

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 30, 1970/Chaitra 9, 1892
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
[MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE.

Death of Dr. N. B. Khare

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Dr. N. B. Khare, who passed away at Nagpur on the 29th March, 1970, at the age of 86.

Dr. Khare was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly during the years 1935-1937 and 1943-1946 of the Constituent Assembly of India during 1947-48 and of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952 to 1957. He was a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council during the years 1943-46. He was the Prime Minister of the erstwhile C. P. and Berar and Alwar States. He was a noted social worker and good parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Sir, Dr. N. B. Khare was a well-known public and political figure. He took an active part in the early phase of our freedom struggle and underwent imprisonment in that connection. He has rendered notable service to the medical profession and in other social welfare work.

I should like to associate myself and this House with the sentiments you have expressed

and to send our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI S. K. PATIL (Banaskantha): Sir, I also join in these condolences. I have known Dr. Khare all my life time. During 1937, when we first made our Governments, Dr. Khare was the Chief Minister, then called Prime Minister of C. P. and Berar. He was a very good social worker and a man of independent thinking. He has died at a mature age. But he lived all his life rendering service to mankind.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Sir, I agree with all that has been said by all of you. Dr. Khare came into this House in 1935 at a time when the national struggle was at a low ebb and the British thought they would be able to defeat the Congress. We were able to defeat the Congress during that general election. While we were together here in the Central Legislative Assembly, Dr. Khare used to play a very important role. Afterwards, when he became Prime Minister, it was unfortunate that he came into conflict with Mahatma Gandhi over a technical error committed by him according to Bapu. But that technical error would not be considered to be of any consequence at all today in these days of amoral politics. Dr. Khare revolted against Mahatma Gandhi in a very spirited manner and displayed a kind of political and personal courage which has become very very rare now. Afterwards, he became a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. During that short tenure of his, he withdrew our High Commissioner from South Africa, as a protest against the policy pursued by the South African Government. That also was a very courageous thing. He was one of the minorities of Indians in the Executive Council of those days. He has quarrelled with Mahatma of the Congress on one side. He was supposed to be with the British, but he would not

bend. He would not bend either before the Congress, with which he differed, or before the British. He stood by India and India's self-respect and he was able to win his way and withdraw the Indian High Commissioner from South Africa. In that way, he led the way for the courageous people and patriotic people of our country. In retirement also he lived like a lion and he was roaring like a lion for the rights of the Vidarbha people. He was a good friend. He wrote an autobiography, which is worth reading, to which one of our friends has written a very good introduction. We all mourn his loss.

SHRI ANBAZHAGAN (Tiruchengode): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party I wish to join others in expressing our sympathy and grief on the demise of Dr. Khare. He was a great leader, a pioneer in the liberation movement as well as a great social worker. Everyone of us in this House feels his loss. I wish you to convey to the members of the bereaved family and other people who are closely connected with him our heartfelt condolences and grief.

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी (भोपाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पुरानी पीढ़ी के एक नेता को आज मृत्यु ने हमसे छीन लिया है। डा० खरे, डाक्टर के नाते तो विख्यात थे ही, किन्तु एक कट्टर देशभक्त के नाते भी भारत भर में गगनचुम्ब थे। सबसे पहले कांग्रेस ने जब अधिकाय लिया तो प्रधानमंत्री के नाते उन्होंने मध्यप्रदेश और बरार का सूत्र संचालन किया। किन्तु जब मतभेद हो गए तो उनके आधारा पर उन्होंने त्याग-पत्र ही नहीं दिया वरन् देश के सबसे उच्च कोटि के नेता महात्मा गांधी के साथ विरोध रख कर भी विरोध प्रकट करने का साहस और धैर्य और एक स्पष्टवादिता भी उनके पास थी। कभी-कभी उनकी कठोर स्पष्टवादिता के कारण उनसे व्यक्ति काफी नाराज होते थे। वैसे वह देखने में, कटहल जैसे ऊपर से जरा चुभने लायक थे, किन्तु अन्दर से बहुत ही मधुर और मीठे थे। जिस समय भारत छोड़ो आन्दोलन चल रहा था। उन दिनों वायसराय की ऐक्जीक्यूटिव काउन्सिल के सदस्य बनना कोई

