

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 23, 1969

Pausa 2, 1891 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Death of Shri D.C. Sharma

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Diwan Chand Sharma who passed away this morning at New Delhi at the age of 73.

Shri Sharma was a sitting Member of this House from Gurdaspur constituency of Punjab. He was one of the seniormost Members of this House and had been continuing as a Member right from the first Lok Sabha. During the 18 years of his membership of this House he served on a number of Parliamentary Committees including the Estimates Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Subordinate Legislation etc. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions during the years 1967-68. He was a very good Parliamentarian and used to take very active part in the proceedings of the House.

He was a distinguished educationist and was associated with the Punjab University as a senator and a member of the syndicate of this university. He was closely associated with the D.A.V. College for a number of years. He was a great scholar with many-sided attainments. As a Member of this House he had a very balanced mind and the opinions expressed by him reflected the maturity which he had attained. He had not been keeping good health for quite some time and he was snatched away from us this morning.

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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): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with a heavy and sad heart. Only the other day, we lost a young colleague. Today, an old, valued and respected colleague has left us. We all deeply grieve at the passing away of Prof. Sharma. He came to this House for the first time after the very first general election. Proof of his popularity with the people is evidenced by the fact that he was re-elected to all the successive Lok Sabhas so that he remained a Member of the House from the beginning.

He was ailing for quite some time, but despite his illness, he kept abreast of what was happening in the House and the country and often wrote or sent messages to me giving his views.

As the House is aware, and you have mentioned, Prof. Sharma was an eminent educationist and a leading worker in the academic field. Apart from the Punjab University, where he taught, he was associated with a number of other universities, academic bodies and educational organisations. He also took keen interest in social problems and was intimately connected with the Provincial Board of the Harijan Sewak Sangh and the All-India Social Conference in pre-partitioned Punjab. He brought to bear his scholarship, understanding and experience of a variety of problems to the deliberations of this hon. House.

Professor Sharma had the courage of conviction and always spoke with candour. He was a fatherly figure. We respected the authority and firmness with which the old school master in him occasionally rebuked us Ministers, and others. And that in fact endeared him to all sections of the House.

If I may inject a personal note—Professor Sharma's death is a personal loss to me for my father and I had known him for many years. Later, he became close and a good friend of my husband.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the House may I request you to convey our deep sorrow and heart-felt condolence to the members of the family of the late Professor Sharma.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): Sir, immediately after our arrival here you informed us of the sad demise of Professor D. C. Sharma. He was a distinguished educationist and a very eminent scholar. He was a refugee and he often used to narrate the tales of woe that befell the refugees who came from West Pakistan and also who left this country for Pakistan.

Professor Sharma was a real guardian here, more particularly for younger Members of Parliament. He always used to talk to them, listen to them and give them guidance. Whenever they were in difficulties he used to help them and give them consolation.

As we know, he was not only a teacher but a great scholar of English. He presided over the All India Educational Conference for quite a few years. He was the President of the Primary School Teachers' Association and in that capacity he contributed a lot to ameliorate their conditions. He made representations on their behalf to the government several times and he toured the entire country to meet them and organise them. It was partly due to the great efforts made by him in that direction that the teachers of this country got organised.

Whenever he participated in the parliamentary debates his contribution was appreciated by everybody and he dealt thoroughly with the subjects in which he was interested. In that way he enriched not only Parliament but also the intelligentsia of the country.

On behalf of the opposition I deeply mourn his death and request you to convey our grief and sense of sorrow to his family.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with whatever has been said by our friends here. I had known him for a very long time as an

educationist and during the last 18 years of this House he has proved to be one of the most conscientious members and an active debator. There was not a subject in which he was not evincing interest. Whenever any debate took place in which he had any interest, he joined us all in good cheer and he took part in our discussions. At the same time, he was quite parliamentary enough to put up with opposition, when we did not agree with him. There were very many occasions when, although he was a member of the ruling party, as the Prime Minister has stated, he took to task quite a number of Ministers, and he used to tell us in the lobbies that however much he tried his best the Ministers could not be corrected because they happened to be Ministers and they were overwhelmed with the importance of their own Ministership. In spite, of it he had remained loyal to the ruling party, not because he got very much from it but because loyalty was in his nature.

