

LOK SABHA

Thursday, June 24, 1971
Asadha 3, 1893 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Sri Prakasa, who passed away at Varanasi on the 23rd June, 1971, at the age of 81.

An illustrious son of an illustrious father, and a distinguished Parliamentarian, Shri Sri Prakasa was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly during the years 1934 to 1947, Constituent Assembly 1946-50 and of Provisional Parliament during the years 1950-52. He was also elected to the First Lok Sabha but resigned on becoming Governor. Essentially a man of letters and a popular writer, he was a great educationist and an administrator. A stalwart of the old generation of patriots and freedom fighters, greatly respected for his erudition, scholarship and deep learning, he was always progressive in his views, bold and practical in expressing his opinions on social reforms and economic problems and political affairs. In his chequered public life, he held the offices of the Central Minister of Commerce and Natural Resources and Scientific Research, the Governor of the States of Assam and

Maharashtra and Chancellor of Kashi Vidyapeeth. In his passing away, the country has lost an eminent statesman.

We mourn the loss of this distinguished son of India and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Sir, we mourn today the passing away of a veteran Congressman, a valiant freedom fighter and an elder and distinguished statesman. He served the nation with distinction for more than 60 years and shouldered many and varied responsibilities in the political, administrative and diplomatic spheres. He will be remembered not only as a politician but as a man of wide culture and knowledge, not only for the many high and important posts which he held but also for his association with many institutions and organisations.

As you have mentioned he was a man of varied interests and in debate and in his writings, he dealt not only with serious subjects but tried to find light-heartedness wherever it was possible to do so. He was a close friend of my family and I know him from my early childhood. My last meeting with him took place only a few months ago, when I called on him in a Calcutta hospital. A series of domestic tragedies cast a shadow on his later years. Yet, he continued to work and retained his interest in national affairs right up to the last.

We share the sorrow of the bereaved family and I request you to convey our condolences to them.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Sir, on behalf of our party, we associate ourselves with the sorrow expressed and the respect paid to that eminent figure, the departed soul. We have no personal knowledge of him, but his public activities were known to us through newspapers and various other publications. So, we think it is a loss to the country and we pay our condolences to the bereaved family. Please convey our expression of sorrow to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री एस. एम. मुखर्जी (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री श्री प्रकाश जी की मृत्यु से पहले, कम से कम पांच साल या छः साल पहले मैं काफी उनके निकट तक पहुंच गया था क्योंकि ब्रिटिश इंडिया कांफ़ेरेन्स के चेयरमैन के रूप में वे ज्यादातर कानपुर में ही रहते थे। बनारस के विद्यार्थी जीवन में भी मैंने देखा है कि वे अपने दार्शनिक पिता के कदमों पर चला करते थे। केवल राजनीति में ही नहीं बल्कि दर्शन शास्त्र और राजनीति, दोनों को मिला कर उन्होंने अपना जीवन व्यतीत किया। मुझे मालूम है उन्होंने अपना सारा जीवन लिखने पढ़ने में ही बिताया। केवल राजनीतिज्ञ कहकर ही अगर हम उनको श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ हमारी भूल होगी क्योंकि राजनीति तो उनके जीवन का केवल एक अंग थी परन्तु राजनीति से भी बढ़कर वे एक ऐसे मनुष्य थे जोकि धर्म की प्रतिमूर्ति थे। मजदूर आन्दोलन में हिस्सा लेने के फलस्वरूप मेरा उनसे काफी झगड़ा भी हुआ। जब भी मैं उनके पास जाता था तो क्रोधित होकर जाता था और यह सोच कर जाता था कि झगड़ा कबका लेकिन जब वापिस आता था तो एक दीप्त बनकर। मुझे वे शब्द आए भी याद है जोकि उन्होंने ब्रिटिश इंडिया कांफ़ेरेन्स छोड़ने से पहले एक बार कहे थे, मैं उनको रिप्रीट करना चाहता हूँ, उन्होंने कहा था कि जीवन में आज तुम एक ऐसे पद पर पहुंच गए हो जहां तुम

