

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Fifth Lok Sabha

No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 11, 1974/Kartika
20, 1896 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of four of our friends, namely, Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, Shri Tajamul Husain, Shri Bhola Nath Master and Shri Khub Chand Sodhia.

Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, a most distinguished public figure and diplomat of world-wide recognition, was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha from Trivandrum constituency of Kerala. He passed away at New Delhi on the 6th October, 1974 at the age of 78. He was a member of the Second and Third Lok Sabha during the years 1957-67 and of Fourth Lok Sabha during 1969-70. Earlier he had been a member of Rajya Sabha during the years 1953-57. A man of global eminence, Shri Menon's personality was a unique and rare combination of an impassioned patriot, an outstanding statesman who showed to the world hitherto untread vistas of modern diplomacy, an intellectual giant and a luminary in the field of the legal profession. A man who

fought against colonialism and imperialism relentlessly, Shri Menon entered the Indian freedom struggle in 1927 and carried this movement to the very heart of Europe and UK and formed the India League, London, and served as its Secretary from 1927 to 1947. Through this forum, he carried on a campaign for India's freedom and moulded public opinion abroad. He became the President of the India League in 1947. He was later appointed special representative of the Government of India at the United Nations General Assembly meeting held at Lake Success in 1946-47. After India's independence, Shri Menon became India's first High Commissioner in London and held that office during 1947-52 and concurrently he was India's Ambassador to Ireland during 1949-52. He was leader of the Indian delegation at the UN General Assembly from 1953 to 1962. His able and brilliant advocacy of India's cause on the Kashmir issue at the United Nations will ever be remembered with gratitude. His forceful pursuit of the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence, his dexterity in furthering anti-racial and anti-imperialist causes at the United Nations and grouping of Afro-Asians earned respect for himself and the country even from the big powers. Though India was not a member, he played a prominent role at the Geneva conferences and made India's views known. He championed the cause of the newly-independent countries and greatly enhanced India's image. His advocacy of the cause of peace in various parts of the world had made him a pillar of strength in the world peace movement.

Shri Menon joined the Central Cabinet in 1956 and was Minister without Portfolio during 1956-57 and Minister of Defence during 1957-62. In this House, he left an impact of a great parliamentarian who was always heard with reverence and care. In his death, we have lost a great son of India, a forceful contemporary who has left a distinctive mark on our political life and our history.

Shri Tajamul Hussain was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during the years 1946-52. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly during the years 1937-50 and was Deputy Leader of the Opposition there. He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952 and was its Member till 1962. An eminent lawyer, a sound parliamentarian and an active social worker, he was associated with a number of educational, religious and welfare organisations. He was a Member of the Indian Delegation at Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, Stockholm. He passed away in U.S.A., where he had gone for treatment, on the 14th September, 1974.

Shri Bholu Nath Master was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1967-70 representing Alwar Constituency of Rajasthan. Earlier, he was Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly during 1952-62, and was a Minister in Rajasthan Government during 1952-54. An agriculturist and a social worker, he was associated with a number of social organisations and co-operative movements. He organised Satyagrahas against the erstwhile princely States. He took keen interest in the welfare of working classes. He worked for the development of handlooms and actively propagated for the use of khadi. He passed away at Jaipur on the 17th September, 1974 at the age of 58.

Shri Khub Chand Sodhi was a Member of First Lok Sabha during the years 1952-57, representing Sagar Constituency of Madhya Pradesh. He passed away on the 30th October, 1974 at the age of 83. An agriculturist and

teacher he took keen interest in the welfare of farmers and introduction of modern agricultural methods.

We deeply mourn the loss of these distinguished friends and I am sure the House will join me in expressing our condolences at the sad demise of these hon. friends.

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: The Members of this House will have an opportunity on another day to mourn the loss of Shri V. K. Krishna Menon. Notice will be given to you regarding the time and date.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have given notice for the suspension of the Question Hour to discuss the situation arising out of the formation of the Indo-US Joint Commission, and the occurrence in Shillong which were not covered in yesterday's meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for a while.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will now introduce the new Ministers before we take up anything else.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have pleasure in introducing to you and through you to the House my new colleagues: Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Cabinet Minister, who is Minister of Communications; the Minister of State. Shri Chandrajit Yadav, Minister of Steel and Mines; three of my colleagues who were previously Deputy Ministers and who are now Ministers of State: Shri A. C. George, the Minister of State in the Ministry of