

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Friday, April 25, 1986a/Visakha 5, 1908  
(SAKA)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Prafulla Chandra Borooah who was a Member of the Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1957-67 representing the Sibsagar constituency of Assam.

An able Parliamentarian, he took active interest in the proceedings of the House. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Borooah participated in the freedom struggle from an early age and suffered imprisonment.

A well known social worker, he dedicated himself to the removal of untouchability. Shri Borooah was an active trade unionist. He was associated with several trade unions and educational and cultural organisations in various capacities.

Shri Borooah passed away at Sibsagar town on 28 February, 1986 at the age of 86 years.

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.

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The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

*(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)*

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Claim of NTC Against National Consumer Co-Operative Federation

\*803. DR. V. VENKATESH :

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has a large sum outstanding against the National Consumers Co-operative Federation and also one of its subsidiaries ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether a negotiated settlement is proposed to be worked out ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) and (b). The total outstanding dues payable by NCCF to various subsidiary corporations of NTC were about Rs. 14.66 crores as on 28.2.1986,

(c) & (d). The payment of amounts by NCCF for goods supplied to NTC subsidiaries is discussed and reviewed from time to time. However, NTC (WBABO) has filed a civil suit against NCCF/Adarsh Bazar Wholesale & Retail Consumer Cooperative Stores Ltd, Patna and others since outstanding amounts could not be recovered through negotiations.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, the outstanding dues from the NCCF are about Rs. 14 crores. Actually this NCCF also comes under the purview of the Government of India but the hon. Minister has said that the NTC of West Bengal has gone to the court to settle the matter. Actually, the CMD of the Calcutta NTC and the Commercial Manager of the NTC, West Bengal are in collusion with some vested interests and to delay the matters they have gone to the court. Though NCCF and NTC come under the Government of India, I cannot understand why they are treating this NCCF as a private agency and are fighting in the court of law. I cannot understand these delaying tactics, particularly of the CMD and the Commercial Director of the NTC, West Bengal. I would like to know what action is going to be taken by the Government, particularly against these persons.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, in the first instance, I would like to mention that this Rs. 14.66 crores represents the cost of the controlled cloth which is a normal thing for about 4-5 week's supply of controlled cloth. The other matter about which the West Bengal subsidiary has gone to the court is for about Rs. 2 crores representing the cost of the non-controlled cloth which was supplied to Adarsh Bazar, which is an associate of NCCF. All possible efforts were made for settling the matter by negotiations but unfortunately the NCCF did not agree for any payment. Therefore, there was no option left but to go to the court because it was getting time-barred.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, I am not at all happy with the answer given by the hon. Minister. But with all that, I am

asking a categorical question from him. The NTC in this country is a temple of corruption in all respects and the common man's money is being wasted like anything. Therefore, I want to ask a straight question from the hon. Minister whether there is any time-bound programme to renovate this temple of corruption in this country.....

*(Interruptions).*

AN HON. MEMBER : Not temple of corruption.

MR. SPEAKER : If it is already a den of corruption.....—

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You say den of corruption.

DR. V. VENKATESH : I stand corrected, Sir. What I wanted to say is den of corruption.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Nowadays temples have also become dens of corruption.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : We have no difference with the hon. Member regarding the need for eradication of corruption from the NTC and so on. We are making all possible efforts in that direction and for the information of the hon. Member I would like to say that only last week the services of two Directors of the West Bengal Subsidiary have been terminated. *(Interruptions)* Also, I would like to add that immediately I got letters from some Members of Parliament asking why services have been terminated.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who are they ?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he is making earnest efforts to eradi-

cate corruption. He has also stated that he has terminated the services of two Directors. We are glad to know this. I would like to state that the cloth that was supplied to Adarsh Bazar Stores Ltd. by the NTC was openly sold in the Calcutta market and bungling to the tune of crores of rupees has been done in this transaction. Only they know why and how cloth found its way in the market. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the very officer who exposed this corruption and proved this embezzlement worth crores of rupees and black-listed the Adarsh Bazar Stores Ltd. has been put under suspension? The one who has indulged in corruption and has embezzled money still continues to hold office. The newspapers had also carried this report. Even two or three Members of Parliament have written about it, but no reply has so far been given.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you think should the people indulging in such acts.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, whenever a person is removed from service, such an action is not taken without paying due consideration to the matter. Of the persons who had supplied cloth to Adarsh Bazar Stores Ltd., three persons have been found guilty during the inquiry and put under suspension. Inquiry against them is being held. They cannot escape punishment on this score.

MR. SPEAKER : She says that those who were found guilty have been allowed to go unpunished whereas the one who exposed the guilty has been put under suspension.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The one who has been put under suspension was not involved in this case. instead, he was involved in another case of corruption.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : They have not been able to bring any evidence against those who indulged in corruption.

He only knows what has been told to him by his officials.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Regarding controlled cloth, it appears from the answer given by the Minister that NCCF is to pay Rs. 14 crores and odd to the NTC. Is it because of the recent change of policy ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is strange state of affairs that Rs. 14 crores were paid without examining anything.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : What happened was this. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the policy of distribution of controlled cloth has recently been changed. The subsidy element which was paid through NCCF has been shifted to NTC. The NTC is pricing controlled cloth at the same market price rate forgetting the subsidy element. And therefore it is not sold. Will the Government enquire into the question of stockpiling of controlled cloth in various State level godowns which are not sold on account of defective production and policy change of NTC ? Will it be taken back by the NTC and the accounts will be adjusted and the cooperatives relieved of the responsibility of the stocks ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : May I reply to your query or this ?

MR. SPEAKER : I would like you, Mr. Minister, to go into it because this has been asked by several Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The entire Board of the Subsidiary had gone into the whole question and they came to the conclusion that this was the responsibility of the officers concerned and therefore their services were termina-

ted. But I can also say that some people can always find some excuse or the other.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this issue.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, my question has not been answered.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : As regards your question about Rs. 14.66 crores, I have already said that this represents the supply of controlled cloth for a period of 4 to 5 weeks and that is the regular payment received and supplies are made. There is nothing very unusual about it.

As regards the supply and distribution of the controlled cloth, the hon. Member knows that distribution is done by the NCCF and the Supply Department in the States. If there is any complaint about any defective cloth which has been received at any depot, certainly it should be brought to our notice and we will take it up with the subsidiary concerned and see that the matter is rectified.

#### Items for Production in Handloom Sector

\*805. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to enlarge the list of items for production in the handloom sector and ensure its strict enforcement ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government of India have already issued a Notification reserving 22 items for

exclusive production in the handloom sector under the new "Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985." For stricter enforcement, three Regional Offices of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms have already been opened at Delhi, Pune and Coimbatore.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply and otherwise also the new Textile Act which has been passed in 1986 envisages encouragement to the occupation of traditional weavers that provides livelihood to crores of people. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to give some subsidy to provide new equipment and technology to the handloom weavers ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, no arrangement is being made so far as the question of giving subsidy is concerned. But, we have made arrangements to ensure that they produce quality cloth so that it fetched a higher price. Therefore, they are being given training in the manufacture of polyester cloth and for this purpose they are being supplied duty-free polyester.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The question is of technology.....

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : We have 24 such weavers centres where they are imparted this training.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Sir, I do not want to be drawn into a discussion, but the arrangement that has been made by the Government.....

MR. SPEAKER : You can do so.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : The existing arrangement has not benefited the weavers centres. They remain without work for days together for want of yarn. I do not want to say much on this, but you had made an arrangement