

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, September 5, 1988/ Bhadra 14,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

Tributes to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his Birth Centenary

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the birth centenary of *Bharat Ratna* Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an eminent son of India. A truly multifaceted personality, he was a rare individual who epitomised the qualities of an eminent educationist, a profound philosopher and a great statesman — a rare combination indeed.

As a teacher of philosophy, Dr. Radhakrishnan earned world-wide acclaim. Indeed he was seen as a teacher *par excellence* and it is only befitting that a grateful nation observes his birthday as Teachers' Day. Through his numerous works on Indian Philosophy and religion, Dr. Radhakrishnan presented, in an authoritative form, the main tenets of our ancient culture in all its pristine glory, to the West. In fact, he transformed the abstractions and metaphysics of both Eastern and Western philosophy into a crystal clear exposition of the meaning and purpose of life and the role of man in the vast and infinite cosmos.

Immersed though he was with philo-

sophical questions and matters of intellect, Dr. Radhakrishnan was very much involved in the affairs of State. As Vice-President for a full decade and later as Rashtrapati from 1962 to 1967, he played a crucial role in guiding our republic in its formative years. He was a true embodiment of Plato's concept of philosopher king.

A man of simple living, very high thinking and superb achievements, Dr. Radhakrishnan has left an indelible mark on our national life. His memory will, for long, be a source of inspiration to our people.

On behalf of all the members of this House and on my own behalf, I pay my respectful homage to this noble son of India.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Today almost all the members of the press are making a boycott of the press gallery. Why should they make a boycott? The Prime Minister has announced that the Government is not rushing the Defamation Bill through the Rajya Sabha. Moreover, a Committee has already been appointed by the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: It is their way of thinking.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: You may also appeal to them.

MR. SPEAKER: I have always been appealing to the hon. Members of the ruling