

LOK SABHA DEBATES

I

2

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 4, 1978/Chaitra 14,
1900 (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 Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru who passed away at Agra on 3rd April, 1978 at the age of 91.

A veteran parliamentarian, Dr. Kunzru started his parliamentary career in 1921 when he became a Member of the U.P. Legislative Council. After serving there for two years, he became a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926 and remained its member upto 1930. In 1946 he was elected to the Constituent Assembly and later, he continued to be a Member of the Provisional Parliament till 1952. Thereafter, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha and continued to be its Member till 1962. I had the privilege of working with him in the Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1957. He was a dear friend of mine.

He was a Member of the Liberal Party Delegation to U.K. in connection with Indian Constitutional Reforms in 1919. He was leader of the Indian Delegation to the Second British Commonwealth Relations Conference held at Sydney in 1938; Delegate to the Institute of Pacific Relations Conference held in U.S.A. in 1945 and a Member of the Government Delegation

198 LS -1.

in 1946 to Malaysia to enquire into the conditions of Indians there.

Dr. Kunzru was a widely travelled person who had toured many countries in several continents. He took special interest to study the conditions of Indians settled abroad.

He served as Chairman of the National Cadet Corps Committee in 1946-47 and of the U.P. Universities Grants Committee, 1947. He was a member of the Armed Forces Reorganisation Committee, 1946-47. He was also Chairman of the Railway Enquiry Commission.

He was Chief Commissioner, Seva Samiti Boy Scouts Association and National Commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides during 1950-57.

He was a Member of the Executive Council of Banaras Hindu University.

Dr. Kunzru held Doctorate of Law from Allahabad University and Doctorate of Literature from Aligarh and Banaras Hindu Universities.

A man of deep erudition and culture, he brought to his parliamentary activities his great intellectual attainments, wide ranging interests and human qualities which made him an effective parliamentarian who was invariably listened to with great respect.

He joined the Servants of India Society as a life member in 1909 and rose to be its President in January, 1936.

Dr. Kunzru gave the best part of his life in building up the Indian Council of World Affairs and in running the Servants of India Society.

He devoted himself wholeheartedly to these institutions and the genera-

tions to come will remember his contribution to them with gratitude.

Deeply interested in Parliamentary affairs, education and international affairs, he served the country in various fields and in different capacities with great deal of distinction.

We deeply mourn the loss of this great son of India and I am sure all sides of the House will join me in expressing our grief on his demise.

The Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): I knew Dr. Kunzru as a unique personality. He had complete dedication to the service of his fellow-men, the country and also the world. I must say that his was a unique life of devotion to duty and public service. As mentioned by you, Sir, his activities have been so many that it is difficult to remember them, and they were all activities which were useful for progress of human society. He was a person who was above prejudices, who took an objective view on every question. He was a man of deep learning and study, who went into every question, so thoroughly that it was difficult to find fault with his facts or his arguments.

I had the honour of working with him, not only in Parliament but even outside and had seen his social activities. One was in the Adim Jathi Sevak Sangh, of which he was the Vice-President for many many years, until his death. There I found how deeply devoted he was to the cause of the Adibasis and how well he served them. Such people are very rare in public life if I may say so, of such integrity, devotion to duty and selflessness. He never sought popularity and never worked for getting anything for himself. His life was simple. He was a founder member of the Servants of India Society, founded by the late Shri Gopala Krishna Gokhale, and he remained President for many years.

We have lost in him a devoted son, not only of India but a son of India who was thinking not only of India but of the whole world. We deeply mourn his loss and I would request you, on my behalf and on behalf of the House, to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI J. RAMESHWARA RAO (Mahboobnagar): Sir, it is with great sadness, on behalf of Shri Yeshwant-rao Chavan, who unfortunately could not be present here today, and the Congress Party, I place on record our deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru.

Pandit Kunzru was one of the founding fathers of this Republic and a member of the Indian National Congress. He was closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and was in the tradition of the great liberals in our country. Like Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Madan Mohan Malaviya and Srinivasa Shastri. He was a person of great learning and scholarship, soft-spoken and kind, with great humility and generous to a fault.

