

Education at present is not on the concurrent list, it is a State subject."

Nothing officially has come to us. This is a newspaper cutting which I got. Madhya Pradesh has given some opinions. Whatever those opinions may be, I am not at the present moment, for or against those opinions. The Central Government has to think about it. We adopted the Constitution. We are trying the Constitution. We are following the Constitution. If something is necessary to be amended, this is the time for doing it; we have got massive majority. If they think that something should be done, that should be done now.

Some people think that State Governments will be angry with us or that they will be displeased with us. I am sure that if this Bill is passed national integrity will be really saved. I would request the Central Government to bear in mind this suggestion and think over this and see that some such thing is done. The Sapru Commission wanted Government to wait for ten years and see the development according to their recommendations and then decide what should be done. That period is going to lapse by 1975. So, I would request Government to look into this matter which they are also thinking of. If the States do not want it, how can we force them to do it? I am not suggesting forcing anything on anybody. For the good of the whole of the country, the Central Government should call the Ministers from all States and try to convince them. Let us try, and if we fail, let us go on as we are going on now.

But I would request Government to look into the matter deeply. Since my old friends are requesting me that I should not press my motion for reference of this Bill to a Select

Committee, I would accept their advice. At the same time, I would request Government to bestow some thought on the views expressed by hon. friends here.

With these words, I would beg leave of the House to withdraw the Bill which I have moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First, I have to put Shri M. C. Daga's amendment to vote. The hon. Member is not present here.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: I withdraw the Bill.

17.38 hrs.

NETAJI NATIONAL ACADEMY
BILL

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Netaji National Academy to disseminate knowledge on various important subjects and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

I very much appreciate the patriotic outlook of these members of the Private Members Bills Committee who felt it as a national obligation, as a national duty, to give special priority to this Bill and assign it to A category. This Bill does not concern

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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any economic matter, it does not deal with any political issue, it is not even concerned with a contemporary issue, it does not even relate to a current issue. Essentially, this is a Bill with a spiritual appeal. I use this word 'Spiritual' because it is about a person whom the Father of the Nation described as a hypnotic personality, whom the other great leaders of the country described as an epical personality, the greatest revolutionary of our country. The members of the Committee felt that although homage and tribute in various ways have been paid to him, by the Indian people actually after the birth of our freedom, not in reality was anything done by the Government to pay our national tribute to the hero whom Sarojini Naidu described as 'the flaming sword of Indian patriotism'. Therefore, by giving the Bill 'A' category these members have acknowledged our national duty to Netaji.

A few years ago, when I visited Japan and was trying to gather information about Netaji, a number of well-known pressmen met me and asked me one very interesting question. They asked: 'Why are you so much interested about Chandra Bose? What will happen to your country if he comes back?' I was not prepared for the question. I paused for half a minute and then replied: "Do you understand the meaning of the words 'political earthquake'? There will be a political earthquake in India if Netaji Subhas Bose comes back to his country."

I narrate this story for the reason that I remember those days when we participated in the freedoms struggle of our country, those days from 1941 to 1945 at the time of the war when due to British conspiracy and the conspiracy of their collaborators of our country, there was an attempt to camouflage the revolutionary activities, the revolutionary exploits, of Netaji and his *Azad Hind Fouj*. When after the war, the Red Fort

trials started, they came to know about Netaji and INA, and the whole country was hypnotised. There was a magic spell cast; from one end of the country to the other, there were cries of 'Jai Hind', the whole sky was rent with 'Netaji Zindabad'. We remember these days of the great legendary figure. We remember all the legends that he created in the INA struggle, and that effect it had on the Indian Army, what effect it had on the British Indian Naval and Air Forces and others. I also want to remind the House that even many of our prominent political leaders, forgetting that they had a lawyer's robe donned on them, were laying with each other to go to the Red Fort to defend the case in the INA trial. There was a time when our leaders were vying with one another to pay their highest tribute, highest homage, to Netaji and the INA.

