

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Eighth Session, 1969/1891 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(Fourth Series, Vol. XXXII—8th Session, 1969)

No. 21—Tuesday, August 19, 1969/*Sravana* 28, 1891 (*Saka*)

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LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, August 19, 1969/Sravana 28,
1891 (Saka).*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

(Shri Humayun Kabir

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is with a heavy heart that I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Humayun Kabir who suddenly passed away at New Delhi last evening.

Shri Kabir was a sitting Member of this House from Basirhat constituency of the State of West Bengal. Earlier he was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1956 to 1962 and of the Third Lok Sabha during the years 1962-67. He was Minister of Civil Aviation during the years 1957-58, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs during the years 1958-63 and Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals during the years 1963-66. He was a great educationist and writer and held distinguished positions in the field of education. He was an active member, a good debater and a very amiable person. He had been coming to the House till the other day and no one knew that this great patriot and scholar would be snatched away from us so soon.

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 AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Prof. Humayun Kabir's death comes as a shock to all sec-

tions of the House. We shall miss a patriot and an irrepressible champion of public causes. His personality was many-sided and he made his mark in many fields. Quite early in his life he earned a reputation for scholarship and for eloquence. He was a poet, a novelist and a teacher who is remembered with regard by his students. He was prominent in the student movement and in the trade union movement. He had the privilege of working closely with Maulana Azad and other national leaders. After Independence, as you pointed out, Mr. Speaker, he served the Education Ministry with distinction, first as Adviser and Secretary, and later as Minister. He also guided two other Ministries. Whatever he did was marked by zeal, drive and purpose. The manner in which he organised the Tagore Centenary Celebrations is an instance of his energy. He did not allow the legislator and administrator in him to shut out the scholar and the writer. Whatever the subject, be it history, literature or philosophy, he wrote with distinction. In this House we have heard him defend his causes with courage and conviction.

An intellectual and a devoted son of our motherland has passed away and I request you, Mr. Speaker, to communicate our grief to his bereaved family.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, I join you and the Prime Minister in what you have said about the many sided personality of our friend, Humayun Kabir. I had the honour of working with him in the Progressive Writers' Association of the late thirties when we were all fighting against the British. He was a great historian and scholar. A very great democrat, his conception of democracy has been very well illustrated in the article he contributed to that authoritative volume published by UNESCO on Democracy. He illustrated it by his practical exemplification of his faith in democracy during the past two and a half

[Shri Ranga]

years, when his part of the country was going through great troubles, whether to be on the side of parliamentary democracy or another kind of democracy where there would be only one party regime. He paid a very bitter price also for that, and the sight of him with so many limbs injured as he came into this House is still fresh in our memories.

As a true educationist, he distinguished himself not only as a Minister but also as a scholar and a teacher. His associations with Andhra are very intimate. He started, I think, his academic career along with my friend Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao as Reader in the Andhra University; and after that, he did many good things, and one of the most noteworthy is the work he did for the development of the Salar Jung Museum. It is a famous museum, but it was found in a very bad condition there in Hyderabad. He turned it into a national museum. First he persuaded the Andhra Government to place adequate funds and also the Union Government, and today, it is one of the treasures of our national heritage.

The work that he did for the success of the centenary celebrations of Gurudev Tagore will always stand to his credit, and if Gurudev Tagore was to be popular all over the world, from generation to generation, his works had to be familiarised; and Humayun Kabir, through his work in the celebration committee, has given a momentum to the study of Gurudev's writings and books all over the world, especially through the organisation of Tagore Pavilions, Bhavans, and so on,

Sir, I miss him very much because he had proved to be a very good colleague, a very good friend and a great scholar. I hope we will all join in sending our condolences to the members of his bereaved family.