Mr. Speaker, you will forgive me if I go into a personal reminiscence. I had the privilege of knowing Pandit Kunzru and learning a great deal from him. Soon after independence, when I joined the Foreign Service, I was being posted in Africa, and it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who asked me:

‘‘पं० कुंजूरू को जानते हो, ज० के मिलो, अफ्रीका के बारे में जो वे जानते हैं, बहुत कम लोग जानते हैं’’ ।

I went and saw Pandit Kunzru. In spite of his various preoccupations, he was kind enough to give me time. He spoke to me at length about Africa, about the problems of Africa, about India's foreign policy and our policy of non-alignment and, at the end of it, said he did not know enough and he was sorry that he could not tell me

more. What touched me deeply, Sir, was this man's profound knowledge and great humility.

I met him and wrote to him often while I was in the service, and he always found time to write back. Later, as a Member of Parliament, he was always kind, helpful and generous. He was a person of great ideals and convictions, and he had the courage to live by them. All his life he never bent his head before insolent might.

Those of us who knew Pandit Kunzru should be happy about one thing. He passed away in the full knowledge that the ideals of the founding fathers of our nation were still cherished by the people of this country. One cannot say more than to repeat that one of the great men of our times has passed into history, and the only way we can revere his memory is to try to live up to the ideals he stood for and worked for all his life.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): Sir, I rise to associate my party and myself with the sentiments expressed here by you, by the leader of the House and the other friend, in respectful reference to the memory of this great patriot, Pandit Kunzru, who passed away.

You have detailed all the details of the variegated activities of his life. As was stated by the Prime Minister, his activities were so multi-coloured, multi-splendoured, variegated and comprehensive that even an enumeration is not possible. He is one of the giants who strode this country for over a century and much more than that. He belongs to that generation of Titans who were produced by our nation during a particular period of our national life and the type of whose generation, I am afraid, is now fast becoming extinct.

A great crude scholar, a profound parliamentarian, a deep man and a great patriot, his sympathies travelled the whole hog from the international

problems to the problems of the blind man, and the problems of Urdu and Adibasis. Such a person it is very difficult to find.

From the date of 1909, when he was in the Servants of India Society, to the date of his death, a period of 70 years, was a tremendous period in the history of this country. He was with the national movement and the Indian National Congress up to 1919. But, as a moderate and a man brought up in the liberal school of thought, he stayed away when the Indian National Congress took on to a course of massive agitation. From that period onwards we could see two streams developing in this country, one under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, a mass struggle going on impatiently to extricate our country from the thralldom of the British Government, and the other school of liberals and the moderates, no less patriotic than anybody else, as passionately patriotic as anybody else, but staying back, reviewing and viewing things, assessing things, giving guidance in an intellectual manner and assisting the nationalist movement. It is to that class that Pandit Kunzru, Sapru and persons of that type belonged. Both streams contributed tremendously to the progress of this country.

After independence, Pandit Kunzru contributed his lot in a tremendous manner to the building up of the democratic traditions of this country. As a parliamentarian, he was a class by himself. He argued out his case in Parliament, and he believed more in reason than in passion, more in argument than in voice-making more in contributing intellectually than in contributing to the noise in the House.

I wish that tradition was resurrected in the parliamentary annals of this country. When I pay my tributes to the memory of this great man, who dominated the scene of India and contributed tremendously, I only wish that we are able to resurrect that tradition of the parliamentary activities

of this country. That is the only contribution that we can make to him. I bow my head in respectful memory of this great son of this country, and I request you to convey to the bereaved family our feelings of sorrow at the sad demise of Pandit Kunzru.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): On behalf of my party and myself, I pay my respectful homage to a great son of India, and associate myself with the sentiments expressed here by the Leader of the House, by you, Sir, and by the other hon. Members.

Pandit Kunzru dedicated his life to the service of this country, and he was a true servant of the country and the people. He was a man of great learning and he left the imprint of his learning and erudition on the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly when it framed the Constitution of this country. He was really one of the founding fathers of our Constitution.

In his passing away the country has lost a leader who had dedicated his life to the cause of the people of this country. May I request you to convey our deep sense of condolence to the members of the bereaved family?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I join you, the Leader of the House and the other Members of the House in expressing my deep sense of sorrow at the sad demise of Pandit H. N. Kunzru.

