

LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th February 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 NOON

DEATH OF ACHARYA NARENDRA DEVA

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Members must have read with deep sorrow the sad news of the premature death of Acharya Narendra Deva, which appeared in the papers this morning. He passed away at Erode, near Madras, yesterday at about 4 P.M. He had a frail body and was a chronic sufferer from asthma. He devoted himself to the service of the country and to the various causes which were dear to his heart without any regard for his life. He knew no rest and never spared himself. According to the reports that had been received just a few days ago, he was said to be improving. So we were all the more shocked when we got the sad news quite unexpectedly and suddenly.

Acharya Narendra Deva was one of the foremost leaders of our country. He was an accomplished representative of the generation which is passing away. He was an erudite educationist, a man of great culture and one who had many interests, but whose supreme passion was for the service of the country and the uplift of the masses living in this land. He gave of his best during the whole of his life to the country. He worked indefatigably in spite of his physical handicaps for more than 50 years. I had the privilege of studying with him in the same college and we used to live in a common hostel more than 50 years ago. Since then, we had been associated with each other in many activities. He was a warm-hearted man, a great gentleman, almost a saint, who

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worked for others with unique selflessness and never hurt anybody. He was a great speaker. He was a very good advocate, but he gave up the Bar and joined the Kashi Vidya-pith in 1920 at the call of Mahatma Gandhi, and since then steadfastly and zealously pursued the goal which he had set before himself in his early youth, of securing the emancipation and freedom of the country. Kashi Vidya-pith occupies an honoured place in our educational sphere. Many of the young men trained by him are holding positions of responsibility in the country. Several of them are today discharging the duties of Ministers and quite a goodly number are Members of Parliament and State Legislatures. He did what history will ever keep for the inspiration and guidance of those who want to lead a noble life to betriend every good cause and to devote themselves selflessly to the service and uplift of others and to the ennoblement and refinement of life.

We have lost a great man and we can do no more than offer our respectful condolences to the members of his bereaved family and to pray that the heritage that he has left for us may be well preserved and we may benefit by the inspiration which his example will always hold out to us and others who will come after us.

I shall feel grateful if you will convey to the members of the bereaved family the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Lok Sabha.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: (Calcutta North-East): Permit me to associate myself and the Party I represent in the Lok Sabha with the sentiments of deep sorrow which have already been expressed by the Home Minister. Some of us have been in the Congress Socialist Party, of which Acharya Narendra Deva was a founder and leader, but that, I think, is the least part of the story. Acharya Narendra Deva was one of those participants in our national movement whose names have become something of a legend, and that happened not because of any very spectacular and

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

obtrusive qualities but because of sheer character. He had erudition and that peculiar integration of spirit which make for real personality, and that is why he had a position in the country which hardly anybody else can fill in the present context. I feel also that he had another quality which is characteristic of the culture of our country, and that was the quality of detachment. And that is why we have found him never in the vortex of power politics. He was in political life, but not quite of it, and that was perhaps why there was lent to his character a certain quality of dignity and graciousness which we miss very often in our political life.

I wish to associate myself and my Party again with the expressions of condolence which have fallen from the lips of the Home Minister.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): It is difficult for me to give expression to my sorrow at the sudden death of my leader and colleague. We worked in the Congress for many years. Inside and outside jail we have been in constant association with each other. We have enjoyed life together, we have suffered together, and when he left the Congress and afterwards I left the Congress with much regret, because our views about the reconstruction of the country after independence were different, we joined together. He was always a tower of strength to our Party. He was a most sincere patriot and he was a great scholar. With that great scholarship of his was combined deep humility. It was very difficult to make him angry. He was a friend of all. Even though his views were different from others yet he gave his courtesy and his friendship to all. I, therefore, associate myself with all that has been said by the hon. Home Minister and my friend Prof. Mukerjee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I fully associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the hon. Home Minister, Shri Mukerjee and Acharya Kripalani and I trust the Lok Sabha fully agrees with those sentiments. The country has lost a great personality and a very great patriot. With all his erudition he was simple. He was a gentleman every inch. He dedicated and devoted his life for the cause of the country. His sacrifice and service are immense. Posterity, I am sure, will remember him for a long long number of years. He was such a gentleman and such a pure soul that I am

sure, his soul will have an abiding place in Heaven.

In token of our respect I request the Members to stand in silence for a minute.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

RESULTS OF BYE-ELECTIONS

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the results of bye-elections held since the First General Elections 1951-52 up to the 31st July, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. S-31/56].

AMENDMENTS TO ESTATE DUTY RULES

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 85 of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, a copy of the Notification No. 14[F. No. 12/4/55-E.D., dated the 1st February, 1956, making certain further amendments to the Estate Duty Rules, 1953.

[Placed in Library See No. S-32/56]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 18th February, 1956 subject to the modification that instead of one hour, two hours may be allotted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bill."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 18th February, 1956 subject to the modification that instead of one hour, two hours may be allotted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bill."

The motion was adopted.