श्री बलराज मधोक (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रोफेसर हुमायूँ कबिर के आकस्मिक निधन से हमारे देश के राजनैतिक जीवन में एक बहुत बड़ा खला पैदा हो गया है। उन के साथ मेरा सम्पर्क दूसरी लोक सभा में हुआ और तब से वह सम्बन्ध लगातार बढ़ता ही

गया। उन्होंने जिस ढंग से अपने जीवन में विद्वत्ता, ऐकेडेमिक परसूट्स, और राजनैतिक कार्य को जोड़ा और दोनों का समन्वय किया, उस की आज देश को बहुत आवश्यकता है। हम लोग जो राजनीति में आते हैं, उन में से अधिकतर इन्टेलेक्चुअल परसूट्स को भूल जाते हैं और इस प्रकार इन दोनों में जो डाइ-बोर्स हो जाता है, उस के कारण राजनीति को भी धक्का लगता है और इन्टेलेक्चुअल जीवन को भी धक्का लगता है। श्री कबिर ने जिस प्रकार दोनों को जोड़ा और जिस ढंग से दोनों को साथ चलाया, वह अनुकरणीय है।

आज उनका निधन और भी अधिक दुःखादायक है, क्योंकि वह सही अर्थों में एक डेमोक्रेट, लोकतन्त्रवादी थे। आज जब कि देश में लोकतन्त्र के लिए बहुत से खतरे पैदा हो रहे हैं, वह एक बहादुर की तरह बंगाल में, और सारे देश में, लोकतन्त्र के पक्ष में संघर्ष कर रहे थे। आज देश को उन जैसे लोकतन्त्रवादी की अत्यन्त आवश्यकता थी। परन्तु ईश्वर का नियम अटल है। वह हमारे बीच में नहीं रहे। हम उन के गुणों का अनुकरण करें, यही उन के प्रति हमारी श्रद्धांजलि हो सकती है।

मैं अपने और अपने दल की ओर से उन के प्रति अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और उन के निधन पर अपनी संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ।

SHRI MANOHARAN (Madras North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of the DMK Party in Parliament, I associate myself fully with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and the leaders of other political persuasions on the sudden and unexpected demise of Professor Humayun Kabir. He was a prolific writer, an erudite scholar, an outstanding historian, an able administrator and, what is more, a true and patriotic son of this country. The sudden and unexpected passing away of Professor Kabir is a loss which is irreparable. Sir, on behalf of my party, I request you to convey our hearty

condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : Mr. Speaker, I was stunned last night, as so many of us were, when I got the shocking news of the sudden passing away of Professor Humayun Kabir. It was only last Saturday that he and I met and talked in the Central Hall of Parliament, and it is difficult to believe that he is no longer with us.

Professor Humayun Kabir and I had known each other nearly all our lives and, in spite of our having followed different ways and having many political differences, which particularly got rather acute in the last few years, the friendship that we had for each other had never waned.

As everyone knows, he had a brilliant and glittering academic career in Calcutta and Oxford, and it was only by a very short margin that in a difficult period for Indians abroad he missed being elected the first Indian President of the Oxford Union. He was one of the most versatile men in our country, and he switched over from literature to philosophy without the slightest lessening of his academic excellence in those subjects.

We know the rest of his career. But I am glad the Prime Minister as well as Professor Ranga have referred to Professor Kabir's work in connection with the Rabindranath Tagore Centenary. It is a very happy accident that at that point of time Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister and Professor Kabir was in charge of the celebrations in regard to that centenary.

I do not have very much to say, and there is no need either, in regard to his political life. It is an open book. We have all seen him as a most highly talented person, as a remarkable man on any computation, and his loss is something which the country will find extremely hard to make up.

On my own behalf as well as on behalf of the party which I represent in this House, I wish you, Sir, to convey to the bereaved family our heartiest condolences.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह एक बड़े दुख की बात है कि कूर काल ने हम से प्रोफेसर हुमायूँ कबीर को छीन लिया। मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से उन को ज्यादा नहीं जानता था लेकिन तीन चार महीने पहले मैं और मधोक साहब उन के साथ एक सिम्पोजियम में गए थे। भले ही बंगाल की स्थिति के बारे में इन के साथ हमारी असहमति थी लेकिन मैंने देखा कि प्रोफेसर कबीर एक चिन्तन और विचार को ले कर के बहुत साहसिकता के साथ बोलते थे और यह एक उच्च कोटि के बुद्धिजीवी थे। राजनीति में रह कर के उन के लेख, कविता और इतिहास के क्षेत्र में उन का जो योगदान है उस का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है और वह कभी उस में योगदान करना भूलते नहीं थे। मैं अपनी और अपने दल की ओर से उन के शोक संतप्त परिवार के प्रति समवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ।

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party I express our sorrow at the demise of Professor Humayun Kabir. We also join in sending our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of my party, associate with the noble sentiments that have been expressed by you, the hon. Prime Minister and other leaders of other parties in this House.

