

LÖK SABHA

*Tuesday, December, 16, 1969, Agrahayana
25, 1891 (Saka).*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

(Death of Shri Girraj Saran Singh)

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Girraj Saran Singh, who passed away this morning at New Delhi after a brief illness at the young age of 47 years.

He was a sitting Member of this House from Mathura constituency of U.P. He was also a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952 to 1957. He was a Minister in the Bharatpur State during the years 1946 to 1948. He was a man of a very affable nature and a pleasing personality. He used to take quite an active part in the proceedings of the House.

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 PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all saddened to hear of the passing away this morning of Shri Girraj Saran Singh, one of our colleagues in this hon. House. He had been ailing for some time, and we all shared the deep anxiety of his family. Now what we had feared, has happened.

His association with this House dates back to the First Lok Sabha, to which he came after experience of the defence services and as a Minister in Bharatpur State. He was re-elected in 1967. He was one of our relatively quieter and friendlier colleagues, who nevertheless made his presence felt. So, we shall miss him.

On behalf of this House and on my own behalf, offer our heart-felt condolences and request you to convey our feelings of sorrow to his wife, Shrimati Pamela Singh, and his elder brother, the Maharaja of Bharatpur, who is also a member of this hon. House.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join in expressing our deep sense of sorrow and grief at the passing away of Shri Girraj Saran Singh. As you said, he was a sitting Member of the House and he was previously connected with the defence forces. Whenever he spoke in this House, more particularly on defence matters, he made a massive contribution. In this part of the country, particularly in Western U.P., he was widely known. As a young legislator, he made a good contribution in the House. On behalf of the opposition and on our own behalf, I request you to convey our deep sense of sorrow and grief to the bereaved family.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (भोपाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दो दिन पूर्व मैंने अखबार में पढ़ा था कि जिस खून की ज़रूरत थी, वह आया हुआ है और उन के स्वास्थ्य में सुधार दिखाई देने लगा है। मुझे कल्पना भी नहीं थी कि इतनी जल्दी मृत्यु उन को हम से छीन लेगी—यह एक घबका मृत्यु ने हम को दिया है। आखिर मृत्यु तो हर एक को कभी न कभी लेती ही है, किन्तु समय में नहीं आता है और दुर्भाग्य इस बात का है कि इस सब के अन्दर जब से यह अधिवेशन शुरू हुआ है, ऐसा यह दुःखद समाचार फिर से हम को सुनने को मिला है। वह मेरे साथ यहाँ बैठने थे। वैसे बड़े शान्त स्वभाव के थे, बीच-बीच में कार्यवाही में हिस्सा लेते थे, आज वह हम से बिछुड़ गये—यह दुःख का आघात ही है। मैं अपने दल तथा अपनी ओर से हार्दिक सम्बेदना प्रकट करना हूँ तथा आपके द्वारा उन के परिवार को हमारी सम्बेदना सूचित करने की प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : On behalf of my party, I associate myself with the condolences expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Congress Opposition and the other colleague. It is a great pity that we today miss Shri Saran Singh, who was very popular whenever we came in contact with him. Though he came from a royal family, he was a very keen parliamentarian and very popular with all the members and quite affable and friendly in his manners. As pointed out by my colleagues here, he evinced very keen interest in defence and during the budget debate his speech on defence used to impress members because of his depth of knowledge and the seriousness which he brought to bear upon the subject. I once again associate myself with the deep sense of sorrow that we feel at the untimely death of a valuable colleague of ours.