जनता की सेवा कर सकते हो, सेवा तुम करते रहना लेकिन सेवक रहना, कहीं ऐसा न हो कि तुम जनता का शोषण करने लगे। मैं समझता हूँ राजनीतिक जीवन में और एक ऐसे मनुष्य के नाते भी हमेशा उनको याद किया जायेगा। जैसे उनके पिता को हम आज भी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं उसी तरह से श्री श्री प्रकाश जी को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करने के बाद हम उनके जीवन को सोचेंगे कि वे कैसे धर्म की एक प्रतिमूर्ति थे। राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में उन्होंने कठोर से कठोर काम किए हैं और बचपन से लेकर अन्त तक एक ऐसा, जीवन व्यतीत किया है जोकि हमारे लिए एक सुली किताब हो सकती है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष जी, स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के सेनानी एक-एक करके हमारे बीच से उठने जा रहे हैं। डा. भगवान दास के सुपुत्र के रूप में श्रीयुक्त श्री प्रकाश जी को देश प्रेम, उदारता, भारतीय जीवन मूल्यों के प्रति निष्ठा, प्रामाणिकता उत्तराधिकार में प्राप्त हुई थी। वे प्राजादी के लिए लड़ें और प्राजादी के बाद देश के निर्माण में उन्होंने महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। केन्द्रीय मन्त्री के रूप में उन्होंने प्रशासन कुशलता की छाप बिठाई। राज्यपाल के रूप में उन्होंने राज्यपाल पद की गरिमा का निर्वाह किया। प्रवक्ता प्राप्त करने के बाद भी देश की कीर्तमान दुर्दशा उन्हें दुःखी करती रहती थी। निर्भीकता उनका स्वाभाविक गुण था। उनकी वाणी, उनकी लेखनी सदैव प्रन्धाय, विषमता और अधिकारों के दुरुपयोग के विरुद्ध उठती रही। उनके निधन से हमारा सार्वजनिक जीवन बड़ा अकिञ्चन हो गया है। मैं अपने दल की ओर से तथा अपनी ओर से दिवंगत नेता के प्रति विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमें उनके

बताये हुए रास्ते पर चलने की प्रेरणा दे। श्रीयुत श्री प्रकाश जी की स्मृति को सुरक्षित रखने का एक ही तरीका हो सकता है कि हम उनके सपनों के भारत की रचना करके दिखायें, ऐसा भारत जो आधुनिक हो किन्तु जो प्राचीनता की नींव पर खड़ा रहे।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): Sir, in the death of Shri Sri Prakasa we have lost another valient freedom fighter. We cannot forget his love and affection, which he showed towards the people of our State when he served as our Governor. I have heard him many times when I was a student. It is a great loss to the nation as a whole. I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you, Sir, and the Leader of the House. Our heart-felt condolences may be conveyed to the bereaved family.

श्री श्यामलमण्डल मिश्र (बंगलूराय): श्रीमन्, श्री श्री प्रकाश जी के निधन से राष्ट्रीय जीवन में ही अपूरणीय क्षति नहीं हुई है, बल्कि हम बहुत से व्यक्ति जो उनको बहुत करीब से जानते थे, उन के जीवन में भी एक बहुत बड़ा अभाव हुआ है। मुझे श्री श्री प्रकाश जी का स्नेह और आशीर्वाद प्राप्त करने का सौभाग्य हुआ था और एक कमेटी में हम ने बहुत दिनों तक एक साथ काम किया। आज जब वे बालें याद आती हैं तो मर्माहित हो जाता हूँ। वे बड़े स्पष्ट वक्ता थे, लेकिन बड़े स्निग्ध भी थे, और एक भी बात उन की जवान से ऐसी नहीं निकलती थी जो किसी के दिल को चोट पहुँचाती। उन्होंने अपने विचार पर किसी तरह का समझौता नहीं किया, और हमने देखा कि अतीत और वर्तमान, दोनों की भाँकी उन में एक साथ बराबर मिला करती थी।