I had the proud privilege of sitting at Professor Humayun Kabir's feet as a pupil in the Calcutta University and I know what a brilliant teacher he was; as a matter of fact, it was he who introduced us to Caudwell's famous book called *Illusion and Reality*.

I liked him for certain other things also. He was a courageous man. When the two nation theory was rampant in this country, Professor Humayun Kabir had the courage to oppose it openly. He was a bold man although his life was threatened on many an occasion.

He was a progressive in the sense that he gave a fillip to the progressive movement in

[Shri Hem Barua]

this country that was ushered in by the late lamented Jawaharlal Nehru.

He was a brilliant writer and the contributions that he made to Bengali literature are very substantial. As a matter of fact I would say that he was the pioneer of the modernist movement in contemporary Bengali literature.

He taught us Wordsworth in the Calcutta University. When I told him, "Sir, you taught us Wordsworth", he told me in his jocular mood, "Taught or mistaught you!" I remember that. I remember how he explained Wordsworth's verses and how he read out a passage from Caudwell's *Illusion and Reality* in the class.

Professor Humayun Kabir was a bold man; he was a brilliant writer; at the same time, he was the finest expression of all the beautiful things in Indian culture. I, on behalf of our party, pay respects to the memory of this noble son of India and, at the same time, convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

His wife also joined the revolutionary movement. The whole family was in the revolutionary movement. We remember all these things with respect and, at the same time, with a sense of sorrow in our hearts. We convey our deepfelt sorrow at the sad demise of this noble son of India and convey our condolences to the family. I, on behalf of my party, join you, the Prime Minister and other speakers in the expression of the noble sentiments about the memory of this great son of India.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रोफेसर हुमायूँ कबीर के निधन से जहां देश की संसद की ओर उन के परिवार की बहुत बड़ी क्षति हुई है वहां भारतीय क्रांति दल की भी यह एक बहुत बड़ी क्षति है। प्रोफेसर कबीर भारतीय क्रांति दल की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी के सदस्य थे और बंगाल में जो भारतीय क्रांति दल का कार्य नये सिरे से प्रारम्भ हुआ था उस की देख रेख हुमायूँ कबीर ही कर रहे थे। मुझे भारतीय क्रांति दल की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी में उन के विचारों को निकट से

देखने का और सुनने का प्रसंग आया। प्रोफेसर कबीर लोकतन्त्र में जैसी उन की आस्था थी उसी आधार पर यह चाहते थे कि यह नया बना हुआ राजनैतिक दल बहुत मजबूती से अपने कार्य को निभाए। एक बात विशेष रूप से जो मैंने प्रोफेसर कबीर के अन्तिम दिनों में देखी वह यह कि पश्चिमी बंगाल की घटनाओं से उन को बहुत कष्ट था कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में जो उतार चढ़ाव आ रहे हैं वह बहुत ही चिन्ताजनक हैं। इसी तरह राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव को लेकर पिछले दस पन्द्रह दिनों में हमारे देश में जो उतार चढ़ाव चले इस पर भी उन्हें बहुत दुख था। कभी कभी जब निकट बैठ कर उन की बातें सुनने का मौका मिलता था तो पता लगता था कि यह व्यक्ति कितना लोकतन्त्र में आस्था रखने वाला है और लोकतन्त्र के संरक्षण के लिये किस प्रकार से अपने विचार देश को देना चाहता है, किस प्रकार लोकतन्त्र को एक नई दिशा देना चाहता है। आज उन के निधन से मैं समझता हूँ कि लोकतन्त्र का एक मजबूत खम्भा गिर गया। प्रो० हुमायूँ कबीर के इस निधन से आज देश को जो क्षति हुई है—साहित्यिक क्षेत्र के लिये भी और राजनीतिक क्षेत्र के लिये भी—वह एक अपूरणीय क्षति मानी जायगी।