He was a man of great erudition, scholarship and learning. He was a profound parliamentarian and in his life he sought to build bridges of understanding with the peoples of other countries also, thereby serving not only the people of India but humanity as a whole. He served in particular the downtrodden people of this country. We, as Members of Parliament, should well emulate the traditions which he has built and the way he lived and worked for the country.

May I request you to convey our feelings of sorrow to the bereaved family?

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): On behalf of the All India Anna DMK and on my own behalf I request the hon. Speaker to convey our deep and sorrowful condolences to the bereaved family.

I come to understand that we have lost one of the great sons of the soil and the nation. He proved to be one of the leading, noted and significant figures in the social, economic and educational fields. He was also one of the noted figures who fought for the freedom and independence of the country. I come to understand further that he played a vital role in drafting the Indian Constitution, associating himself with Dr. Ambedkar.

I share on behalf of my party and myself deep sorrow in his passing away and I request the hon. Speaker to convey our sorrowful feelings to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace!

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): May I join you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the hon. Prime Minister and the other esteemed colleagues in paying my respectful and loving homage to Pandit H. N. Kunzru, whose passing away we are all mourning today?

He was a great independent and an upright parliamentarian, and he was a studious man. When he made speeches not only were they full of studied facts and arguments, but he also brought to bear his independence of outlook and his integrity of character. That is why everybody, no matter to which party he belonged, to which opinion he belonged, listened to his speeches with great attention and respect. That is why Pandit Nehru also brought him to Parliament even though he did not belong to any party.

He was a great man and he tried to emulate Gokhale's ideals of spiritualis-

ing public life. One only hopes that that kind of galaxy of stars will never be wanting in our public life of today and tomorrow.

He had no family of his own, in the sense that his wife and son died years ago, but he has left us all behind as members of his family. We are all sufferers. We only hope that God will give us the strength to emulate his example whether in public life, parliamentary life or in the Servants of India Society or the Scouts and Guides Movement to which I happen to belong for many years. He believed in discipline. I think these are qualities which we need today in great abundance.

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Donations by Private Firms to Political Parties

+

*574. DR. RAMJI SINGH:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban donation by private firms to political parties; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b). Contributions of funds by companies to political parties or for political purposes are banned under section 293A of the Companies Act, 1956. If the term "private firms" used by the Hon'ble Members refers to business organisations other than incorporated

companies then there is no proposal under consideration to ban donation to political parties by such firms.

डा० रामजी सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय राजनीति में पैसे के खल से जो जनतंत्र भ्रष्ट हो रहा है उसको रुक जानते हैं। अध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन के कई माननीय सदस्यों ने इसके सम्बन्ध में प्रश्न किये थे और सभी के जवाब में मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि उनके पास इसकी कोई निश्चित सूचना नहीं है। श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया के अनस्टार्ड क्वेश्चन संख्या 2741 में भी उन्होंने कहा था कि उनको पता नहीं है। माधवराव सिधिया के स्टार्ड क्वेश्चन में भी जिसमें उन्होंने पूछा था कि चीनी मिलों के सेठों ने कितना कितना रुपया दिया, उन्होंने यही जवाब दिया था। माननीय कंवरलाल गप्त के स्टार्ड क्वेश्चन 2730 में भी उन्होंने यह नहीं बताया कि विदेशों से कितना धन मिला। उसके बाद डा० कर्णसिंह के अनस्टार्ड क्वेश्चन 6706 में भी कुछ इसी तरह की बात कही गई है। इनसे लगता है कि सरकार के पास यह जानकारी नहीं है कि घना सेठों के द्वारा जनतंत्र को कितना भ्रष्ट किया जा रहा है और कितने पैसे दिये जा रहे हैं। इसलिए अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो 293ए की धारा के अनुसार इसमें कोई संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है तो क्या कानून मंत्री जी को यह बात मालूम नहीं है कि संतानम साहब ने भी यह कहा है कि इस कम्पनीज एक्ट में कितने लूपहोल्स हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि भले ही चंदा देने से रोका गया हो, लेकिन साढ़ नौ करोड़ रुपये का चंदा एडवर्टिजमेंट के द्वारा कांग्रेस के कोष में दिया गया है। इस तरह से फ्रण्ट डोर से आप रोकते हैं और बैक डोर से जब चंदा दिया जा रहा है