

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 23, 1967/Agrahayana
2, 1889 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (South Madras)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Friends, we have received with great sorrow the news of the death of Master Tara Singh, who was a liberal leader, who served the country according to his own light, respected by all communities, and for nearly 50 years he struggled whatever may be the cause in which he believed. Now, it is a great loss not only to the Sikh community, but the whole of India.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : I should like to pay tribute to the memory of Master Tara Singh who was one of the old veterans who have played a part in our freedom struggle. One may not always agree with what he did in later years, but he was a colourful and dynamic personality, and whatever cause he took up, he did so with great zeal and enthusiasm, and his passing away is no doubt a loss to the country.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Master Tara Singh was one of our national leaders. The role he played in our freedom struggle was indeed unique. Though he had to cross swords with many of our national leaders of those days, he held fast to what he believed to be the true interests of the great Sikh community and our country. He can be said to be one of the greatest champions not only of the Sikh community, but also the minoritees in our country. He is one of the fathers of this Punjab State as it has come to be now. Though he was not satisfied with the shape that it has taken, he did more than any one else for founding or carving out that Punjab State

in our country. The fights that he waged for the freedom of the country and for the special protection of his community are very many, and on many occasions he could not agree with the other national leaders in our country. Nevertheless, he extorted admiration and appreciation for the courage that he had displayed and for the loyalty that he had displayed towards the causes that he had undertaken. He lived to a ripe old age, and until the very last, he continued to be a good fighter. So we all admire his dauntless courage and his steadfastness in his convictions and we bemoan his death.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्वर्गीय डा० लोहिया को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए मैंने कहा था कि पुरानी पीढ़ी के नेता एक, एक करके हमारे बीच में से गुजरते जा रहे हैं। इन नेताओं में मास्टर तारा सिंह का स्थान सब का ध्यान अपनी ओर खींचने वाला स्थान था। जिस बात को वह ठीक समझते थे उसके लिए बहादुरी से लड़ते थे और उनके उत्साह से औरों को भी प्रेरणा मिलती थी। कभी-कभी उनके निकट सम्पर्क में आकर ऐसा लगता था जैसे उनमें शिशु जैसी सरलता है। जो हृदय में है वह मुंह पर है, किसी को भला लगे, बुरा लगे, अपने हिसाब से वह अपने मार्ग पर चलते थे। उन्होंने अपने ढंग से देश को जो सेवा की, पंथ की जो सेवा की उसके लिए मास्टर जी का नाम आधुनिक भारत के इतिहास में हर दम याद किया जायेगा। वह सिक्खों के नेता थे इसलिए राष्ट्रीय नेता भी थे। हम उनके निधन से दुखी हैं और आपने तथा अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने जो विचार प्रकट किये हैं मैं उनके साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI ANBAZHAGAN* (Tiruchengode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Master Tara Singh who was famous as the lion of Punjab, was the guiding light for the Sikh Community and their progress. On his recent demise, all people of the country have expressed deep regret. He was not only a great leader, but

*Original speech was delivered in Tamil.