

**MOTION RE: REPORT (1974) OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE—Contd.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by prof. Samar Guha on the 3rd August, 1977, namely:-

"That this House do consider the Report (1974) of the Commission of Inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose laid on the Table of the House on the 3rd September, 1974."

**Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.**

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time the subject of the motion was discussed fully in the House and I was listening to the facts which were marshalled by my esteemed friend Prof. Samar Guha. I know that this forum of parliament is not for being used for astrological predictions. But, fortunately, I am a professional astrologer. The question of Shri Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's appearance is so very important from the national point of view that any piece of evidence, any piece of knowledge, any clue, anything that can lead to the finding of the truth is welcome because his life is so valuable.

17 hrs.

He has got his name enshrined in diamonds in the history of the country. I got my M. A. with Astrology in 1945 and my Ph. D. in Jyotish in 1949 if I am, therefore, in the scientific Astrological field since 1949. It was hot subject for discussion in several astrological societies and periodicals and also among several astrologers, ever since the disappearance of Babu Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; that is, in December 1941. Thereafter came the very sad news, suddenly, in August 1945 of the air crash in which it was alleged that he died in Taipeh. That set the entire nation thinking: what exactly was the truth? During the previous

discussions so much has been said about the reports of Khosla Commission's biased approach, then Shah-nawaz Khan's investigations and report. I will not go into those details at this stage. I would apply my scientific knowledge to find out the truth behind the story. I have got a horoscope made of Netaji from the birth data which I could collect. I recollect for about five years from 1945 several magazines and astrological societies and astrologers were discussing and if anyone opens any such magazine you will find it; no single magazine nor any astrologer at that time said that Netaji was dead. All the technical and astrological data then available was used. As astrologers we determine the life of a person from his longevity called ayurdaya. I am certain that what is called puinaayu or full longevity as far as Netaji's horoscope was concerned, he was ordained to live full 84 and half years. From that point of view the conclusion is that he has not passed away. However earlier to this purnayu there was what is known as ghat or gandam or gandantor which means that one escapes ganda is death, one touches death is ghat but escapes death. After applying the standards known to us, I have come to the conclusion that he may not have been in that plane which met with the fatal accident. But at the same time there was an indication of a sort of an underground movement towards the north. Some of my friends asked me: what is the present position. My first conclusion is that purnayu of Netaji has not been reached. That he is still alive. That is a yoga which is called "sanyasi yog" in his horoscope.

This is called प्रव्रज्यायाम परिव्राजक योग, सत्याम योग may be a स्मृतिभ्रंश loss of memory. a wandering life, because there is a definite indication of धार्मिक परिवर्तन a spiritual transformation, a reorientation of life style.

Some of us may bear me out, what the horoscope tells, namely a strong inborn long inclinations for spirituali-

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]  
sation, although we have in the entire life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose seen a virulent fighter. The Dharmaic trend must have been there in his family and also within him. Therefore, his disappearance somewhere in the North and North East of the country cannot be ruled out at a particular stage of health, both mental and physical in which he should have turned a yogi. Therefore, I have used the word स्मरणशक्ति का नष्ट loss of memory. He might have discarded the political life. He may not like to come back. But my friend Shri Guha was after me to know whether there was any chance of his re-appearance. Right at present he is under the cycle of जन्म मरण and towards the middle of सप्तमशतक i.e. 1979 to March, 1980 there can be a clue of his existence somewhere. Therefore, it is my sincere appeal, without attaching any political colour to the entire motion, to heed at least the scientific astrologers, not me but all the astrologers right from 1942-43 till to-day in various discourses, various articles, various newspapers, the opinion of all of them, even today, indicating that there was no death. There was an escape. There might have been an escape to unknown destination. There is still a chance that you can have the golden opportunity to see that leader who was the apple of eyes of the people at that time.

Before I close my comments, I personally feel that the last word has not been said in spite of voluminous facts, literature, reports and Commissions. If scientific astrology has some bearing, efforts can still be made. Clues can still be found out that can really satisfy everybody's heart. After all Netaji was an emotional person. The entire nation was emotionally involved with him. Still there are many people who consider him as the national hero of our country. Therefore, I will appeal to the Government not to draw up the lid but they to make a fresh approach to this problem.

**SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU** (Katwa): Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is the greatest revolutionary leader. Why I say—"is the greatest", it is because the people of this country and abroad do not believe that he is dead. In the British Cabinet in 1945 the first Resolution was that Subhash Chandra Bose was to be found out and was to be arrested—dead or alive. Those papers were in the hands of the Government of India. Mr. Justice Khosla has reported that Netaji died in a plane crash. He has gone to Taipeh, Japan and everywhere. But he has not met our Ambassador or Consul-General anywhere. He has made the report according to his sweet will. That report, I can tell you, is of no value. That is why we want to impress upon the Government through you that there should be a fresh inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji. In 1942 we heard him speaking on the radio. He was one of the greatest disciples of Mahatma Gandhi. His freedom struggle and his sacrifice will ever be remembered by the people of this country, not only by the people of this country but by the people abroad. When I went to the United States of America three years back, I found that Hoboken City near New York was named after Netaji for three weeks from 15th August. Netaji is being worshipped everywhere, but unfortunately on this Independence Day. I did not find his picture on the television or Door Darshan. I would like to tell Mr. L. K. Advani that the picture of Netaji, who had sacrificed everything for the liberation and freedom of our country, who had set an example to us as to how discipline has to be maintained, was not shown on our television on Independence Day.

Mahatma Gandhi called the Quit India movement from India in 1942. Netaji went out of India, Netaji founded Azad Hind Fauj and with the Azad Hind Fauj entered Manipur and hoisted the national flag. Unfor-

Netaji Subhas Bose (M)

tinately, in this Janata regime, though they are doing some good work, I was surprised to find that on the television this year there was no mention of Netaji and no picture of Netaji was shown. What have these people been doing? Are not the persons concerned with running of television and Radio traitors to the country? Are these people who are controlling Door Darshan not traitors to the people who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country? We are celebrating Netaji's birthday every year and lakhs and lakhs of people gather in the meetings. But this year I want to draw the attention of four esteemed Prime Minister Morarji bhai to the fact that on 15th August that was no mention of Netaji's name on the radio and no picture of Netaji was shown on the TV. There was not a single word about him. It is really surprising.

I want to appeal through you to the Prime Minister to form a fresh enquiry committee to enquiry into the disappearance of Netaji. Truth must come out. People of the country do not believe that he is dead. We do not know what has happened. Till 1945 he was not dead. He may be kept somewhere; we do not know. But fact has to be found out, that is why we impress on the Prime Minister that a fresh inquiry commission should be appointed to enquiry into the disappearance of Netaji. He had set many examples to us. He has shown how the people of India can work together. Under the banner of the Azad Hind Fauj, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, all worked together. So, I would like to tell the House: Let us not forget Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His name will be written in letters of gold in the history of India, whether the Government records it or not.

Under the previous Government also, we have noticed that he was ignored. I do not say that the previous Government gave him the impor-

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tance he deserved. He has ignored by them also. But whenever the earlier Prime Ministers, Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri, went to Calcutta and West Bengal, they said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was certainly the greatest figure of the world.

So, let us not forget him, let us remember him, let us learn from him how we should maintain discipline. Here in this House we find how discipline is maintained. So, let us learn from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose how he founded the Azad Hind Fauj without anything in his hands, by going to foreign countries. The Azad Hind Fauj fared well. That is an example to us how Netaji got the people of India united. So, let us learn from him how unity is to be maintained.

So, I would again appeal to our esteemed Prime Minister, in whom we have got the greatest confidence, that he should make a fresh enquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

With these words I support the demand for such an enquiry.