He made great contribution to the Punjab University, especially after partition when it was very much in need of such intellectuals and pandits as himself. More than what he has done in this House, that was very praiseworthy, he proved to be a very good friend and counsellor to almost all the Members in the Lobbies and in the Central Hall. By his death we lose a very good friend outside in the Lobbies in the Central Hall and a very good comrade and colleague in the House. I join the hon. friends in requesting you to send our condolences to the bereaved family.

श्री बलराज मधोक (दिल्ली-दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, काल के क्रूर हाथों ने हमसे हमारे एक और सार्थी को छीन लिया है। मेरे लिये प्रोफेसर शर्मा का निधन एक प्रकार से व्यक्तिगत लोस भी है। मैंने 4 वर्षों तक लाहौर के डी०ए०बी० कालिज में उन के चरणों में बैठ कर शिक्षा प्राप्त की। वह मेरे अध्यापक थे, हमें अंग्रेजी पढ़ाते थे, परन्तु अंग्रेजी पढ़ाने के साथ साथ वह अपने जीवन से, अपने व्यवहार से भी हमें बहुत कुछ सिखाते थे—इस प्रकार एक बड़ोबूढ़ नेता और महान राजनीतिक के चले जाने का मुझे महान दुख है और मैं ही नहीं शायद इस पार्लियामेंट के और

भी कई सदस्य जो पंजाब से हैं, जिन्होंने उनसे शिक्षा प्राप्त की है, उन सब के लिये भी यह दुःख विशेष रूप से बहुत दुःखदायी होगा।

प्रोफेसर शर्मा केवल एक शिक्षा शास्त्री ही नहीं थे—शिक्षा शास्त्री के नाते उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा स्थान पाया, वह पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी के बनाने वालों में से एक थे, उस की सिण्डिकेट और सीनेट दोनों के मेम्बर थे, डी० ए० वी० कालिज के लाइफ-मेम्बर थे, अंग्रेजी के बड़े विद्वान थे, लेकिन इस के साथ साथ उन का सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक कामों में भी बहुत बड़ा योगदान था। उन्होंने अपने राजनीतिक जीवन को हिन्दू महासभा के द्वारा शुरू किया और लगभग 15 साल तक वह पंजाब हिन्दू महासभा के महामंत्री रहे। स्वर्गीय भाई परमानन्द और लाला लाजपत राय के साथी थे। उनके साथ मिल कर उन्होंने डी० ए० वी० कालिज बनाया। उनके साथ पंजाब में हिन्दू महासभा को खड़ा किया। पंजाब में राजनीतिक चेतना और राष्ट्रीय चेतना पैदा करने में उन का बहुत बड़ा हाथ था।

वह आर्य समाज के एक वयोवृद्ध नेता थे। डी० ए० वी० कालिज के द्वारा आर्य समाज की बहुत सेवा की। विभाजन के बाद वह भी हमारी तरह विस्थापित बन कर उधर से इधर आये और यहां पर आकर कांग्रेस ज्वाइन की और 18 वर्षों तक कांग्रेस की सेवा की और कांग्रेस के द्वारा देश की सेवा की। पिछले कुछ दिनों से उन का स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ा हुआ था। मगर उसके बावजूद भी जब वह हाउस में आते थे, अपनी विद्वत्ता, बुद्धिमत्ता और चुटकियों से हर एक का मार्गदर्शन करते थे। एक वयोवृद्ध अध्यापक होने के नाते हर एक को शिक्षा देना उन की नेचर भी हो गई थी।

ऐसे साथी का ऐसे समय में चला जाना, जब कि इस संसद में हों ऐसे लोगों की आवश्यकता है, जो राजनीतिज्ञ ही न हों, उस के

साथ साथ उन में कुछ बिद्वत्ता भी हो, बुद्धिमत्ता भी हो, ऐसे साथी का चला जाना इस संसद के लिये भी और देश के लिये भी बहुत बड़ा लोस है और इस प्रकार आर्य समाज के लिये और उस की मूवमेंट के लिये भी बहुत बड़ा लोस है।

मैं अपनी ओर से और अपने दल की ओर से उन के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करना हूँ।

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta North East): Mr. Speaker, it was only about half an hour earlier that I learnt of the passing away of our friend and colleague Prof. D. C. Sharma. It goes without saying that the news gives to all of us that kind of poignant shock which it will take us some time to get over.