मामूली बात नहीं थी विरोध के बावजूद भी वह बने और उसके सदस्य के नाते अपने स्थान का पूरा पूरा उपयोग करके उन्होंने देश की जो सेवा की वह दुख की बात है कि अभी तक उपेक्षित रही है, वह सही अर्थों में लोगों के सामने आना आवश्यक है।

एक ऐसे प्रमुख पुरानी पीढ़ी के नेता हमसे छिन गए। भगवान से मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह उनको सद्गति प्रदान करे। और आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमारी समवेदना उनके संतप्त परिवार को भेज दें।

SHRI UMANATH (Puduk Kkottai): On behalf of my group, I also join in offering our condolences to the bereaved family of Dr. Khare.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peermade): In the death of Dr. Khare we have lost one of the old stalwarts of the freedom movement. On behalf of the CPI, I wish to join all the other Members of the House in paying my homage to the departed leader.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी (पूना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, डा० खरे और हम लोगों का सम्पर्क स्वाधीनता संग्राम के समय हुआ और हम डा० खरे को नज़दीक से देख रहे थे, और कभी कभी उनके साथ काम करने का मौका भी मिला था। आगे चल कर जैसा कि यहां बताया गया, उनके मतभेद हो गए कांग्रेस के साथ और वह अलग हो गए। परन्तु जो भी कोई उनके निकट आ गया उसको पूरा पता था कि यह आदमी जब कोई संकल्प करता है तो उस संकल्प पर दृढ़ रहने के लिए और अपने उद्देश्य को पाने के लिए सब कुछ न्योछावर करने के लिए तैयार रहा करते थे।

इस तरह की संकल्प शक्ति जो कि पुराने दिनों में आज़ादी की लड़ाई में हमारे देश में दिखाई दे रही थी, हम ऐसा देख रहे हैं कि वह शक्ति आज हम लोगों में कुछ कम-सी हो रही है। वह कुछ ऐसे आदमियों में से थे जिनसे कि हमारा मतभेद रहा लेकिन उस लगन से

जिस लगेन से कि वह काम करते थे, उस लगेन से काम करने वाले आदमियों की आवश्यकता है। आज उनकी मृत्यु से मैं समझता हूँ कि एक ऐसी शक्ति हमारे मन से चली गई है जिसको सामने रख कर हम उनसे कुछ मत-भेद होते हुए सीख सकते हैं। उनकी मृत्यु से इसलिए भी हमें दुःख है। अपने दल की तरफ से और स्वयं अपनी ओर से प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो भावनाएं प्रकट की हैं उसके साथ मैं अपने को भी सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara): Sir, on behalf of my party and myself, I offer our condolences on the death of Dr. Khare. He was a great patriot and a veteran in our political life. He belonged to the old school of thought, no doubt. One may differ with his political views but it has to be admitted that he was a person who all along his political life had shown courage and determination. Whenever he differed from his own partymen, for example, when he was asked to resign from the Prime ministership of CP and Berar at that time, he showed uncommon courage to defy even Gandhiji and others. Although he joined the Viceroy's Executive Council when the whole country was fighting the Britishers—we were in the midst of the Quit India movement—there is no doubt that he had never compromised his position so far as India's stand for freedom was concerned.

In other fields of activity he showed himself as a great scholar and a social worker. We are sorry that such a person has gone from our midst. I wish you to send our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI N. C. CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my group I want to offer our tribute to the memory of Dr. Khare. We do so not merely because he was a brilliant member of the Chitpavan clan—from that clan came great men of India like Ranade, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Lokmanya Tilak and Vir Savarkar—but we offer our tribute to him because he rendered great service to Mother India in various capacities.

