

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, March 27, 1971|Chaitra
6, 1893 (Saka)

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa (Kota)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

TWENTIETH REPORT OF U.P.S.C. AND STATEMENT RELATING TERE TO

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF STATE DEPTT. OF
ELECTRONICS, DEPTT. OF ATOMIC
ENERGY AND DEPTT. OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. C.
PANT) : On behalf of Shri Ram Niwas
Mirdha, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Public Service Commission for the period 1st April, 1969 to 31st March, 1970, under Article 323 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—24/71.]
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—25/71.]

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (WEST BENGAL), 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA
CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to present a
statement showing Supplementary Demands
for Grants in respect of the State of West
Bengal for 1970-71.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (ORISSA), 1970-71

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA
CHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to present a
statement showing Supplementary Demands
for Grants in respect of the State of Orissa
for 1970-71.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM (Tira-
chirapalli) : I had given a notice of a
motion of breach of privilege. Just now
somebody informed me that the Speaker
was pleased to reject it. I am not discussing
your rejection. But the rules are clear.
Even the rejection should be done on the
floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I have not allowed
it. You may discuss it with me in my
chamber. Let us follow the convention.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : Will
you give me an opportunity to discuss it
with you in your chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

—————
11.03 hours.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Paighat) : I
beg to move :

"That Shri G. G. Swell, a member of

this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad) : I second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a number of other motions, but as they are identical, may I put the first motion ?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Each must be moved because that will show that the entire opposition supports the motion.

MR. SPEAKER : They were not moved in the previous case. They are on the Order Paper.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : At least you can read them.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. There are similar motions by Shri Indrajit Gupta seconded by Shri Kalyanasundaram, by Shri A. B. Vajpayee seconded by Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi by Shri Manoharan seconded by Shri Sezhiyan, by Shri P. K. Deo seconded by Shri Bokai Nayak and by Shri S. N. Mishra seconded by Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh.

The first motion is moved by Shri A. K. Gopalan and seconded by Shri R. K. Sinha. There is only one name suggested in all the motions. The question is :

"That Shri G. G. Swell, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I declare that Shri G. G. Swell, a member of this House, has been unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Re-elected.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, re-elected. Now Shri Swell may come and occupy his seat, which is just to my left.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri G.G. Swell) then Occupied his Seat]

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF

ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr Speaker, may I in a very few words offer our hearty congratulations to Professor Swell on his re-election as Deputy-Speaker. We are specially glad that we find him restored to full health after a long illness and able to take up his normal schedule of work which, as you all know, is by no means a light load. A fine parliamentarian himself, he has made a mark as Deputy-Speaker in a comparatively short time through his earnestness, devotion and deep concern for upholding the privileges and responsibilities of individual members as well as of the House as a whole. He has proved to be a fine guardian of the parliamentary process and has been able to inspire wide-spread feeling of friendship and respect in the House. I assure him of the fullest co-operation from all members of this House.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Palghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we congratulate Shri Swell on his election as Deputy-Speaker. His name was unanimously proposed by the opposition and supported by the Government. That itself shows as Deputy-Speaker he will have the support and good-wishes of all the sections of the people in this House. I do not want to say anything more because, as long as I sit near him, I will be able to say whatever I want to tell him when he is sitting near me. So, while congratulating him I will only remind him of the critical situation that is developing in this country as well as outside. As and when some problems arise in this country rather suddenly it will be his responsibility to see that they are solved, if necessary, even by not strictly adhering to the rules and procedure. I again congratulate him on behalf of my party.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, I think this is the first time that the Deputy-Speaker is being sponsored and proposed by the opposition and supported by the Government. That shows the gesture of goodwill on the part of Government in spite of its massive victory and majority in this House.

So far as Shri Swell is concerned, I need not say much about him. He had established

himself as a distinguished Deputy-Speaker in the last Parliament. I had occasion to be with him at Cairo while he was one of the members of the Drafting Committee when we were invited by the United Arab Republic Parliamentary Association. There he made a mark and brought credit to our country as well as to the parliamentary institution.

Sir, he is a very good helper to you and conducts the House in your absence. He has conducted the House very ably in a way which has earned very good friendship and reputation of all the sections of the House.

I congratulate him on his unanimous re-election as the Deputy Speaker. On behalf of my party, I extend my whole-hearted support to him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the C.P.I. Group in Parliament, hail the unanimous re-election of Shri Swell as the Deputy Speaker. We have had our experience of Shri Swell as the Deputy Speaker in the past and how patiently he has received the brickbats and bouquets in this House. Even after becoming the Deputy-Speaker last time, Shri Swell had no swollen head. He was quite balanced and he was an emblem of patience and impartiality in his approach.