हमारी संस्कृति के वे बड़े प्रतिनिधि थे और अगर हम उन मूल्यों को आज अपने राष्ट्रीय जीवन में कायम नहीं रख सकेंगे तो हमारा राष्ट्रीय जीवन भी खतरे में ही

जायगा।

मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से और अपनी तरफ से दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति श्रद्धान्जलि अर्पित करता हूँ। जब मैं ऐसा कहता हूँ यानि श्रद्धान्जलि अर्पित करने की बात, तो कोई रस्मी तौर पर नहीं कहता। वे स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के बड़े सैनानी थे और उनके जैसे व्यक्तियों ने जो वातावरण मुल्क में पैदा था हम उस की भीनाद अपने को मानते हैं। इसीलिए हमारी श्रद्धान्जलि कोई रस्मी तौर पर, औपचारिक तौर पर नहीं हो सकती।

मैं चाहता हूँ मैं अपनी पार्टी और अपनी तरफ से यह दिली श्रद्धान्जलि प्रकट करूँ, और आप के जरिये शोक संतप्त परिवार के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करूँ।

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir I wish to associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by you and the Prime Minister. I knew Shri Sri Prakasa when I was a civil servant when he was the Minister and later when he was the Governor of Madras and Bombay. Later, when I retired I met him when he was at Sardar Patel University as the Chancellor. Throughout my association with him I felt that he was a fair, a wonderful and good person. That was the one characteristic which impressed whoever met him. After his retirement he placed before the country his thoughts, based on his experience of public life during the period of the freedom struggle and since independence. It is through his writings during his last years that one can really appreciate the great person that he was. He kept putting before us the values of life which we seem to be forgetting, emphasizing and indicating the lines along which we should move. In his passing away we have lost a really fine good and great gentleman.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): Sir, it is a great tragedy that we have lost a great patriot. Sir, I have not seen but I have heard about him. Not only that I have also read so many articles which he used to write—what a

great contribution he made. It is most unfortunate that great patriots who had participated in the freedom struggle and also other statesmen are one by one passing away from us. A great mantle has fallen on the new generation. So, I think that we must follow his thoughts and principles which he has laid down before us. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister and other hon. Members and on my own behalf and on behalf of my party—Telangana Praja Samiti—I express my condolences.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, on behalf of my Party I pay our tributes to the hallowed memory of our departed leader who was one of the stalwarts of the freedom movement. Shri Sri Prakasa was a son of a great man. He not only participated in my many ways in the freedom struggle but he contributed to the intellectual life of our country also. I had the great privilege of meeting him first when he was the High Commissioner of Pakistan. I was at Dacca at that time. He took keen interest in the common people. Sir, this hour when our national life needs advices from men not only of erudition but also of great integrity and of the highest order that we are sorry that we have lost such a stalwart of our national movement. Again I pay our respect and also our sympathy for the departed leader.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF (Periakulam) : As one of the illustrious sons of India Shri Sri Prakasa has all along been very considerate towards minorities and minority problems. In one of his articles in the Indian Express some 12 years back he had stressed that enough representation be given to minority Muslims in all spheres of Government. I express my condolence to the bereaved family on behalf of my party.

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Closure of Units due to Industrial
Unrest*

*691. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will

the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting with the employers' representatives was held in Delhi on the 22nd May, 1971 to discuss the labour problems in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Employers were told not to close down their units in the name of industrial unrest; and

(c) if so, the reaction of employers?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Employers were urged to do their utmost to avoid closures.

(c) The employers' representatives pointed out that in many cases closures were due to factors beyond the control of managements.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, this Conference was convened after the conference with the labour representatives was held and the intention was that there should be no closures by the employers. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that according to Government figures given in this House nearly 268 units in Calcutta, Howrah and other places in West Bengal and according to our sources nearly 700 units are facing closure or closed. I would like to know whether any action was taken by the Government and there employers were persuaded to re-open these engineering units and other units just to provide employment to nearly a more than lakh of workers who were loitering in the streets.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Sir, in this Conference it was pointed out to the employers that there is a bright side of our industrial concerns as well as there is a dark side which is reflected in growing number of closures. As the hon,