

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 7, 1969 | Valsakha 17, 1891
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Prof. Krishna Chandra who passed away at Meerut on the 30th April, 1969, at the age of 74.

Prof. Krishna Chandra was a member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during the years 1952-62.

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*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Tea

*1533. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts have been made to sell blended and packeted tea to foreign countries in addition to the usual sale of tea;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to enter markets outside the U.K. with

tea in Indian packets exported directly by India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: So far as the tea trade is concerned, the interest of the British auctioneers and others generally is in the generic promotion of tea but not in the promotion of sale of package tea for obvious reasons. These interests control 98 per cent of the trade. Out of the six auctioneers in Calcutta, four control 98 per cent of the entire trade in tea. Even in the Tea Board as constituted, out of 25 non-official members, 8 are Britishers. What is Government's policy in regard to the tea trade? Is there any proposal to Indianise the auctioning agencies, the brokers?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The question relates to the export of package tea. As for the auctions, how much is in Calcutta and how much in London, we have given the information. Now more than 50 per cent of the auctions is done in Calcutta. As to how much is done by British firms, although the sterling companies or firms are owned by the British interests, they function under our regulations here. That is a different matter. I am surprised he said that on the Tea Board, 8 members are British nationals. I do not think that is correct.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: The strong tie of Indian tea with the London market is suicidal to our interests. It has also been admitted that the Britishers show some preference for East African tea now. This may ultimately lead to the end of our tea trade. Why is it not possible to make