I had known Professor Sharma ever since 1952 when we were both elected to the First Lok Sabha and I had found in him a colleague whose admirable personal qualities were something which it would not be easy to forget.

He belonged to the grand old tradition when a kind of national integration used to be taken for granted. I remember, how he used to tell us with a kind of pride that when he took his degree it was from Calcutta University because the writ of Calcutta used to run in those days from the easternmost corners of India to Peshawar. He said that that was a symbol of the unity of the country which he embodied in his work.

We noticed him also as a most active participator in the proceedings of the House but he would enliven the proceedings with a kind of native wit which is becoming rarer in this House. It was a joy even to cross swords with him because he was on the Congress Benches and we on this side of the House.

With his personality, persuasiveness and the peculiarly fascinating qualities which go with the imponderable thing called character, he was a person who was in many ways unique. Even though he has died full of years and honours, he shall be missed in this House very seriously.

We knew that he was not keeping well for some time, but whenever he would come to this House for a short stay, as my hon. friend, Professor Madhok, has just now said, he would bring a kind of good cheer about him. That is something which we should continue to build.

We mourn the passing away of a distinguished academician, a distinguished participant in the public life of our country, a powerful parliamentarian and an individual with character and courtesy. He was gentleman to his fingertips. He was a sort of person whom we shall continue to miss for a long day to come. On my behalf and on behalf of the party which I represent in this House, I request you to convey to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy.

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to express grief on behalf of my party as well as myself at the sad demise of our great elder in this House, Professor D.C. Sharma. I really do not find words to express the goodness in him. In fact, he was, very very paternal and was even giving some tips and education on parliamentary procedures and life in the Lobby to Members like me.

He was very serious, humorous and pungent both during the Question Hour and during the debates. The news of his death was not a surprise because we, all of us, knew that he was ill for some time but what was surprising was his great determination and the strength of his will. As I see it, though he fell ill a long time ago, if he lived for such a long time during his illness it was because of the overpowering nature of his will over his physique. Even during his illness, though he was not able to walk actually, literally, I found him twice or thrice coming to this House. One day I saw him when to walk from the first gate to the Notice Office and to climb the steps he took half a hour. I was with him then. Despite this physical condition he was so much interested in coming to the House, seeing old colleagues, participating in and making some contribution to the debate directly or indirectly.

His loss is a great loss to this House. It is a personal loss to me as well as to my party. I associate myself with all the senti-

ments expressed by the Prime Minister, yourself and other hon. friends here. I would like you to convey our deep condolences on my behalf and on behalf of our party to his family.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ दिन पहले इस सदन में हमने श्री गिरिराज शरण सिंह तथा श्रीमती वायलट अलवा के निधन पर शोक प्रकट किया था और आज हमारे बीच से श्री दीवान चन्द्र शर्मा भी उठ गए। पिछले तीन सालों से जब से मैं लोक सभा का सदस्य चुनकर आया हूँ, मैं अध्यापक श्री दीवान चन्द्र शर्मा को अच्छी तरह से जानता था। शर्मा जी पुराने जमाने की अच्छाई और आज के जमाने की आधुनिकता के बीच में समन्वय स्थापित करने वालों में से थे। मेरी जो आखिरी मुलाकात उनसे हुई उस दिन वे कुर्सी पर बैठ कर सदन में आये थे। समाजवादी आदर्शों के प्रति उनमें इतनी निष्ठा थी और उन्होंने यह फर्माया था कि देखो, रबी राय, डा० लोहिया के आदर्शों को प्रतिष्ठित करने के लिए तथा कार्यान्वित करने के लिए जबलपुर के बगल के एक गांव में जो स्कूल आफ सोशलजिम् स्थापित होने जा रहा है, वहां पर हमको भेज देना, मैं वहां पर जाकर विद्यार्थियों को पढ़ाऊंगा। इस बुढ़ापे में भी लड़कों को पढ़ाने के उनके संकल्प को देख कर मुझे ताज्जुब हुआ। जैसा कि श्री उमानाथ जी ने कहा, जीने के लिए यह संकल्प उनके मन में बहुत असर किये हुए था। इस सदन में चाहे रक्षा के सिलसिले में विचार हो या अश्लील चित्रों पर पाबन्दी लगाने की बात हो, एक छोटे सवाल से लेकर बड़े से बड़े सवाल पर वह भाग लेते थे। उनकी विद्वता और उन का पित्रतुल्य स्नेह, हम जैसे नये सदस्य जो कि पिछले चुनाव में ही चुन कर इस सदन में आये हैं, कभी भुला नहीं पायेंगे। मैं आपके साथ और सदन के नेता के साथ अपने को तथा अपनी पार्टी के सम्बद्ध करता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि हमारी श्रद्धांजलि शोक संतप्त परिवार तक पहुंचाने की कृपा करें।