I remember the great speech that was made by Sardar Patel in Calcutta. With tears in his eyes, he said, "God, give back our Netaji." This is his language.

I want to draw your attention to what Mahatma Gandhi had said. Gandhiji never used the word "Subhas",—always he was using the word "Netaji." Great as he was, he understood the greatness of another great personality. Gandhiji said: "The hypnotism of the INA has cast its spell upon us. Netaji's name is one to conjure with. His patriotism is second to none." (I use the present tense intentionally.) His bravery shines through all his actions."

I also want to quote a few words from what Dr. Radhakrishnan has said. He said:

"Netaji's fearless courage, his reckless abandon, his suffering and sacrifice, have become a part of the legendary story in India's struggle for freedom. The future generation will read the amazing story of his

life with pride and reverence and salute him as one of the greatest heroes who heralded India's dawn."

Sir, when I used the word "epical" in relation to Netaji, it may appear to many that I being a humble follower of Netaji, who have had the privilege in his younger days to come in contact with him and to a certain extent knew him personally, perhaps. I have used hyperbolic words. But let us look at what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya had said about him. You will remember what happened before Tripuri; how Dr. Sitaramayya was defeated, and perhaps, but for the conflict between Netaji and Dr. Sitaramayya, Netaji would not have escaped from British India. I wish to quote from what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya had written:

"A new faith and fervour, yea, a new philosophy has been generated in millions of dried up and despairing hearts such as the show of monsoon would cover a fallow land with patches of green verdure. Subhas has proved to the world that Hindustan is still a land of valour and prowess, that India has still in him that sense of national honour for the preservation and perpetuation of which his forefather had shed their red blood. Subhas may be alive or dead in body, but his spirit and his name will endure long, yea, for even in history, in common with the names of Alexander and Darius, of Caesar and Hannibal, of Chengis Khan and Timur Lane, of Harold the last of the Barons and William the Conquerer, of Cromwell and Guy Fawkes, of Kaiser and other great leaders."

Dr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, almost in a similar language, paid similar tribute to Netaji. Therefore, it is not me but an important personality who was once a rival of Netaji, it was

indeed the greatness of Dr. Pattabhi Seetaramayya to appreciate the greatness in Netaji, it is he who has written the history of Indian National Congress and it is he who has described Netaji as an epical personality.

I want to say a few words to you about what the foreigners said about Netaji. When Netaji came from Germany to Tokyo for about 20 days Gen. Tojo did not see him. He thought that by showing an attitude of indifference to him perhaps he would be able to have more control over Netaji. Then Mr. Toyama a very respected leader of Japan persuaded Gen. Tojo to see Netaji without delay. It was for the first time that General Tojo met Netaji. Do you know what he said after that meeting? Dr. Radha Binodpal was one of the judges of the World Tribunal which tried Japanese war criminals and he did not agree with the British and American Judges while writing his separate judgment. After Tojo was hanged Dr. Pal went to see Mrs. Tojo and Mrs. Tojo told Dr. Pal "My husband after meeting Chandra Bose told me that to-day I have not only met one of the very great leaders of India but I have met a leader of the whole of Asia." The Government of Japan engaged their secret agents to send secret information about Netaji to Gen. Tojo. Maj. Takasha was set up by the Government of Japan to study the personality of Netaji who in a secret report, said: "The Indian leader appeared to me to be a super man. During three weeks of Inspection Tour of the active war fronts he had to replace three *aide-de-camp*, because they were tired and they were all overcome with exhaustion. Netaji worked 20 hours a day without rest, meeting local Indians, inspecting troops and finding about the facilities. No normal person could share such workload." In another report Gen. Taranche who was in charge of the whole Eastern Command of the Japanese Army observed.

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"This Indian leader lives 24 hours every day in complete disinterested dedication to the cause of his country emancipation. He is stoicism itself and has not shown any interest in the common pleasures of life."

