

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Tuesday, December 12, 1974
Agrahayana 21, 1896 (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 Gokulananda Mohanty who passed away at Bhadrak in Orissa on the 4th December, 1974 at the age of 76.

Shri Gokulananda Mohanty was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during the years 1962 to 1967. He was also a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly during the years 1952 to 1957. He joined the Freedom Movement during his student days and suffered imprisonment on a number of occasions. A noted social worker, he devoted a major part of his life in rural uplift and social reforms.

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).

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian Ocean

*435 SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Lanka has also taken initiative to make the Indian Ocean a Peace-Zone; and

(b) the gist of the talks held between the Foreign Minister of India and Sri Lanka in that regard in November, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):

(a) Sri Lanka has played a leading part in promoting the proposal.

(b) During the visit of the Foreign Minister to Sri Lanka in November 1974, further exchanges on this subject took place. Both sides agreed to pursue their efforts to secure the objective of establishing the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

SHRI N. E. HORO: Sir, I had asked for the gist of the talk that is going on. I would like to know from Government, in view of the fact that the U.S. Senate has decided to curtail their expenditure on Diego Garcia—they have sanctioned 18 million dollars instead of 33 million dollars—what would be the reaction of the Government? Would not the demand or effort for keeping the Indian Ocean a zone of peace become a futile exercise?

Also, in view of the fact that the American and Russian leaders have agreed to some kind of a settlement