I congratulate him on behalf of my party and myself and I assure him the fullest cooperation as in the past.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate you, in the first instance, on having a deputy like Mr. Swell to conduct the proceedings of the House in your absence. It is in the second instance that I would like to congratulate Mr. Swell for having renewed and unanimous confidence of this House in him. It should indeed be a matter of great pride and satisfaction for him to get the confidence of the House. So far as the new Members of this House are concerned, the confidence is based on hope and, so far as the old Members of the House are concerned, it is based on solid experience.

Sir, the new Parliament has elected the two old faces for two important posts, that is, of the first servant of the House and the second servant of the House. This has given an impression that this is a House which can be a more realistic matter-of-fact than a romantic or an adventurist House. It does seem to me that this House is prepared to suffer the monotony of old faces for solid and efficient work.

So far as I see, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Deputy-Speaker has to bear most of the time the burden of House. So far as you are concerned, if I do not lose the grace of language I might say that the Speaker is in that sense a beast of the selective burden. In that way he will have all the sympathy that he can have. Most of the time, he will be sharing the burden of the House. I would only say that while we might stridently protest against some of your rulings, so far as Mr. Swell is concerned, we will have him all the warmth and hearty co-operation that we can give.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (राजापुर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रोफेसर जी जी स्वेल के फिर से सर्वमत से उपाध्यक्ष पद के लिये निर्वाचन पर मैं उनको हार्दिक बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। पिछली और चौथी लोक सभा में कुछ काल के लिए वह उपाध्यक्ष पद के लिए निर्वाचित हो गये थे। कद में छोटे होने के बावजूद इस पद की प्रतिष्ठा और गरिमा को उन्होंने अपनी कार्यकुशलता से बहुत ऊँचा किया। बीच में उनका स्वास्थ्य ठीक न होने की वजह से हम सब को बड़ी चिन्ता हो गई थी, किन्तु परमेश्वर की असीम कृपा से वह आज बिल्कुल स्वस्थ हैं और मैं पूरी आशा करता हूँ कि उनके द्वारा उपाध्यक्ष पद के कर्तव्य सफलता से सम्पन्न होंगे।

मैं अपने दल की ओर से उनको बधाई देता हूँ और पूरे सहयोग का आश्वासन देता हूँ।

DR. MELKOTE (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I say with pride that Mr. Swell has earned the good-will of the House in a manner that brought credit not merely

[Dr. Melkote]

to himself but to the whole House. The responsibility of a Deputy Speaker is a very arduous one and he has discharged it very ably. I congratulate him on his being elevated to this office and offer him our fullest co-operation.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I am very happy at what has happened. Swell is really a swell guy and I appreciate the fact that he will be presiding over this House for at least half the time.

Knowing how he performed in the last Lok Sabha, I don't think he will have any difficulty in performing in this Lok Sabha at all. Therefore, while I congratulate him on his election, I offer him no co-operation whatsoever. I am sure he won't need it.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated-Anglo-Indians) : Prof. Swell's re-election is a matter of special pleasure for me. You will recall that on the last occasion he was the nominee of the Independents Group and now I have the pleasure of escorting him to his chair.

Mr. Speaker, may I on this occasion very respectfully make a submission both to you and to Mr. Swell. I had the privilege of seeing this scene unfold in this House for the past 30 years—perhaps you may say too long, and even before Independence, and one thing I noticed was that in spite of the frustration of a colonial regime, parliamentary standards, even in pre-Independence days, were exemplary and those rather exemplary standards, Mr. Speaker, continued right down to 1967. And I say this with regret without pointing a finger, that from 1967 there was a landslide decline in parliamentary standards. You, Mr. Speaker, will have occasion to remember it. The image of Parliament was tarnished. The House and indeed the chair were held to ransom almost every day and you had to put up not only with the deliberate designs but often with deliberate insult. I think what has happened to-day has given us a chance to restore the effectiveness of parliamentary techniques and the image of Parliament. I know my friends here are particularly feeling a little sore on being numerically emasculated. But, Mr. Speaker, I think that you will now ensure that within the framework of these minimum standards of decorum, the

full effectiveness of the whole repertoire of the parliamentary techniques will be reasserted

May I very respectfully make two suggestions? That is, that the old convention will restore itself to the Speaker's eye. Mr. Speaker, that is that the eye of the Speaker was exercised with considerable discretion. It fell on Members because of their capacity to make a contribution. There was no mechanical coming down the line to choose speakers and our time was not allotted in terms of split minutes. When I was a younger member often I was called upon to introduce some important debates. So also Mr. Hridaynath Kunzru. If that convention could be restored, I think, Mr. Speaker, there will be a tremendous refurbishing of the image of the House.