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : On behalf of my party, I associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by you, Sir, and others on the floor of the House and I request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत दुख की बात है कि हमारे सदन के माननीय सदस्य श्री गिर्राजशरण सिंह का देहान्त हो गया है। मैं अपनी तरफ से तथा मेरे दल की तरफ से चाहूंगा कि आप उन के शोक सन्तप्त परिवार को, उनकी पत्नी को, हमारा दुःखद सन्देशा भेज दें।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara) : Sir, we all feel sorry that we lost such a likable and sociable colleague of ours, Shri Girraj Saren, who was a member of the present Lok Sabha. I associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by all others. We condole his death and we hope you will convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह (भिण्ड) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, महाराजकुमार गिर्राजशरण सिंह की मृत्यु से हमारे दल को बहुत गहरा दुःख हुआ है। मैं आपसे प्रार्थना

करता हूँ कि हमारे दल की सम्बेदना महाराज भरतपुर, रानी साहिबा और उन के परिवार को पहुंचा देने की कृपा करें। महाराज कुमार के निधन से स्वतन्त्र पार्टी का तो अहित हुआ ही है, लेकिन सारे विपक्ष का काफी नुकसान हुआ है, क्योंकि विपक्ष के दल में एकता स्थापित करने के लिये वे बहुत दिनों से बड़े प्रयत्नशील थे।

मैं पुनः उन की अमर आत्मा के प्रति हार्दिक श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

श्री शिवचरण लाल (फिरोजाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री गिर्राजशरण सिंह जी का मेरे क्षेत्र, आगरा तथा मथुरा से बड़ा गहरा सम्बन्ध था, वे लोक सभा के सदस्य थे। अचानक उन की मृत्यु का समाचार सुन कर मुझे बड़ा भारी धक्का लगा है। मेरा क्षेत्र, मथुरा, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश तथा राजस्थान का इलाका उन के चले जाने से शून्य हो गया है। वह एक ऐसे महान आदमी थे जो कम बातें करते थे, लेकिन जितना बोलते थे, उन की वाणी वीरता से भरी हुई होती थी, जोरदार होती थी। मैं भारतीय क्रान्ति दल की तरफ से और अपनी ओर से संवेदना प्रकट करते हुए आप से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि हमारी शोक-सम्बेदना उन के परिवार तक पहुंचा दें।

SHRI RANCA (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a heavy loss sustained by this House, the country and, more especially, by our party. I wish to thank you, the Prime Minister and all our friends in the House who have spoken about him and his services. Our sympathies go to his devoted wife, Pamela Singhji, who has looked after him so well throughout. It is most unfortunate that he passed away at such an early and young age. He was so useful in the House. His observations and suggestions on defence matters were very constructive and were found to be useful by the Ministers concerned.

He came from that famous Jat family of rebels and revolutionaries who rose in revolt on behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

and this area during the time of Aurangzeb for the protection of the civic and fundamental rights of our people. It was out of that revolution that the Bharatpur State took its birth. He was one of the distinguished scions of that family which has contributed quite a number of legislators to this House as well as to the Rajasthan Assembly.

Girrajji was powerful and popular in UP, Rajasthan and Haryana also. I happened to be associated with him in a number of meetings when I was able to see how great was the influence that he wielded over the kisan masses of these three States.

He belonged to the Royal Air Force and distinguished himself there. Afterwards, when the Bharatpur State called upon his services, he served there as a minister for three years and became very popular. So popular was he not only in Bharatpur but also in UP that he came to be selected from UP again and again. He was a Member of this House between 1952 and 1957 and again this time. On that occasion, I think, he was an independent and this time he was a Swatantra. From an independent he progressed to Swatantra but he never bothered to join the ruling party. So loyal was he to the spirit of his family which brought into existence the famous Bharatpur State out of the fire of revolution of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

He was a good friend of all of us, as has been testified by so many of our leaders of parties. He was a specially devoted Member of our party and a great personal friend of each one of us in the party as well as outside in this House.

It is a loss which it would be very difficult indeed for us to get over. We express our thanks to all other Members who have expressed their sympathy with us and with his family. I hope, God would grant him peace.

MR. SPEAKER : We will stand in silence for a short while to express our sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect(Interruption).

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : Sir, before you adjourn the House, may I know what would happen to the Resolution of Shri Imam which we had postponed for today?

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot tell you today; I will let you know tomorrow. It will have to be brought up in the Business Advisory Committee. I am sorry that every time this Resolution comes up there is something or the other.

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the House stands adjourned for the rest of the day and will meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

11.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 17, 1969/Agrahayana 26, 1891 (Saka).