मैं अपनी ओर से तथा अपने दल—भारतीय क्रांति दल—की ओर से प्रो० कबीर के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

श्री ब्रम्बुलगनी डार (गुडगांव) : सदर साहब, भारत के इस सच्चे सपूत के गुजर जाने पर आपके द्वारा भारत के 53 करोड़ बहन-भाइयों से और खससन बंगाल के बहन-भाइयों से, अपना इजहारे-अफसोस करता हूँ और उस सच्चे सपूत के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि पेश करता हूँ।

सदर साहब, मुझे खुशी है कि प्रो० हुमायूँ कबीर ने भारत की संस्कृति, भारत की विद्या, जिस पर भारत को गर्व है, उस को दुनिया में

ऋषि विवेकानन्द की तरह कोने कोने में जा कर दुनिया के विद्यार्थियों और प्रोफेसरों को भारत की इस विद्या और संस्कृति से आشنا करा कर भारत के गौरव को बढ़ाया ।

सदर साहब, मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि बाबजूद इस बात के कि हजरत मौलाना अबुलकलाम आजाद के बाद वह मुसलमानान-नेहिन्द में सब से अजीम स्त्वा रखते थे, मुसलमानानेहिन्द के दिल में उन के लिये बहुत बड़ी इज्जत थी, वह बिल्कुल सादे इन्सान की तरह से रहे, चाहे वह मिनिस्टर थे, चाहे मिनिस्टर नहीं थे, उन्होंने अपनी सादगी को नहीं छोड़ा ।

मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि वह किसी भी खयाल के रहे इस देश के तमाम भाई-बहिन उन की ईमानदारी, उन की भारत के प्रति वफादारी, उन की काबलियत पर हमेशा गर्व करते रहेंगे । वह मेरे न सिर्फ भाई ही थे, आप हैरान होंगे—परसों रात साढ़े नौ बजे वह मैं और मेरी बेगम साहबा को—हम चूकि उन के यहां पैदल गये थे—हम को घर तक पहुंचाने आये । लेकिन कल तो हृद हो गई—पौने 6 बजे डाक्टरों ने बताया कि वह खतरे से बाहर हैं, लेकिन कुदरत को ऐसा मन्जूर नहीं था । ऐसे मौके पर जब कि भारत ने अपना एक रत्न खो दिया, मैं आपके जरिये, अपनी बहन इन्दिरा के जरिये, तमाम नेताओं के जरिये, तमाम देश के साथ अपनी हमदर्दी का इजहार करता हूं और फिर से एक बार देश के इस सच्चे सपूत को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूं और दरखास्त करता हूं कि आप मेरी इस अपील को देश के कोने-कोने में, दुनिया के इल्म और लिटरेचर के कदरदानों तक मेरे हमदर्दी के पैगाम को पहुंचायेंगे । हमें हमदर्दी है कि उन्होंने एक रत्न खो दिया ।

[شری عبدالغنی ڈار (کڑکڑوں) :

صدر صاحب بھارت کے اس سچے سچوت کے گذر جانے پر آپ کے دوا

بھارت کے 53 کروڑ بہن بھائیوں سے اور خصوصاً بنگال کے یہن بھائیوں سے اپنا اظہار افسوس کرتا ہوں اور سچے سچوت کے پرتی شردھانجلی پیش کرتا ہوں -

صدر صاحب مجھے خوشی ہے کہ پروفیسر ہمایوں کبیر نے بھارت کی سنسکرتی بھارت کی ودیاء جس پر بھارت کو گرو ہے اس کو دنیا میں رشی وویکانند کی طرح کونے کونے میں جا کر دنیا کے ودیارتھیوں اور پروفیسروں کو بھارت کی اس ودیاء اور سنسکرتی سے آشنا کرا کر بھارت کے گورو کو بڑھایا -