Once again I congratulate Prof. Swell and wish him well in this responsible office.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very happy to have Prof. Swell back as the Deputy Speaker in this House

During the last session he discharged his responsibilities as Deputy Speaker very honourably, in upholding the rights and the privileges of the Members in this House. He was very considerate and sympathetic to the Opposition particularly. This time I will make a particular request to him, to show more sympathy and consideration to Opposition, in the face of the brute majority of the ruling party. Otherwise the activities in this House would become rather stale. I will again request him, indeed, to be a little bit more benevolently partial to the Opposition, to enliven the activities in this House.

I pray to God that he succeeds in upholding the dignity, honour and privilege of this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon Members, while joining you in felicitations, I have very great pleasure in extending my own congratulations to my old colleague Prof. Swell. His name is not new to us.

Before his election as Deputy Speaker of the Fourth Lok Sabha, he was a very prominent Parliamentarian, an excellent debator and essentially a man of scholarship

and academic achievements. He is equally known for his achievements in public life.

Last time we elected him as a representative when he was representing Assam. This time he is representing a new State of Meghalaya.

We are very happy that the representative of the new State of Meghalaya has been elected as our Deputy Speaker, a very honoured position in this House.

As you all know, he did so much work for the uplift of the down-trodden hill people that he is held in so much of esteem and affection by all those people. He is very much known for his sobriety, gentlemanliness, uprightness and gentleness of manners.

I am very happy that after a brief illness he has come back to this House as hale and hearty, and much stronger in health, I can say, now when he is Member of this Fifth Lok Sabha.

He stood well along with me all the trials and tensions of the last Lok Sabha. We had to face those strains and stresses together.

Very often, when a Speaker or a Deputy Speaker is elected in the House of Commons I found, their wives are also congratulated along with them. I congratulate Mrs. Swell along with him. Luckily we have very good patient wives also.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There was a lapse on our part; we failed to congratulate Mrs. Dhillon.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't worry; I am going to make up myself. After all the impatience and tensions and point-up anger in the House, the first person on whom you relieve everything is the wife. I am very happy that both these ladies are responsible for soothing us and looking after us. When you go back home she will refresh you over a cup of tea and you will again be fresh when you come back to the House next morning. So, those ladies are also to be thanked along with us.

Democracy and Parliamentary institutions are very much in trial. Mr. Mishra

has been Professor too. In his very literary style he said, we have to be more revolving. That was referred to by Mr. Frank Anthony when he mentioned about the Speaker's eye. The eye is one and there are so many people to catch it; we normally keep it revolving, and sometimes deliberately avoiding also.

SHRI PILOO MODY: But we do not have an one-eyed Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: But a gentleman of his volume makes four. I can assure hon. Members that while Mr. Swell was performing duties, I had not the least worry about anything going wrong in this House. By electing him we have not taken a risk.

Of course, as my hon. friend Shri S. N. Mishra has said, the monotony of faces will continue for five years. This monotony will be a little more for the old colleagues and a little less for the new Members.

SHRI PILOO MODY: She may want a change of faces.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot change my beard. Otherwise, I could have done it.

Parliament and democratic institutions are on a great trial, and they are in a great crisis. We cannot take Parliament and its deliberations and the participations made by the Members in the old conventional sense. The world is going too fast ahead of us, and we have to catch up with it. Great political, economic and social changes are going on. We shall have to see that Parliament adjusts itself to the rising aspirations of the people. The procedure and practices and conventions have also to be liberalised. We have to be a bit more generous in adapting the and also acting on them.

But, basically, I may bring it to the notice of hon. Members that no parliament can run unless the conventions and practices are kept up, unless the procedures and rules of business are followed, and unless the dignity and decorum of the House is maintained. I do hope that all hon. Members will co-operate with Mr. Swell and myself in this task.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Diamond Harbour) : In keeping with the aspirations of the people.

MR. SPEAKER : Aspirations are also very welcome, but not personal aspirations sometimes.

AN HON. MEMBER : But not perspiration.

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, perspiration we can avoid in this House.

It shall be our endeavour, I can safely say this on Prof. Swell's behalf also, to keep up a proper balance between the old and the new Members, between the young and the aged Members, between the handsome and the little uglier ones, and between the sexes also. We shall have to keep a very proper balance. We shall not try to a nay hon. Members. At the same time, we do expect that they will also understand the difficulties and the awkward situations sometimes in which the presiding officers are put.

Unless hon. Members appreciate this, we cannot run the House. Respect for each other is very essential not only amongst the Members but between the presiding officers and the Members. We are simply the servants of the House to carry out its commands and to conduct this House with greater dignity and efficiency which I assure hon. Members that we would not be found lacking in.

