।

मैं आपका मशकूर हूँगा, स्पीकरसाहब, अगर आप मेरी तरफ से और मेरी पार्टी की तरफ से जाहिर किए गए इन ब्यालात और इजहारों के उनकी फौमिली और उनकी पार्टी तक पहुंचा दें ।

MR. SPEAKER: The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER: As a mark of respect to the deceased, the House now stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

11.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 15th July, 1980/Asadha 24, 1902 (Saka)