श्री श्री बलबीर सिंह (होशियारपुर):  
सभापति महोदय, नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस, जिनका नाम लेने पर ही प्रायमी में एक नया जोश पैदा हो जाता है, उन के बारे में यह कहना ही एक मिस्ट्री है कि अभी तक हम पता नहीं चला सके हैं कि यह चिन्हा है या नहीं है। अब तक जितनी इन्क्वायरी हुई है, उस से एक बात साफ है कि तारबान का जो बाका हुआ था, वह बिल्कुल गलत है। क्योंकि उस के बाय बायों की अपनी सी०आई०डी० ने भी उनकी पहचान करने की कोशिश की। अब



पर भाई एन. ए. के परिवे संवेजों की सता की वीर्य किया; सब इन्होंने हिन्दुस्तान की राजकी क्य सब खहरमा या । हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों से उस वक्त बहुत खोजी बहुत की थी । राज जो बहुत से लोग अपने आप को प्राप्तिव और इनका बी कहते हैं, आपको याद होगा कि वे किन सबमें में नेताजी को याद करते थे । उन्हें जापान का पिट्टू का जाता था ।

मैं फिर कहूंगा कि चूंकि अब जनता पार्टी की सरकार है, इस लिए वह नेताजी के बारे में ब्रिटिश एवनमेंट से सब तथ्य हासिल करे । जो इनफार्मेशन लाई माउटेबेटन के पास है, या जो लाई वेविल के पास थी, या वहां की एवनमेंट के पास अपनी बुकिया पुलिस की एनक्वायरी के जो रिकार्ड और दूसरे डाकुमेंट हैं, प्रधान मंत्री अपना पर्सनल इनफार्मेशन एकसट करे—इस में सरकारी कारेसपांडेस से काम नहीं होता है—उन्हें हासिल करने की कोशिश करे । इसी तरह वह पर्सनल सेबल पर अमेरिका और रूस की सरकारों से भी यथा लगाने की कोशिश करे कि सबाई क्या है, जिस से देश के लोगों को इस बारे में असलियत का पता चल सके ।

**SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):** Sir, I want to congratulate Shri Samar Guha for bringing this question with a sense of devotion and dedication again and again to the notice of the House because like many others he honestly feels and believes that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is still alive. I personally feel that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has joined the ranks of those *amar vibhuti*s of our culture.

अश्वत्थामा बलि-यज्ञों हनुमान्च विभीषण :  
In our mythology these are the five great. अजर अमर विभूति :

I think, so is Netaji. I do not believe that Netaji would ever die. As my scientific astrologer friend, Dr. Pandit, has said, if he is still living, there is a likelihood of his coming

back. But astrologers always have an escape clause, so that they can never be proved wrong. So, he has kept an escape clause even in his prediction by saying, there may be *amriti bhra-nah*, loss of memory. Supposing there is loss of memory or *sanvati vog*, he will not come back; he will be alive and yet he will not come back and we will never have the fortune of seeing him. After all, Netaji's age today would be approximately 79, running 80. Is it not correct?

**PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contd.):** 81.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** He will be younger than the hon. Morarjibhai by at least two years. Therefore, God willing, if he returns, he will be quite fit; if we are really fortunate to get him, it might prove to be a boon to our land.

I personally have no authority. The only person who has studied it thoroughly and who is an authority on this subject is Professor Samar Guha. I accept his verdict on these reports. Therefore, if he says that these reports are all wrong, I will accept it.

Some hon. Member mentioned about Netaji not being named or remembered on the 15th of August. But, remember, there is not a single 15th August when, at the end of the speech, the Prime Minister does not give to the nation the call given by Netaji, namely, Jai Hind. How do we remember our great men? We remember them by their words, by their deeds and by their slogans. The slogan Jai Hind given to India, which has continued to inspire every citizen of this country, young and old, is the slogan given by Netaji. Our Prime Minister this year also, at the end of his speech at the ramparts of the Red Fort, gave the slogan Jai Hind. Therefore, Netaji will always continue to inspire our people.

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

I find sometimes a contradiction in our behaviour. Statues or portraits are normally unveiled of only those who are no more with us. It is very seldom, except in the South, that a statue is unveiled of a person who is still alive. Normally it is not done. In the present case, on the one hand, we have unveiled the statues and portraits; on the other hand, we are maintaining that he is still alive. I think there is some contradiction which needs reconciliation.