صدر صاحب مجھے اس بات کی بھی خوشی ہے کہ باوجود اس بات کے کہ حضرت مولانا ابولکلام آزاد کے بعد وہ مسلمانان ہند میں سب سے عظیم رتبہ رکھتے تھے مسلمانان ہند کے دل میں ان کے لئے بہت بڑی عزت تھی وہ بالکل سادہ انسان کی طرح سے رہے چاہے وہ منسٹر تھے چاہے منسٹر نہیں تھے انہوں نے اپنی سادگی کو نہیں چھوڑا -

مجھے اس بات کی بھی خوشی ہے کہ وہ کسی بھی خیال کے رہے اس دیش کے تمام بھائی بہن اُن کی ایمانداری اُن کی بھارت کے پرتی وفاداری اُن کی قابلیت پر ہمیشہ گرو کرتے رہیں گے - وہ میرے نہ صرف بھائی ہی تھے آپ حیران ہونگے—پرسوں رات ساڑھے نو بجے—وہ میں اور میری بیگم صاحبہ کو—ہم چونکہ اُن کے یہاں پیشدل گئے تھے—ہم کو گھر تک پہنچانے آئے—لیکن کل تو جد ہو گئی—پرنے چہ بجے ڈاکڑوں نے بتایا کہ وہ خطرے سے باہر ہیں، لیکن قدرت کو ایسا منظور نہیں تھا—ایسے موقع پر جبکہ بھارت نے اپنا

[Shri Abdul Ghani Dar]

ایک رتن کھو دیا، میں آپ کے ذریعے اپنی بہن اندرا کے ذریعے تمام نیٹاؤں کے ذریعے تمام دیس کے ساتھ اپنی ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتا ہوں اور پھر سے ایک بار دیس کے اس سچے سپوت کو شردھانجلی اڑیتا کرتا ہوں اور درخواست کرتا ہوں کہ آپ میری اس اپیل کو دیس کے کونے کونے میں دنیا کے علم اور لٹریچر کے قدردانوں تک میرے ہمدردی کے پیغام کو پہنچائیں گے—ہمیں ہمدردی ہے کہ انہوں نے ایک رتن کھو دیا—]

SHRI N. C. CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of myself and the Members of the Independent Parliamentary Group, it is my duty to say that the sudden and sad demise of Prof. Humayun Kabir has created a void which can hardly be filled up. Coming from West Bengal, I must say that the loss has been too tragic for words.

Sir, he had held some Cabinet portfolios. But, as you know, Prof. Humayun Kabir could never surrender or submit himself to anything which he did not approve of. That is a great thing and Prof. Humayun Kabir maintained his quality in all matters. It will be a pure ornamental show if you accept the office at the sacrifice of your ideologies.

He was born at Faridpur in East Bengal. East Bengal invited him many a time and some people tried to induce him to go there. But he refused. He said, "No; India is my mother-land; India is my home." He was like that all his life.

When we formed the Independent Parliamentary Group first in this House, I remember, we made him the leader of the Group and he once led us to the Rashtrapati Bhavan to interview Dr. Radhakrishnan. He induced us to accept the suggestion that there should be another term for Dr. Radhakrishnan and said that four of us

should go and make an appeal to Dr. Radhakrishnan. I was one of them and the other two Members were Mr. Tenneti Viswanatham and Mr. A. N. Mulla. I may tell you, when Prof. Humayun Kabir told the President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, that it was our joint wish that he should continue for another term, he was overwhelmed and he was deeply touched by our spontaneous admiration and affection for him.

It is a great loss. I join all my friends here in the expression of our sorrow. May his soul rest in peace!

SHRI M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL (Manjeri) : Prof. Humayun Kabir was really a man of versatile genius and of very praiseworthy interests. As an effective and talented writer, as a well known speaker and as an administrator, he distinguished himself. Whatever he did, he did with sincerity. He was, above all, a man full of human sympathy and he was a sincere friend of the poor and the underprivileged. His loss is a loss not only for his good family but for the whole country.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, the Muslim League, join in the tributes paid to him by the various leaders and members of the House and also in the condolences that are being offered to the members of the bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER : We may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

(The members then stood in silence for a short while).

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the deceased, the House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

11-28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 20, 1969/ Sravana 29, 1891 (Saka).