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very sad and sorrowful news and it is a great personal loss to me. I knew Prof. D.C. Sharma for the last 16-17 years and we became intimate when he was with us in a parliamentary delegation for about one and half month in the United States.

When I met him a few days back, although he was so ill, I could never imagine that death would be so near. As has been pointed out, he had the will and determination and, I thought, his will and determination would also be able to get over his illness even for some time to come. In spite of his illness, he was keeping himself fully informed about the Parliament and other political developments. He was very keenly interested in all aspect of national life. He was really very sorry that he was not able because of his physical illness, to participate at such a time. Although quite advanced in age, he was quite enthusiastic, full of enthusiasm and energy, and, if I may say so, I have hardly found a person of his age having so advanced and progressive ideas about all our problems. It was really a great advantage and, I would say, a great opportunity to come in close contact with him because of his personal qualities, his qualities of head and heart. He was amiable, jovial, friendly, sociable, and as has already been stated, as a teacher he was not only liked and respected by those whom he actually taught but we had also in him a teacher even in the political life, even when he was a Member of Parliament. We have lost a great, eminent Parliamentarian, an educationist, a great social worker and a politician at this juncture. and we we all fell the loss. It is a great loss to the House, to the nation, to the country. I associate myself and my Party with the the sentiments already expressed by others in this House, and I hope that you will convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : On behalf of myself and my Party I associate myself with the sentiments expressed here on the passing away of the veteran and keen Parliamentarian, Prof. D.C. Sharma. As a Professor, he brought an academic touch to the discussion in this House. Though he belonged to the Congress Party, he took very keen interest in the debates

and in the Question Hour, and was very much nearer to the Opposition in the discussions in the House.

When I came to the House in 1962, he almost took us under his coverage and used to give us so much encouragement and enthusiasm in the work that we had to do here. He was very paternal in his approach to all the younger members and as a true professor, he took us all under his coverage and led us to conduct a dignified and sober discussion in this House. With his wit and humour, he used to enlighten and enliven the proceedings. It is a sad day to hear the news of the passing way of the Professor. I once again associate myself and my Party with the sentiments expressed in the House.

श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री (बागपत) : श्रीमान्, मैं जब 13-14 वर्ष का विद्यार्थी था उस समय से श्री दीवान चन्द्र शर्मा के साथ मेरा परिचय था। वे लाहौर में अध्यापक थे। पंजाब में आर्य समाज ने शिक्षा के प्रसार और प्रचार में जो महान कार्य किया है उसमें उनका बहुमूल्य सहयोग था। पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी के निर्माण और विकास में भी उन्होंने बहुत ऐतिहासिक कार्य किया है। यहां जब भी कभीवे मिलते थे, यह बात हमेशा मुझे याद रहेगी, उसी वात्सल्य से पुकारते थे, जैसे कि किसी बालक विद्यार्थी को पुकारा जाता है। आज उनके निधन से जहां पंजाब की क्षति हुई है, इस सदन की महान क्षति हुई है वहां हमारे राष्ट्र से एक बहुत ऊंचे स्तर का राजनीतिक विचारक उठ गया है। इस दुःखद अवसर पर मैं उस महान आत्मा के प्रति स्वयं और अपने दल की ओर से श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूं।

श्री यशबन्त सिंह कुशवाह (भिड) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, पं० दीवान चन्द्र जी शर्मा आर्य समाज के प्रसिद्ध नेता थे, एक कुशल शिक्षा शास्त्री तथा प्रसिद्ध पार्लेमेन्टेरियन थे। उनके निधन से देश को बहुत बड़ी क्षति हुई है। मैं और मेरे दल के समस्त साथी उनके निधन से बहुत शोकाकुल हैं और आपसे प्रार्थना करते हैं कि हमारी संवेदना उनके परिवार तक पहुंचाने की कृपा करें।

SHRI M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL (Manjeri) : I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. members of this House touching the sorrowful demise of an able and amiable gentlemen, Prof. Diwan Chand Sharma.