As I said last time, Prof. Swell and I have many things identical, and we have also many things which are far away. Both of us come from the minorities, and from the border States, but his community is not so aggressive as mine, and so, I have to be very careful about it.

I wish him a very very happy and peaceful time. I hope he will be very very cautious to give chances to the new members so that they may show themselves and develop their talents in debating ability.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : Cautious or generous ?

MR. SPEAKER : We both have been journalists; we have been in the teaching line; we have lawyers. But I do not think he has been an army officer which I was at one time.

I again convey my heartiest congratulations to Prof. Swell and also extend my congratulations to the whole House, to the member who proposed and the member who seconded, on electing such a good and sober gentleman as their Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts) : May I say, Sir, that I am deeply grateful to the House for this renewed confidence in me ? I feel particularly gratified that the election has not only been unanimous but that my name has been sponsored and supported by every section of the House, and that it has fallen to my lot to provide one of the rare occasions when the Government Benches and the Opposition can co-operate unreservedly in keeping with the best traditions of parliamentary practice.

I feel overwhelmed and humbled, but encouraged too. All I can say in return is that I shall ever endeavour to prove myself ever worthier of the confidence that the House has reposed in me.

As you know, this is the new House that the nation has called into commission. It is new, not only in the sense that it has been newly elected ; it is also new complexion, in tone and in tone in tenor. Of the 515 members at present, as many as 291 are new members, most of them belonging to the ruling party. I am sure there will be many a hidden talent that has got to be uncovered, and also that there is many a human dynamo that has got to be handled with care and fineness. I am sure we will get to know each other better in course of time.

But, many of us here also have had the opportunity of being members of the last House and we know what a convulsive time we had to pass through. Caught in the storm that lashed the House almost day after day, many of us were anguished and filled with apprehension about the survival of parliamentary democracy in this country. In retrospect, however, all those fears have proved unfounded and I am sure there are not many of us among us

who will not look to those days with a certain amount of nostalgia. Those were the days when the House was not only the mirror of the nation, as indeed it is today, but also a sensitive barometer of its moods and tantrums at a period that may be considered as a 'watershed' in its history. Those were the days when we witnessed democracy breaking itself loose from the precincts and confines of the elite, percolating to the grassroots, and imbuing the common man of India with a new awareness of his strength and importance. In such a situation, clashes of issues and personalities were inevitable. A meeting often sparkled with brilliance of which any Parliament in the world could be proud. It went to the credit of the House that despite all those clashes, it never overstepped its limits, and it went to the credit of the common man of India that he also was never swept off his feet, and when he was called to renew his mandate to the House he did it with a maturity and poise that took every one of us by surprise. In the context of what is happening in the rest of the world today, especially in countries neighbouring on ours, this action of the voter of India is of extraordinary significance.

From those exciting days to the present is like a journey through choppy sea to placid shores. Many of us looked to this occasion with great eagerness, but now that we have arrived, I am some what afraid of the prospect. I am afraid of the going being too smooth and easy, lest we sink into a sort of happy insensibility, lest we fail to resist the temptation to forget the clear and massive mandate that the people of India have given to this House. For, if we do so, it will be a disaster, and nobody can predict the direction that the nation will take thereafter. I am sure you will agree with me that we cannot afford to have that, and it must be our endeavour as Presiding Officers, as well as the endeavour of every hon. Member of this House, to measure up to the expectations of our people:

In the past our task was mainly to keep the House on an even keel. Today our task appears to be to try to look out and uncover hidden talents in the House, to devise some means by which these hidden

talents will have ample scope, so that the decisions that may emerge out of the discussions will prove equal to the exigencies of the situation and provide the country with the required leadership

What we shall lack in this House because of the absence of political clashes we shall have to make up by greater awareness, greater seriousness greater depth and greater articulation.

May I, in conclusion, thank you and the Prime Minister and the leaders of the various parties and groups for, the many kind things that they have said about me.

4.00 hrs

STATEMENT RE : RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST BENGAL

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swaran Singh.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I wish to rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Point of order on what ?

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : You are aware that under the rules the Minister has every right to make a statement *suo motu* on any important matter which he thinks fit. My point of order is this, that Calling Attention Notices were tabled by us ..

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contal) : In the morning there was a meeting of the Opposition leaders, and we all agreed that a statement should be made.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : It is an important matter, it is a delicate matter, I know it. But a discussion should be allowed otherwise it becomes a one-way traffic. Government makes a statement and we simply hear it. So, I would request you either to keep the Calling Attention Notices