

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 21, 1994 / Vaisakha 1,
1916 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of one of our colleagues, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary and two of our former colleagues, Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh and Maj. Gen. Rajinder Singh Sparrow.

Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary was a sitting Member of the House representing Ambala parliamentary constituency of Haryana. He was also a Member of Fifth, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 and 1984-90 from the same constituency. Earlier he was a Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1952-66 and of Haryana Legislative Assembly from 1966-71. He also served the State of Haryana as Home Minister during 1968-71.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary served in Indian Na-

tional Army during 1943-45. He actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment on several occasions.

A teacher and agriculturist by profession, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary was an active political and social worker and took special interest in the upliftment of the poor, backward and downtrodden. He was also associated with sports like football, volleyball and wrestling.

As a Member of this House, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and enriched the debates with his long experience. He was a member of several Committees of Punjab and Haryana legislative Assemblies. He also served various parliamentary Committees. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House during 1988-89.

A widely travelled person, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary was a member of various delegations to many countries.

Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary passed away at New Delhi on 19th April, 1994 at the age of 66 years.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Amethi parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was earlier a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1967-

68.

A lawyer and agriculturist by profession, Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh was an active political and social worker. He was also associated with various educational institutions.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh passed away on 15th April, 1994 at Sultanpur at the age of 56 years.

Major General Rajinder Singh Sparrow was a Member of Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Jullunder parliamentary constituency of Punjab during 1980-89.

Earlier he was a Member of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha during 1967-68 and ably served the State of Punjab as a Cabinet Minister holding various important portfolios such as Revenue, Agriculture, Cooperatives and Food and Civil Supplies.

Before joining politics, Major General Sparrow was distinguished Army General and he was the first person in all the fighting services to be awarded the Maha Vir Chakra and also double Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry in the battle field.

A multi-faceted personality Major General Sparrow was an agriculturist, an educationist, a writer and an international hockey player. He was a senator of the both Punjabi University at Patiala and Guru Nanak University, Amritsar. He was also an All India Polo and Cricket player and had actively participated in the university athletics.

An active parliamentarian, Major General Sparrow was a member of the Panel of Chairmen and served with distinction as the

Chairman of Committee on Subordinate Legislation during 1983-85. He was also a member of Indian Delegation to United Nations General Assembly in 1984.

Major General Sparrow passed away on 19th April, 1984 at the age of 79 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolence to the bereaved families.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay my condolences on the passing away of three of our colleagues, one of whom, Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary, was a member of this Lok Sabha. The other two, General Rajinder Singh Sparrow and Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh had served the country as Members of Parliament in earlier years.

Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary was a highly respected senior Member of this House. He started his life as teacher. He also joined the Army for a brief period before entering politics.

He represented his constituency for almost two decades in the State Assemblies of Punjab and later Haryana. He showed great administrative skill and acumen as Minister of Home Affairs in Haryana between 1968 and 1971. He was first elected of the Lok Sabha in 1977. In Parliament he contributed actively to its debates and to the proceedings of its Committees.

Chaudharyji was a very popular leader. He treated his Political career as an extension of his social work for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society, particularly the Scheduled Castes. He devoted his entire life to this cause. His death is a deep loss

to this House and to the country.

General Rajinder Singh Sparrow was one of the brave sons of India who made a mark for himself in the Army by displaying exemplary gallantry in battle. An agriculturist by profession, he lived up to the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' by becoming a professional soldier and earning the Mahavir Chakra twice. His special interests included such diverse fields as military science, farming, music and sports.

General Sparrow brought his immense skills and formidable reputation to politics with him in the service of the people of Punjab and the country. In politics too he displayed the same courage and devotion that had earned him the awards for gallantry in the Army. As Minister in Punjab government and later as Member of Parliament he displayed great administrative and debating skills. He was also the President of the Punjab Pradesh Committee for some time and he was there at a time when there were a lot of difficulties in Punjab. He faced all these difficulties very bravely and he gave us very very solid advice on several matters from time to time. He was also an outstanding sportsman having been a very good hockey, cricket and polo player. Such a gifted person and fine human being comes by very rarely.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh was elected Member to this House from Amethi in 1977. He was a lawyer and an agriculturist by profession. He too contributed richly to parliamentary proceedings and served his constituency with distinction.

I wish to place on record the deep sense of personal loss and grief felt by all of us on the death of these illustrious Members.

May their souls rest in peace.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr Speaker, Sir, we had hardly recovered from the death of Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal, when one of our another colleague has also passed away. Chowdhry Ram Prakashji played his role in politics at first in the State and later on as a Member of Parliament. He had also made his contribution in administration. As a Member of Parliament, he used to raise the issues of public interest very seriously and he had always paid attention towards the problems of his constituency. We all are deeply grieved at his sad demise.