If, for any reason, it is felt that the recommendation or report of the Commission is wrong, throw it out and have another fresh enquiry. In all seriousness, I would submit to Morarjibhai that the only authority on this subject, who can go into it, who can really go to the areas where there is a likelihood of finding Subhas Chandra Bose is Prof. Samar Guha. He has photographs with him. I think, there should be a one-man Commission I am saying it in all humility and seriousness and that should be headed by Prof. Samar Guha. He can take all the assistance, the entire Government machinery can be placed at his disposal and he might even take the assistance of your scientific astrologer. There is substance in astrology and may be that it would help. But if any one can find Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for us and if on any one's behalf supposing Netaji has taken *sanyas*, as the Astrologer says, and even then if any one can persuade him to come even in *sanyas* at least to give *darshan* to his people, it is only Prof. Samar Guha and nobody else. He has such a devotion and completed identification that you cannot find in anyone else. I would request the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai to appoint a one-man Commission headed by Prof. Samar Guha, give him all the assistance than one can think of. Let him try his best to bring Subhas Chandra Bose to this land.

With these words, I conclude.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may differ sometimes from hon. friend, Mr. Samar Guha, but I can never doubt, even in my sleep, his sincerity. I have great admiration for the dedication with which he is pursuing this cause and yet we have to be realistic in this matter.

There have been two enquiries into the report of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the air-crash on 18th August 1945 at Taihoku airfield during his air-journey to Manchuria, one by a Committee presided over by Maj. General Shah Nawaz Khan and the second by a one-man Committee of enquiry headed by Shri G. D. Khosla, retired Judge of the Punjab High Court. The Majority report of the first Committee and Shri Khosla held the report of the death as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness of the conclusions reached in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed. Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government find it difficult to accept that the earlier conclusions are decisive. At the same time, Government feels that no useful purpose would be served by having any further inquiry. I hope that in the light of this statement, my hon. friend will withdraw his motion.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contd.): Sir, Today is a great day for the whole Indian people, because a mortal sin, a treacherous crime that was committed against the epic hero of Indian freedom has been undone. If I say that Netaji was given burial, out of political conspiracy, it would not be an exaggeration. Although there was not an iota of doubt or any positive proof to the contrary that the plane crash was nothing but fake, and the alleged crash did not involve Netaji at all.

I congratulate the Prime Minister on behalf of the Indian people, the Government as well, for the very bold and courageous steps and the decision that they have taken today. It is not an easy matter to undo the findings of the two inquiries.

I also congratulate the representatives of all the parties in this House, all of whom, about 25 of them, who spoke in this House on earlier occasions on this resolution and who lent their unanimous support to the demand to undo the Khosla Commission's Report.

I would also remind this House that earlier about 400 members of both the Houses, this House and the other House, had in a joint memorandum urged upon the Government for a fresh inquiry on Netaji on the basis of which the Khosla Commission was set up.

It is a matter of extreme regret that it required three decades for our nation to undo, I would say, the mischief that was done against the revolutionary pilgrims of India. Would there have been the freedom, as you call it, would the British imperialists have quit India so precipitously being the victor of the last War if there had not been a fatal blow by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose? What now I would say is not my word, but is the word of Lord Attlee who, as a private citizen, came to India. It has been quoted by Shri K. C. Mazumdar in his book, "History of Indian Independence". He was asked "Why did the British quit India so precipitously?". Lord Attlee said: "Because of the activities of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose".

It is now the accepted fact of history that Mahatma Gandhi prepared the background of Indian freedom and it is Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who achieved it. But not the freedom as you find today. It is not the freedom of either of the dream of Mahatma Gandhi or Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

I am not angry like Mr. Dhirendranath Basu or anybody for not finding the name of Netaji in the Doordarshan on the 15th August. I am very glad that they did not mention the name of Netaji on the 15th August because anybody having the real meaning of the Independence that we achieved on the 15th August would not mind it. At least, I never attend any function nowhere, not for even a day on the 15th August—may be, personally, to me, it is a day of national betrayal. I remember, Mahatma Gandhi, remained unknown at Balighata, at the mid-night of 15th August and he did not bless, did not even send a message of congratulations on this kind of Independence, that we achieved. Therefore, I am not at all worried about it. I am glad that his name was not mentioned on the 15th August because his name should be mentioned either on 26th January or 21st October, the day on which Netaji declared the Provisional Government of India and declared a war of Indian liberation against the British imperialists.