I cannot claim such acquaintance or intimate friendship with him as many others did. But, however little I know of him as a Member of Parliament and the casual acquaintance with him showed me what a man of sterling character he was. Though he was a very serious man, he was not wanting in wit and humour. Though his serious demeanour at times was apt to dispel people from him, when he opened his mouth even to a casual acquaintance, the acquaintance was dragged towards him and was compelled to have respect and love for him.

With regard to the amount of work he had put in the Parliament, I do not think many of us can come anywhere near him in the matter of record. In the number of Bills he had introduced in the House and the number of subjects he had taken part in the House and in so many other ways he was the most hard working man, with due deference to other parliamentarians here. I was wondering all the time how a man who was weighed down with age and weighed down with bodily weakness could be capable of such hard work and also inestimable and admirable work. It was the inner spirit of his that stood him all that which I respect, and I once more say on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, the Muslim League, that I join in the homage that is paid to him by this House well deservedly.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam) : I wish to associate myself on behalf of myself and my Party with all that has been said about the late Shri Diwan Chand Sharma. He was a man of character. He was a very good parliamentarian and educationist. I had the privilege of being with him very closely on some occasions. He was piloting Bill. He introduced a Bill here for the amendment of the Indian Penal Code, but, as he fell ill, I had the privilege of continuing the work and getting it passed in the Lok Sabha. He was, as everybody said, a great educationist. He was not content with what he

learnt long ago. Whenever he heard anything of value here in this House, he used to immediately note it in his book. Once I remember that when I said here that a word, a woman and a gift once given cannot be taken back, he was so charmed with it that he came to me all the way and noted it in his diary. To the end he was always like that. He was a scholar to the end. It is a great loss as everybody said and a personal loss to people like me. I join you and request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : I wish to join in the sense of profound grief the House has expressed on the passing away of a very respected member of this House. I had known Prof. D.C. Sharma for many years and I particularly feel grieved on his passing away because he was one of the few men here who was kind to the younger members who came to this House. When we went to him often for guidance he always spent time trying to teach us the ways and procedures of the House. I feel that senior members like him who remain in this House even today should lend a helping hand to younger members who come here, in the same spirit. He was a great educationist and a great and kind man in his own way. I share the grief expressed by this House and wish to convey through you to the members of the bereaved family our sense of great grief on the passing away of a very dear friend.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO) : Sir I am grateful to you for having permitted a Member of Parliament who has been for long a teacher to pay this tribute and homage to a life-long teacher, Prof. D.C. Sharma. I had the privilege of knowing him for more than fifteen years and I was associated with him in several conferences. He was a person who organised and led the All India Federation of Educational Associations for many years. He took keen interest not only in university education but also in secondary education and primary education. He was not only an educationist, but he was also a great champion of the rights of teachers. He fought all his life for seeing that the condition of teachers was improved

in this country both in terms of status and in terms of working conditions. As a class-conscious teacher and as Minister for Education and in the name of more than two million teachers in this country who belong to the colleges, secondary schools and primary schools, I want to pay my humble tribute to Prof. Sharma and associate myself with the sentiments expressed in this House over his passing away.

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक विनती करनी थी। हमारा पहला सवाल एक यह था कि जो मि० इमाम का प्रस्ताव था जगजीवन राम जी के सिलसिले में उस को कल लिया जाय और दूसरी चीज यह है..... व्यवधान).....

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) : We are not in a mood to listen to anything now.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : The arrest of Shri Madhu Limaye and others is something which must not have taken place.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not the convention in this House to take up any other business after the condolence references.

Before I adjourn the House as a mark of respect to the departed soul, I would request leaders of the various parties to come to my chamber immediately after this. The meeting that we had fixed at 4 o'clock will be held immediately. The members of the Business Advisory Committee also are requested to come to my chamber immediately.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.
11-38 hrs.

The Lok Saha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 24 1969/Pausa 3, 1891 (Saka).