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lorrel of Philippines. He is known in his country as the Father of Philippines. He was known as one of the elder statesmen of the Geneva days of the League of Nations and he had the privilege of meeting all important personalities of the democratic world of those days. I had a long discussion with him about Netaji and his personality. When I was coming out of his house I asked him if he had any message to our country about Netaji. He paused for a minute and said: "Of all the great men I have ever met, Chandra Bose was the greatest." Look what he said: "he was not an Indian but an elder statesman of a different country."

There is no need for me to mention about all these certificates of greatness of Netaji from these great personalities. But it is for me to remind the House that but for Netaji and but for INA, there would have been no early freedom to our country. Can you show me any example in the world of any revolutionary leader who plunged himself into immense and unknown hazards and faced so many risks in his revolutionary career and traversed so many countries, three or four continents without caring for himself as Netaji did? Can you show me any example anywhere in the world of any revolutionary in any country like this? Netaji was very impatient to go to South-east Asia. There was no possibility of air communication and he could not go by ship because he had to cross the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean, which were full of British and American ships. Netaji made a fantastic proposal to the German Government: He said, "I will go to South-east Asia by a submarine". What a fantastic pro-

posal it was to cross in a submarine the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean! It was to take more than three months—95 days—to go from Kiel to Singapore. In those days Admiral Doenitz was known as the highest expert in submarine warfare in the whole world. He said, "This is a fantastic idea. You have less than 50 per cent chance of survival and reaching Singapore." Do you know what Netaji replied? He said, "well, if there is 5 per cent chance, I will take that chance." And he took that chance. It has never happened anywhere else in the world. In his bid to reach Singapore he went in a submarine and in course this perilous journey near the east coast of Madagascar, he transhipped himself from one German submarine to another Japanese submarine. For 48 hours, the two submarines were struggling very hard all the crew were terrified because the American and British planes and warships were moving about and the sea was very rough. Netaji did not care. In a rubber boat, in that rough and stormy sea, he moved from one submarine to another. Such a thing never happened, in mid-sea, in a stormy sea, in a wavy sea, surrounded by enemy, a revolutionary transhipped himself from one submarine to another. When I use the words that Netaji the greatest hero or greatest revolutionary, I do not want to belittle the role of any revolutionary of any country in the world. Each revolutionary has his own place and role in history. But can you recollect any example of such bravery and heroism, with complete abandon of his own personal consideration? I am trying to recall all these things because we have proved to be a nation not grateful to our greatman, our greatest revolutionary. The greatness of a country is not counted by the great men she produces. But the greatness of a nation lies in how much the people of the country, the powers that rule the country, can appreciate the greatness of the great men, in how much

they can assimilate and emulate the greatness of the great men and pay their tribute and homage not for themselves only, but for the whole nation, for the present and also for the future.

18 hrs.

After the achievement of independence, what was expected of our grateful nation? I am not referring to the public. I know Netaji is an idea for the common people; I am referring to the Government. For two decades not even a street in Delhi was named after Netaji, what to speak of other tributes to him. I will be doing an injustice if I do not admit that there is a change of attitude in the Government today. I will be failing in my duty if I do not appreciate that Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has taken some steps to pay our national tribute to Netaji. But these steps are,—I suppose I can use the world niggling—steps in a nig-

gardly way to appreciate or to pay our tribute to the greatness of Netaji. Just to rename a Sports Association as Netaji Association, or just a dockyard as Netaji Dockyard, or a cruiser or a destroyer after Netaji, is a niggling way of paying tribute to him. That is the reason why I was trying to bring this Bill before the House. It is not a political issue, it is not a party issue. We have to account for ourselves what we have done for this great man to our posterity, to our future history. We do not want to be called an ungrateful nation which deliberately avoided paying adequate national homage to the greatest national hero of our freedom days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may continue his speech when this Bill is taken up next time.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 30, 1973/Sravana 8, 1895 (Saka).