Today, I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister because today ends a crusade that in my humble way I was trying to conduct on behalf of the people of India at least to see that officially and legally Netaji is not declared dead. How, by undoing the findings of the two Reports, at least this much we have achieved that, today, Netaji is neither legally nor officially dead.

What happened to him? Whether there will be any useful purpose served by having a fresh enquiry or not is a question which I will answer later. But I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that what has been done by this Government has been done by Khosla himself. He himself repudiated his own findings in a recent case in Calcutta. There was the report of the Khosla Commission and, just after the publication of this Report, I published a book called "The Last Days of Netaji". This is nothing but

[Prof. Samar Guha]

the almost a verbatim reproduction of the Commission's Report, having just some linking up here and there. At least in 27 places he described Netaji as a puppet of Japan, a tool of Japan, a quisling, and what not. Why did he do so? Do you know? It was because he found that the testimony of the witnesses—Japanese or otherwise—would not justify his findings that Netaji really died in the plane crash. Therefore, he had to build up some political thesis and he did it without having any kind of evidentiary support. No witness anywhere mentioned that Netaji acted or subjected himself to act as a puppet or a quisling of Japan—not a single witness said so. Yet he mentioned this about 27 times only to give justification to his finding. His political thesis was that to the man whom Japan considered as nothing but a puppet and quisling, they could not give any protection to him, endangering their own national interest as against the wrath of the Anglo-American powers, under whose occupancy they were after the war.

The family members of Netaji filed a defamation case against Mr. Khosla—against this Report and against his book also—and he had to render an un-conditional apology. I want to keep on record in this House what he said while tendering his un-conditional apology. I will read it out. He said:

"I...do hereby tender my un-qualified apology to the complainant, Shri Dwijendra Nath Bose and other members of the family of Netaji and to our countrymen, who have felt hurt and aggrieved, owing to the impugned passages in the said book concerning one of the greatest sons of India and his nephews.

I would also express for myself that I sincerely share in common with my countrymen the deepest regard for Netaji who is regarded as the LIBERATOR of our MOTHERLAND and was christened by no less a person than Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation as "THE PATRIOT OF PATRIOTS—THE

PRINCE OF PATRIOTS" as one of the greatest sons of India.

I am prepared to make due and adequate amends to have the case compounded according to law and also undertake to have the apology herein contained published fully and adequately through advertisement inserted in leading newspapers in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, and Madras and other State Capitals of India as also in newspapers of countries where the said impugned publication has been circulated, to freeze stocks of the impugned book left with me, my publishers and their agent and not to sell or reprint the same and also to supply copies of the apology to the leading book-sellers where the book has been displayed for sale, requesting them to hang up the same in public view.

I hope and trust this apology will be accepted and the case will be compounded according to law."

So, Mr. Khosla has repudiated it himself—and the publisher also did so. I don't want to read it out; it is almost in the same language. I will quote only a few words: The publisher said:

"We confess that we were not aware of the offending contents and the implications thereof as we were only executing orders placed with us for the performance of our professional job as printers and publishers.

If we were aware of such contents, which traduced the honour of one of the greatest sons of India, we would certainly not have been a party to the printing and publishing of the impugned book in respect of which we have inadvertently become involved in our aforesaid capacity. We hereby make due and adequate amends for our said inadvertent laches by tendering our unqualified apology to the complainant, Shri Dwijendra Nath Bose, and other members of the family of



Netaji and also to our countrymen for this publication."

I got the indulgence of this House when, last time, I made an one-hour-and-fortyfive-minute speech marshalling all facts why I believed that the plane crash was nothing but a fake. But I felt that I could not fully convince this House. After that, what I jotted down something in the jail.— I had recast then and, very hurriedly, published this book, called "Netaji dead or Alive?" Fortunately, I have the cuttings of the review of the book from almost all the leading papers of the country. All the leading papers that are brought out from various metropolitan cities have, unanimously, in their reviews, commented that this book has conclusively proved that Netaji did not die in the air crash. I know many things, but I have not mentioned in the book anything that was not found in the documents that were produced before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee or the Khosla Commission or in the documents that were later published in the British papers—I mean, the secret papers that have been recently published. All the newspapers have commented unanimously that it has been conclusively proved that Netaji did not die in the air-crash.

