

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 11, 1982/Sravana 20, 1904 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri S. K. Pottakkatt, who was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha representing Tellicherry constituency of Kerala during 1962-67.

A veteran freedom fighter, he also brought out an underground journal.

An erudite and a renowned writer in Malayalam, he earned several State Sahitya Academy awards and was also awarded the prestigious Bhartiya Jnanapeeth Award in 1980.

He was associated with several cultural and literary organisations in his State.

He passed away at Kozhikode on 6 August at the age of 69.

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 House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

WELCOME TO THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Hajjat-Ul-Islam Ali Akbar Hashem Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the hon. Members of the Iranian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :

- (1) Mr. Seyyed Hussein Musaviani, Minister of Mines and Metals
- (2) Mr. Majid Hedayat Zadeh, Senior Deputy Minister of Commerce.
- (3) Mr. Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, Deputy Foreign Minister and in-charge of Economic & International Affairs.
- (4) Dr. Hassan Fereidoun Roohani, M.P.
- (5) Mr. Morteza Kattaceer, M.P.
- (6) Mr. Manuchehr Mottaki, M.P.

The delegation arrived here yesterday. They are now seated in the Special Box. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to His Eminence Ayatollah-Ali Uzma Imam Ruhollah Khomeini, and to His Excellency Hojjat-Ul-Islam Syed Ali Khamenei, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency, Mir Hussein Musavi, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government and the friendly people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

श्री हरीशकुमार गंगवार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भारतीय प्रेस को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने शांतिपूर्ण और लोकतांत्रिक तरीके से बिहार प्रेस बिल का विरोध किया है।

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 449—
Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA
Sometimes it looks very bad.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

“Setting up on an Institute of Himalayan Ecology and Development”

*449 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Institute of Himalayan Ecology and Development with major emphasis on conservation of the rich biological heritage of the region in the form of flora and fauna as also forests and water resources;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof with its aim and objectives and the allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) whether the master plan for this Institute has been prepared, if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH):

(a) to (c) The Indian National Man and the Biosphere Committee which is an advisory body to the Department of Environment has recommended the establishment of an Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. According to the recommendation of the M.A.B. Committee, the Institute will function as the focal point for policy planning, research & development. Its programme will focus on the conservation of the natural resources of the Himalayan region and their rational utilisation. The proposal has been accepted in principle, the modalities are being worked out.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Himalayan Ecology and preservation of other natural resources is a subject which is of great importance if the nation is to live a healthy life, breathe-pollution free air, prevent floods and cyclones and drought and ward off the present miseries.

The hon. Minister has given a very brief answer. But I want to know categorically from him whether a task force has been proposed or has been already there in the Planning Commission and they have already submitted a report to the Government that 33 per cent of the estimated forest area has been in the middle of the Himalayan range. And now it has come down to 6% to 8%. They have suggested something to help the programme and conserve the area. What are the detailed recommendations of that Task Force of the Planning Commission ?

(b) Considering the heavy devastation of forest in this particular range, may I know whether the State laws of U.P. Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir are sufficient to check the illegal felling of trees and mining of quarries in those particular regions, because Rs 1,000 only is the penalty in all those States if somebody does illegal mining quarry ?