He had a brilliant academic career. He stood first in the MB examination but

people were delighted to know that he came all the way from Nagpur to Lahore and stood first in the MD examination. That is why he was so well up in Hindi and was so very friendly with the Akalis.

He was a devoted follower of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and joined the Swaraj Party. He was returned to the Central Provinces Assembly. He later on had to resign from it. That he did in obedience to the mandate of the Lahore Congress. But then again he came to the Central Assembly.

I know his worth as a member of the Viceroy's Council. There was a lot of criticism when he joined it but he proved himself a successful statesman as the Commonwealth Member. He fought for Indians in Africa and in America. It was at his instance, as one of my hon. friends has said, that the High Commissioner was withdrawn from South Africa.

I had the privilege to work with him in the Hindu Mahasabha. I had the proud privilege to succeed him as the President of that organisation. The Lok Sabha had one Member, Shri Deshpande, Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha, who represented two constituencies from the Central Provinces. One was Gwalior and the other was Guna. He had to resign one. We thought of Dr. Khare from one of them. I went down to Gwalior, and toured that place for days together. The people all wanted Dr. Khare. We made him stand from Gwalior and he came to this Parliament with a thumping majority.

In this Parliament there was some conflict with Pandit Nehru. They could not pull on together. He has described it himself in a very fine chapter which he had contributed to Shri Zacharia's study of Nehru.

Once, in his speech, Pandit Nehru did not reply to his points. Pandit Nehru said—I quote:

"I am very glad that Dr. Khare took part in this debate and made the debate very lively. He criticised our foreign policy. I grant his right of criticism. When he was on this side of the House, it was difficult to understand his speeches and now, when he is on the side of the

Opposition, it has become much more difficult to gather any meaning in his speeches. His criticism will have no effect because it was only meaningless jargon." To that, Dr. Khare gave a befitting reply and he said:

"My criticism did not have any effect not because it was meaningless jargon, but because Pandit Nehru had behind him serried ranks of voting automatons who had pawned their common sense to him."

Sir, he was a great orator, a great speaker, a good poet and a good writer. His biography itself is worth studying, as my hon. friend rightly said. We all associate with the sentiments expressed and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER: The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Sir, before you take up the Question, I would like to invite the attention of the House to two important events. First, our victory in the Davis Cup and our young players, Shri Premjit Lal and Shri Jaideep Mukerjee deserve our congratulations.

MR. SPEAKER: We extend our congratulations to them.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Secondly due to the serious earthquake in Turkey, thousands of people have died and they also deserve our sympathies.

Need-based Minimum Wage for Central Government Employees

*661. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken to include the feasibility of need-based minimum wage for Central Government employees in the terms of reference of the Third Pay Commission; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Government propose to include the consideration of the need-based minimum wage in all its aspects in the terms of reference of the new Pay Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am happy that after all the sacrifices made by the Central Government employees during 19th September strike, the Government have decided to include the question of need-based minimum wage in the terms of reference to the Third Pay Commission. I would like to know from the Government one thing. The minimum wage in H.S.L. is Rs. 207.50 p. in H. E. L. it is Rs. 195 and in H. E. C. it is Rs. 195 which are also Government undertakings whereas a Central Government employee, in Railways, in Defence or in Income-tax or anywhere, gets Rs. 141. I would like to know from the Government whether they have taken a decision to see that the interim relief is given to compensate for this loss, for the amount which falls short of ranging between Rs. 195 to Rs 207.50 p., and for the rise in prices and, if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for that.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The question of need-based minimum wage was also considered by the National Commission which submitted its report in August, 1969. I would like to point for the benefit of the hon. Member the main point that the Commission has made:

"We have, however, accepted the principle that the capacity to pay will be a relevant consideration in fixing the need-based minimum wage."

The Commission itself has recommended this. Now, the Pay Commission is being appointed and this question of minimum wage is also being referred to it. On the question of interim relief, the Pay Commission will be free to give their decision or their recommendation with regard to the interim relief that is to be given and, as I stated the other day during the Question Hour, the Government will consider that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not referring to the private sector or private organisations. I have only referred to the