If Netaji did not die in the air-crash, then what happened to him? It is our moral obligation to know what happened to him. The Prime Minister has said that no useful purpose will be served by having a fresh inquiry. I agree. But the reason is different. For me, there is no necessity any more of any fresh inquiry. I got the report quite earlier and some important information also from very responsible quarters that Netaji is alive. I made frantic searches all over the country to try to find any kind of clue—if that could provide any positive information that Netaji is alive. Yet, I could not be absolutely sure about the veracity of the information that I received earlier. I have, therefore, been very careful; if you

remember, whenever I said anything in the House. I have always used the expressions,—“I believe, Netaji is alive”, “I hope, Netaji is alive”, “I pray to God that Netaji should be alive”, and “I dream that Netaji is alive”. Even when I wrote this book, I had a certain shadow of doubt in me; for that reason, in the title of this book, I have kept a query, a question-mark, if “Netaji Dead or Alive?”

I know that many people feel that I am a crazy person, I am a gullible person; and I am easily subject to believe any kind of rumour about Netaji being alive. I know that. I know even that many people consider me as childish when I wear this Netaji badge. Many people say that I am using it for political purposes. At my age, to have this badge unfailingly—what it is, I know; what is this meant to be, I know.

But I am thankful to God that my quest, my search and my mission to know whether Netaji is dead or alive has been fulfilled to-day. To-day for me, there is no question of indecisiveness in any way. In the name of God I announce in this House that I know that Netaji is alive.

Naturally my friends will ask the question, why then are you not divulging his whereabouts? I am too eager, too impatient to let the country know what I know, but, then I have not the freedom yet to disclose what I know...

SHRI SHYAMNANANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Why?

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: What I know, if I divulge now then everyone of you will jump up if I say something and if I show you something to prove what I have said. But, I have not the freedom yet. But this much I can say. Netaji is nowhere under duress. He is a free man. I also

[Prof. Samar Guha] believe that the time is not very far off when the country will also know positively that Netaji is alive. I know when he reappears there will be some kind of a political earthquake in this country. To-day I pray to God with all my countrymen that Netaji may be in good health and we may get back the greatest revolutions of our country, the epic era of Indian freedom, the greatest patriots of our country, the Netaji of the Indian people back in our midst so that he may lead the destiny of our people to their cherished goal.

I again pray to God along with all of you so that Netaji keeps well and we get him back in our midst as early as possible.

Sir, again, I thank the Prime Minister, the government and all our friends for lending all kinds of support in undoing the mortal sin and the crime that was committed against Netaji. To-day I will only again pray to God, give back our Netaji to us.

Jai Hindi, Jayatu Netaji.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your motion?

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: There is no necessity of any further inquiry because I know Netaji is alive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, it is the pleasure of the House to permit him to withdraw his motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, by leave.  
The substitute motion was withdrawn.

17.55 hrs.

MOTION RE: LARGESCALE DISTRESS SALE OF RAW JUTE BY THE GROWERS

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

"That this House do take note of the situation arising out of the large scale distress sale of raw jute at prices lower than the statutory price in West Bengal and other jute growing States and urges upon the Government to take appropriate actions to ensure remunerative price for the growers".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you would agree with me that the Motion this House is discussing now is of vital importance not only for a large number of our people but also for the entire nation.

You know, Sir, that jute which we formerly called 'golden fibre' has played a very important role in the economy of our country and, particularly, in the rural economy of the jute growing States. It is quite well-known that the jute manufacturers account today for nearly 7 per cent of our total foreign exchange earnings. It is also well known that over 2 lakhs of industrial workers are directly employed in the jute industry. About twenty lakhs of our people are directly employed in the jute industry. About 20 lakhs of our people earn their livelihood from the secondary trade to the sectors of the jute industry.

17.57 hrs.

[SHRI N. K. SHELWALKAR in the Chair]

It is also to be mentioned in this connection that more than forty lakhs of our Indian families or thirty lakhs of farmers of six jute growing States are engaged in the production and cultivation of jute.