

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.

was a guiding light to the minority communities and one who fought for their rights. Leaders of various movements in different parts of India have supported his struggle off and on. It will not be wrong to say that the firmness which he exhibited and the ability with which he led the Sikh community is praised by many. People of Punjab have a uniqueness of their own. They are capable people and can establish their rights. By his unique service, Master Tara Singh has established this fact. On his demise, I express my heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham. People belonging to various linguistic groups in India have expressed real sorrow at his demise and as a mark of this, I convey my sorrow on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of D.M.K. and the people of Tamil Nad in my language.

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि अभी मेरे भाई श्री बाजपेयी ने कहा कि उस पीढ़ी के लोग जिन्होंने कि हमारे देश को जगाया और उसका मार्गदर्शन किया धीरे-धीरे हम लोगों से जुदा होते जा रहे हैं। जब पंजाबी सूबे का आन्दोलन चल रहा था तो मेरा यह सौभाग्य हुआ कि मैंने उनसे बातचीत की और मैंने एक चीज उनमें पाई कि वह एक ऐसे व्यक्ति थे जिनका इरादा फौलादी था और जो भी वह सोचते थे उसको करने की कोशिश करते थे। आज पंजाब जो कुछ हमारे सामने है उसमें मास्टर जी का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। पंजाबी सूबे की मांग उन्होंने उठाई। और केवल सारे सिखों को ही जागृत नहीं किया, सारे देश के लोगों के लिये भी सही रास्ते का प्रदर्शन किया। मैं समझता हूँ कि उनके जाने से केवल हमारे सिख भाइयों की क्षति नहीं हुई है, केवल पंजाब की क्षति नहीं हुई है, सारे देश की क्षति हुई है।

मैं अपने ग्रुप की ओर से उनको श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो उनके परिवार के लोग हैं उनके पास हमारी संवेदना पहुंचा दी जाये।

श्री मधु सिसये (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्वाधीनता संग्राम के एक सिपाही और नेता

के नाते मैं मास्टर तारा सिंह जी को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करना चाहता हूँ। उनकी मृत्यु के अवसर पर मेरी यह हार्दिक इच्छा है कि जिस अनुदारता, असहिष्णुता और कट्टरता से हमारे मुल्क का बटवारा हुआ, उसको दफनाने का संकल्प हम सब लोग करें।

जिस संयुक्त मोर्चे की सरकार को पंजाब में आप निकालने जा रहे हैं, उसको एक बात को लेकर मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। जिस तरह से यहाँ हिन्दू मुसलमानों के अलगाव से बटवारे की नौबत आई, उसी तरह लोगों के मन में यह डर था कि हिन्दू सिखों का झगड़ा जो पंजाब में चल रहा था क्या उससे एक और नया बंटवारा होगा। लेकिन पंजाब में जो संयुक्त मोर्चे की सरकार थी उसने हिन्दुओं और सिखों के बीच में जो सद्भाव कायम किया है वह एक अच्छी चीज है।

मैं फिर सब लोगों से अपील करना चाहता हूँ कि मास्टर तारा सिंह जी के साथ हमारे जो भी मतभेद रहे हों, लेकिन उनको दोहराने से कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। हम लोगों का लाभ इसी में है कि हिन्दू, मुसलमान, सिख, ईसाई सब लोग मिल कर हिन्दुस्तान को एक कौम, एक राष्ट्र बनायें।

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Madurai) : Sir, many streams had flowed into the ocean of the struggle against British imperialism and the Akali movement in its origin was one such thing. I remember those days in 1923-24 when the country reverberated with the roarings of the Akalis. Those were the days when the rich gurdwaras were under the control of the *Mahants* nominated by the British imperialists. The *Mahants* at that time were utilising the gurdwaras against the national struggle. It was precisely at that time that the Akali movement arose, which wanted to wrest the control of those gurdwaras from the hands of those people. That is why I said, the Akali movement in its origin was an anti-imperialist struggle intended to prevent the gurdwaras from being in the hands of the British imperialists. Master Tara Singh came into prominence in that period as one

of the leaders of the Akali movement and he had in his own measure contributed to the great struggle against British imperialism. Whatever might have been our differences with him, at this time when we mourn his loss, let us recall those services rendered by him in the great struggle for freedom.

I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

**SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) :** Sir, though Master Tara Singh did not participate in the freedom struggle in a direct manner, he fought against British imperialism for reasons of his own. We, in this country, have always paid our tributes of homage to all those persons who have been fighters for a cause. We may not agree with the politics of Master Tara Singh, but the fact remains that his was an indomitable spirit. I remember those words of Milton "invisible spirit, never to submit or yield". That is what he possessed. He had been a fighter for a cause till his death. What people say about aged people not being able to be effective has been belied by his colourful personality. I agree with the Prime Minister when she describes Master Tara Singh as a dynamic personality. We are sorry to hear about his death. Our party associates itself with the sentiments that have been expressed by you, Sir, the Prime Minister and other speakers.

**MR. SPEAKER :** May I request hon. Members to stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to his memory ?

*[The Members then stood in silence for a short while]*

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER :** We shall now take up deferred question No. 210-A.\*

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** When this question was taken up I asked a supplementary. My supplementary question was whether it is a fact that this particular operation, which normally takes about 15 to 25 minutes, took about 3½ hours and whether it is also a fact that his blood pressure was not normalised or stabilised

before the operation and his wound was not opened up despite the fact that it was to be opened. Brig. Lal and others could not take a decision. They were halting and faltering. Ultimately, Dr. Ghosh who came from Vellore and Dr. Mehta, who fortunately was here from Bombay, when they were consulted, they said that it had to be re-opened and it was re-opened. Apart from that, the hon. Minister wanted to give us a statement containing all the particulars. That statement did not give us any information. He has simply given the details of what happened from 28th to the time of his death. That is not convincing at all, because we know the condition of the Willingdon Hospital. If we want to have a by-election, we have only to send the MP to the Willingdon Hospital. So, I would like to know whether there is going to be any inquiry into the working of the Willingdon Hospital. I want an answer to that.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) :** I would like to inform the House that we have already set up an inquiry commission into the working of the government hospitals in New Delhi which includes Willingdon Hospital also... *(Interruptions)*. May I finish ? The Ministry feels, the government feels, that we cannot appoint an inquiry committee into the particular circumstances in which Dr. Lohia died, because that will be demoralising the staff and surgeons... *(Interruptions)*. Let me finish. The doctors will find it extremely embarrassing to attend to any VIP when he comes because they will be feeling that the appointment of an inquiry committee is breathing down their neck and they will not be able to do their best. I can assure you that when Dr. Lohia was admitted he was given the very best treatment that we could give.

**SHRI M. L. SONDHAI :** Shameful.

**DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR :** I have myself visited him several times. Many teams of experts from many places were called in. Experts from Bombay, Banaras and Vellore were called in, there was consultation between them and they all agreed

\*Starred Question No. 92, put and answered on 16th November, 1967 was re-numbered as No. 210 A.