General Sparrow is remembered as a valiant soldier and General. When the people elected him as the public representatives for the democratic institution they definitely honoured our brave army in him. But once he left the army and came to the public life, he devoted himself in solving the problems of public life. As the hon. Prime Minister and your kindself has just mentioned we found in him multifaced talent, first in the bordering State of Punjab and later on as a Member of Parliament. General Sparrow was very much worried when militancy was at its peak in Punjab. He used to give suggestions to overcome the militancy from time to time.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh was elected Member to the Lok Sabha at a time when the country was passing through a news phase. He was deeply associated with his constituency. He was associated with farming and educational institutions and he used to face the problems boldly. On my behalf and on behalf of my party I pay my humble tribute to the departed souls and convey the heart felt condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura)

: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Late Shri Ram Prakash Chowdhryji has been a Member of this House and he was continuously elected from Ambala constituency. He was fully devoted to agriculture, rural life and culture. His contribution was great for the cause of the exploited and the sufferers.

General Sparrow was an institution in himself. We had been enjoying the opportunity to listen his views and statements many times in this House. He was bestowed with all sorts of qualities and was a capable and an alert person. He had made his own place by taking active part in the debates of the House.

Ravindra Partap Singh was our colleague. At the time of emergency in the country he was with us and he was a Member of this House. Personally, he was very close to me. He was not only brave and a good farmer but also a good lawyer. He used to raise the problems of his Constituency bravely. I know this because once I contested from Amethi and he too contested from there. The death of three colleagues has caused an irreparable loss. I convey the heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish that the God will grant peace to the departed souls.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by you, Sir, and the hon. Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and Shri Sharad Yadav. It is poignant to loss a friend and colleague who has been here with us only very recently and a sitting Member of this House.

Shri Ram Prakash Chaudhary has dis-

tinguished himself by his active participation in the proceedings of the House and he was a very valued Member and a colleague.

I cannot forget Major General Sparrow's distinguished role in the House as a Member of the House. We were fortunate in having him as one of our colleagues during two separate terms. He had a very distinguished career as a soldier, as a General and one of the bravest sons of India who fought for the security of our country and for upholding the independence of our country. His interventions in the House specially his very valued suggestions on resolving the Punjab crisis shed considerable light on the vexed problem that was facing this country and we always learnt from him. He was a man of such amiable disposition that one cannot forget the affection that one felt in his company. I had the privilege of working with him in some Committees and I also knew how actively he used to take part in the deliberations of the Committees and in the House also.

I also remember Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh in this House. He was a young man when he came here and he was very forthright in expressing his views and also an active participant in the deliberations of the House.

Sir, we mourn the passing away of our friends and colleagues and, Sir, I beg to convey my sincerest condolences to the members of the bereaved families which you may please convey to them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnaose) : Mr. Speaker, Sir we have lost three colleagues all of whom were very active members of this House, each in his own way and I wish to express my deep sorrow and the sorrow of my party at the loss that we have suffered.

Shri Ram Parkesh Chaudhary was a man of very jovial and cheerful disposition always laughing and joking with his colleagues here and I remember him like that.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh also was an active Member.

Sir, I knew Maj. Gen. Sparrow quite well and before he came to the House, as other colleagues have mentioned here, he distinguished himself on the field of battle. I remember in the plains of Punjab when there was a big incursion by the Pakistan battle tanks, it was Gen. Sparrow who marshalled the resources of our Indian Armed Corps and engaged the enemies in some very big battles which have become famous in the annals of our military history. And he was able a farmer who was deeply distressed at the happenings in Punjab. According to him, were being led astray into the paths of violence and militancy. Even his own farm house was attacked once and he was very much upset about it. Anyway, now he is no more. He has left two sons behind who are also distinguished officers of our Army. So, I express my sorrow at the death of all these Member and request you to convey our deepest condolences to their bereaved family members.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobibipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really shocked to hear the sudden death of Mr. Ram Prakash Choudhury, the sitting Member of this House. Indeed he has led a meritorious life by serving the Indian Army and in the freedom struggle. He had also got the privilege of serving in the joint Punjab Assembly and Haryana Assembly. He took active part in the parliamentary proceedings during his tenure. His death is a loss to the society.

The services rendered by Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Ravindra Pratap Singh are also valuable and will be remembered. On behalf of my party I convey my condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, within a week we are condoling the death of another sitting Member of this House. Ram Parkash Choudhuryji was a leader in his own right and his services to the weaker sections, especially to the Scheduled Castes will be remembered forever. On behalf of my party and on my own behalf I associate myself with the condolences and the grief expressed by you, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister and other leaders of the House.

Sir, I had occasion to meet Maj. Gen. Sparrow when he visited Kerala during election time. He was a very amiable person and also a dignified person having his own firm views on matters concerning the nation.

Shri Ravindra Pratap Singh also was a distinguished Member of this House. On behalf of my party and on my own behalf I convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the passing away of Shri Ram Prakash Choudhury we have lost a sincere and a devoted parliamentarian. He also took active part in the freedom struggle.

So far as Maj. Gen. Sparrow is concerned, he was a distinguished soldier and the first member of the Indian Armed Forces to get the decoration of Mahavir Chakra. Maj. Gen. Sparrow's action in the Middle East war theatre during the Second World War.