

Wednesday, August 27, 1997/Bhadra 5, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our friends, Shri Babunath Singh.

Shri Babunath Singh was a Member from First to Fifth Lok Sabha representing Surguja Parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1952-77.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Singh was an active social and political worker. He worked vigorously for more than two decades for the welfare and upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

During his long parliamentary career, he focussed the attention of the House to the problems faced by the under-privileged and the downtrodden.

Shri Babunath Singh passed away on 18th July, 1997 at Surguja at the age of 89 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.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03 hrs.

MOTION RE : STATE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC SITUATION, POSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND STATE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Vyas to continue. Dr. Vyas, you have already taken ten minutes.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I discontinued my speech when I was speaking on the achievements made by the country.

We have made remarkable achievements after independence through planned economy and Five Year Plans. Our growth rate has increased from 3.5 per cent to 7 per cent. The investment rate has increased by 25 per cent. G.D.P. growth has gone upto 6-7 per cent. Yesterday, you expressed your concern in the House that we were getting lulled into green revolution complacency. Our seventy per cent population still lives in villages and they are engaged in agriculture. But, still the technology has not reached them. It seems that the dream of Green Revolution has remained half accomplished. Once we become self-sufficient, we do not think ahead of it.

As compared to population growth, agricultural growth is very slow. We should think as to how this growth could be increased by 1.3 per cent. I would also like to submit that Narasimha Rao Government had initiated the concept of liberalisation and we all had greeted this concept with open heart, but I fully agree with Shri George Fernandes that if this idea is implemented unbridled, then our country may lose its very existence. The data being received in this regard give ominous signals, therefore, the Parliament must consider this aspect. The MNCs are not only making our people corrupt but they want to have their full control over them by gradually alienating them. This is why, Pt. Nehru had propounded the concept of mixed economy and Gandhiji had gone further by saying that we would not develop economically, politically or socially without Gram Swaraj. What happened to that dream of Gram Swaraj? This point must be considered now after 50 years of independence.

Sir, one thing which often pained me, Alama Iqbal had said, "Kya Baat Hai Ki Hasti Mitati Nahin Hamari", Although, you had given a slight hint in your speech that we would have to think in regard to intellectuals and their state of affairs also. It appears that what Iqbal had said was in different context. No culture, idea or tradition can survive without heart and mind. Our lives have no meaning without culture. We are knocking at the door of 21st century. India will have the culture of science, art, computer, music, maths, philosophy, technology and literature also. If Gandhi had not been Gandhi, he would not have been a great thinker, writer, creator and social reformer. We all know as to how much we, politicians are remembered by the people. We are like water-bubbles which soon get lost into oblivion. Culturally, we are becoming shallow. I would like to put forth one point before the House. Last year, we did not celebrate the centenary of Gorakhpuri and Nirala. No