

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 19, 1991/Agrahayana 28, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the sudden demise of one of our colleagues Shri Binode Bihari Mahato who was with us in the House yesterday. Shri Mahato had a massive heart attack yesterday and passed away at New Delhi suddenly at the age of 68 years.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we all feel sad about this sudden demise. Shri Mahato was one of the prominent leaders of the Chota Nagpur area and also a founder Member of the JMM.

I remember him coming to me several times with requests invariably for the people. This is a measure of the service-mindedness of the person and I feel that we will miss him.

By profession, he was an advocate, a freedom fighter and formerly a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly for a decade.

So, his public career was quite noteworthy and more than the post that he held, I have heard so much about the popularity of the person.

We feel that he has left a void, particularly in the activity of the tribal welfare, which he was heading in that area and it will be difficult to fill that void.

I associate myself with the condolence resolution and on my behalf and on my Party's behalf I express my deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the bitter truth is once again before us that the human body is perishable and the life is temporal. Shri Mahato was with us in the House yesterday, but today, he is not. Now only his memories are left with us. Shri Mahato was a great fighter who fought throughout his life. He himself had suffered the curse of backwardness. He had become the spokesman of the agonies and sufferings of Jharkhand tribals. He had fought not only the political battles, but had contributed a lot to the service of the people by his constructive works also. With his death a pillar of public life has fallen. We all have gathered here to mourn his death.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my party pay my humble tribute to the departed soul and pray the Almighty provide strength to the bereaved family to bear this shock.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I join the Prime Minister and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in expressing condolence to the bereaved fam-

[Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

ily. I had the opportunity to work with Shri Mahato. Nobody knew that the person who was sitting with us here in the House yesterday, would go far away from us today. But it is the law of the nature that death is inevitable. I would like to say this much only that people like Binode Bihari Mahato are the source of inspiration for us. He was firmly committed to his principles and never compromised with them. He fought for them throughout his life. His voice was certainly bitter, but he was very soft at his heart. He worked for the poor, labourers and farmers. As a lawyer he worked for the unity of farmers, labourers and Adivasi people. One cannot say as to how many people are weeping today on the sad demise of Shri Mahato in that Adivasi area. He was a self made person. There was no one in his family to bring him forward, but because of his own ideological commitments, he reached such a height.

He strengthened the Jharkhand movement and awakened the exploited and oppressed Adivasi people. Today he is not among us, but people like me will continue to get inspiration from him to fight for social change and to take risk for the sake of the people. Today, he is not amongst us, but his ideals will always remain with us and will continue to provide light to us. I, on my behalf, and on behalf of my party convey my condolences to the bereaved family.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I join the Prime Minister, Atalji and Shri Paswan in expressing condolence to the bereaved family. I knew Shri Mahato personally for quite a long time. He worked in a backward area of Dhanbad to organise the backward and Adivasi people. We have seen his influence over the trade union activities and coal mine workers in that area.

I have attended many functions and meetings with him. His commitment to the principles was his greatest strength. That is why his untimely death is a big blow to the

backward and Adivasi people of that area. He was not merely a Member of Lok Sabha, but he had been providing a leadership to that entire area.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I fully share what has been expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and all our colleagues. This morning when I went to see the body of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato, I came to know from Shri Shibu Soren that he had heart attack twice. Even then he did not go to the hospital. That is how he got the third heart attack yesterday, waiting here for having his chance to have his last say, which unfortunately due to the situation yesterday, was not possible.

On my behalf, as well as on behalf of the CPI I extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, our condolences to the Jarkhand Mukti Morcha and also our condolences to the entire people of that area who will miss Shri Binode Bihari Mahata for a very long time.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is a very sad event that one of our colleagues in this august House has left us in a very sad state of affairs. A freedom fighter, who was representing Chota Nagpur has rendered yeoman service to the humanity at large, particularly for tribal welfare. A champion of the downtrodden and an advocate by profession, Shri Binode Bihari Mahato was one of the founder members of the Jarkhand Mukti Morcha. As a legislator in the Bihar Assembly for a decade and as a Member of Parliament recently he was with us till yesterday, and we have been sharing our views, almost daily in this august House. We really feel sorry for the loss of this personality in this House.

On behalf of my party, the Telugu

Desam, and on my own behalf I express our condolences to the bereaved family and pray the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichetti-palayam): It is a matter of sorrow for us to hear the sudden demise of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato an active Member of this House. He was a very popular and an active Member of this House. He has contributed many things for the cause of the Jarkhand people. He fought for the upliftment of the tribal people.

The demise of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato is a great loss for the Jarkhand community. On behalf of the AIADMK, I offer my condolences to the bereaved family of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I join you, the Leader of the House and other distinguished colleagues in expressing my grief and sorrow at the sudden passing away of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato who has been a much respected leader of a great movement in the Eastern part of the country, JMM, called the Jarkhand Mukti Morcha.

Sir, he has become a prominent personality due to the struggles made throughout his life.

Shri Mahato fought throughout his life for the establishment of the distinctive identity of the tribals of our nation. He fought for the preservation of the cult of the languages of the tribals. He has become a household name in certain parts of our country.

It is true that my Party and many of us could not agree with certain political programmes that were being pursued by him. But as a person, as a man as a leader, who fought for the upliftment of the downtrodden, who fought for the deprived, who fought for the under-privileged and who fought for the establishment of new order of society, he has earned popularity among a section.

With his passing away, Sir, the deprived

and exploited section of our people have lost a valiant fighter. I salute him. On behalf of myself and on behalf of my Party, I express deepest possible sympathy to the bereaved family.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, on behalf of my Party, Kerala Congress, I share the sorrow on the demise of his great leader. He was a sincere person, who staunchly stood for the cause for which he was fighting throughout his life.

I had an opportunity to associate with him over a matter for which I went to almost all Members for signature. And that was also for the cause of the downtrodden. At that time, I remember, he gave fullfledged support and he encouraged me to go forthwith in the matter.

I deeply mourn his death. I once again express my sorrow on behalf of my Party.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I express my deep grief on the sudden passing away of Shri Binode Bihari Mahato, who was till recently a Member of our House. He was a man of great qualities of head and heart. He fought for the under privileged particularly for the tribals.

His loss is really an irreparable loss to the House, to the people and to the Jharkand Party, to which he belonged.

I convey my condolences to his Party, to his family and pray that his soul may rest in peace.

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, Shiv Sena express my sincere grief over the sad and untimely demise of our colleague, Shri Binode Bihari Mahato.

I express my sincere condolences and extend sympathy to the bereaved family. I join the whole House along with the Prime Minister and other leaders of the various parties in mourning his death.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I join the hon. Prime Minister and leaders of Parties and Groups in expressing our heart-felt sorrow on the loss of our colleague and good friend Shri Mahato.

Shri Mahato was elected to Lok Sabha from Giridih constituency of Bihar during the general elections held this year. Earlier, he had been a Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1980-91 till he was elected to Lok Sabha. He also served on various Committees in Bihar Legislative Assembly.

An advocate by profession, Shri Mahato took leading part in the spread of education and founded several educational institutions. He was a prominent social worker and fought relentlessly for removal of social evils among the weaker sections of the society. He had also participated in the freedom struggle of the country.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend. Our condolences shall be conveyed to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As a mark of respect to the deceased, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

11.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 20, 1991/Agrahayana 29, 1913 (Saka)
