

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, March 11, 1974/Phalguna 20,
1895 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri Noorul Huda (Cachai).
- 2 Shri Aravinda Bala Pajanor
(Pondicherry).

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri T T Krishnamachari who passed away at Madras in the afternoon of the 7th March, 1974 at the age of 75.

Shri Krishnamachari had a long Parliamentary career spread over 25 years at a stretch. He started his Parliamentary career when he was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937 and he remained a Member there till 1942. In 1942 he entered the Central Legislative Assembly and continued to be a Member till independence. He was also a Member of the Constituent Assembly and thereafter of the Provisional Parliament during the years 1946-52. He was a founding father of our Constitution and in his capacity as a member of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly he made outstanding contributions. From 1952 to 1967 he was Member of the First, Second and

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Third Lok Sabha. An eminent economist and an outstanding patriot, he adjourned a number of high Offices with distinction. He was the Minister of Commerce and Industry during 1952-55, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel during 1955-56, Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel during 1956-57, Minister of Finance during 1957-58, Minister of Economic and Defence Co-ordination during 1962-63 and again Minister of Finance during 1964-65. He was a member and Chairman of a number of Parliamentary Committees and made useful contribution to our procedures and practices and important matters of public interest. A man of great erudition and culture, his advice was always heard with care and given due respect. He was a man of firm decisions and great ideas, he always spoke with a soft tone but all his speeches were full of deep knowledge and showed great learning behind them. In his passing away the nation has lost a true patriot and a great statesman.

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 ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am overwhelmed with grief at the sad news of Shri T T Krishnamachari's passing away last Thursday. I rise with a heavy heart to express my deep sorrow and that of my colleagues in Government and in this House.

'Shri T. T. Krishnamachari was well-known to Parliament, where he

was held in high esteem for his vast knowledge in a variety of fields, for his administrative dynamism, for his prodigious industry, for his brilliance in debate and for his vision of progress and social justice. Few people had a more intimate knowledge of the intricacies of business and industry. His contribution to modernisation of our economy and the establishment of heavy industry and know-how in machine building has not been equalled. He was effective in shaking people out of their inertia and in overcoming bureaucratic opposition or indeed any kind of obstacle. Shri M. Visvesvarayya used to say that as a nation we lack hustle. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari was one of those who put hustle into our functioning. His resourceful and creative mind was an asset to the Government in the complex tasks of defence and economic cooperation. In international forums, he put forward our case with tenacity and consummate ability. But, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari's personality was too positive and forthright for neutrality. He had strong likes and dislikes and so it was perhaps natural that he aroused controversy. But, his friendships were wide-ranging and constant, cutting across party and ideological barriers and percolating all walks of life. His interest in ideas, in books, in science and in the arts and specially his sardonic humour, made him a stimulating conversationalist. Yet he was a lonely man.

I have known T. T. K., as he was fondly referred to, for many years. I was fascinated to watch the friendship between him and my father—two very different kinds of people—grow closer though not without stormy interludes. I feel privileged that I also had his friendship and affection. Of his many varied and unexpected qualities, what appealed to me most was his fearlessness and his boldness in taking initiatives. Our national life will miss a great man. Such a combination of gifts is

rare to come by. My sincere sympathy and condolences and those of my party in this House and the Government to the members of Shri Krishnamachari's family and to the larger family of those he befriended and who wished him well. His passing away is a personal loss and a loss to the country.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I fully associate myself with the deep sorrow expressed by you and the Prime Minister at the death of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, an outstanding figure. I request you to convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you and by the Prime Minister. To many of us in this House, who had the fortune to work along with him, it is a great loss. In his death, we have lost a sharp intellect and a brilliant man always on the look-out for new ideas and rich thoughts in the field of public finance in this country. He was a courageous administrator, once a programme is accepted by the Government and by this House. He said an active and robust criticism, sometimes and often times bordering on biting sarcasm. But, none and any ill-feeling towards him. Once he came out of the House, he used to have an affectionate and friendly touch with everyone; whether they belonged to this or the other side of the House. As one coming from Tamil Nadu I had a lasting and deep attachment for him. Even in his criticism because of his affable mood the persons engaged in politics were drawn towards him. I once again associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you Sir, and the Leader of the House. On behalf of my party and myself, I request you to convey our deep condolences to the bereaved family.