

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Third General Election
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican
Constitution of India.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A.M.,
on Friday, the 3rd August, 1962.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker in the
Chair, eight Ministers, two Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers
and sixty-four Members.

Obituary References

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with a heavy heart and profound grief that I
beg to refer to the sad demise of some of the eminent personalities of
our country in the recent months. They are Dr. B. C. Roy,
Shri Purushottamdas Tandon, Shri Kalipada Mookerjee and Maulana
Hifzur Rahman.

Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, died on the 1st
of July, 1962, at his ripe old age of 81 years. He was born at Patna
on 1st July, 1882, graduated with Honours in Mathematic from
Bankipur College. He joined the Calcutta Medical College and after
a bright career took his Medical Degree in 1906. In 1909 he sailed
for England for higher studies and obtained his M.R.C.P. and
F.R.C.S. degrees from the St. Bartholomew's, London in one year, a thing
only a few in the world could achieve. Returning home in 1911, he
continued his work in the Provincial Medical Service and later on
joined the R. G. Kar Medical College and became Professor of
Medicine.

A great educationist, Dr. Roy was the founder of many medical
and educational institutions in West Bengal. In March, 1942, he
became the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and continued
till 12th March, 1944. In 1944, the University conferred on him an
honorary degree of Doctorate of Science. He was elected President
of the All India Medical Council in 1939 and continued as such till
1945. He was the Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation for the year
1931-32. In recognition of the great service rendered to the nation by
Dr. Roy, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in the year 1961.

Dr. Roy participated in the non-cooperation movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920-21. Later on, he joined the Swarajya Party organised by Deshbandhu C. R. Das and became the Deputy Leader of the Party. While a member of the Congress Working Committee, he was imprisoned for a short period. He was the prominent leader of the West Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and a member of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress for a long time.

Dr. Roy became the Chief Minister of West Bengal in 1948 after the resignation of Dr. P. C. Ghosh. Immediately on assumption of office, Dr. Roy had to face an uphill task of rehabilitating the mass of uprooted humanity who came from East Pakistan. With whatever resources he could get and with Centre's help, Dr. Roy succeeded in solving this problem, thereby bringing equilibrium in the political scene of Bengal.

Dr. Roy was a great patriot and one of those few leaders who led the country to freedom. His life was fully dedicated to the service of the country. His contribution for all round improvement of West Bengal and India are varied and innumerable to be mentioned in a brief statement like this. He was a man of great vision and broad outlook. He successfully held the reins of administration of one of the difficult States of our country where great developments have taken place because of his hard work and vision. Dr. Roy's death is a great loss to India. In his death India has lost not only a great political leader but also an outstanding physician, a great educationist visionary, constructive leader and a giant among men.

Shri Purushottamdas Tandon passed away on the 1st July, 1962. He was born at Allahabad in 1882 and began his career as a lawyer at the Allahabad High Court and built up a substantial practice as a junior to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Between 1914 and 1918, he was the Law Minister in the Princely State of Nabha.

Shri Tandon joined the Congress in 1899 and gave up his practice in 1921 to take part in the non-cooperation movement launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. He was imprisoned for 18 months. In 1923, he was elected President of the U. P. Provincial Congress Committee. In 1928, he also joined the Servants of the People Society after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. He was also the President and Chairman of the Allahabad Municipality for several years. He again plunged headlong in the Civil Disobedience Movement launched against the British Government in the year 1930 and was imprisoned and released after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact came into force. He also organised a 'No rent' campaign in U. P. in 1932 and took up the cause of the U. P. tenants for reduction of rent. In 1937, Shri Tandon was elected Speaker of the U. P. Assembly and continued in that capacity till 1939 when he resigned along with other Congress Ministers in the country in protest against involving India in an imperialist war without her consent. He was jailed for about 8 months in 1941 and kept as a security prisoner for two years in 1942. In the General Elections that was held in 1946, he was returned to the U. P. Assembly with a thumping majority and was elected Speaker. After India achieved independence, he became a member of the Constituent Assembly and made notable contribution in

drafting the Constitution of India. Shri Tandon was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1950 and continued in that office till September, 1961. In 1952, he became a member of the Parliament and later on became a Member of Rajya Sabha. In recognition of his service rendered to the Nation, Shri Tandon was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1961.

He was a great Hindi Scholar and a founder of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. He was known throughout the country for his erudition and scholarship. His contribution towards popularising the cause of Hindi as the national language of India is unique.

On his death, India has lost one of the great patriots, political leader and Congressman who has fought throughout his life for the freedom of India and for making it into a welfare nation.

Sir, death took place of Shri Kalipada Mookerjee, Minister for Home, West Bengal, on the 23rd July 1962 in Calcutta.

Born in 1901, Shri Mookerjee got his education from the St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. Shri Mookerjee took active interest in the students' movements and sponsored and organised the widespread national volunteer organisation on the lines of the national scout movement. He joined the non-co-operation movement in 1921 and was jailed in almost all the freedom movements. He was a member of the All India Congress Committee for 15 years and was also an office-bearer of the Bengal Congress for several years. Later he became General Secretary of the Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee and subsequently a Vice-President. Shri Mookerjee organised relief work during one of the North Bengal floods associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly in June 1946 and became a Cabinet Minister from 1947. When the West Bengal Minority Commission was formed under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement, Shri Mookerjee was appointed its Chairman. In October 1948, he led the Indian delegation to the second session of the Industrial Committee on Cotton Textile held at Geneva.

On his death India has lost a valiant fighter for India's Independence and a great political leader of West Bengal.

Sir, Maulana Mohammad Hifzur Rahman, who died on 2nd August 1962, was born in January 1901. He was a writer. He took active part in the Khilafat Movement. He was a member of the All-India Congress Committee since 1936. He was the General Secretary of the All-India Jamiat-ul-Ulema since 1942. He was the Vice-President of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee from 1946-1951. He was the President of the Majlis Aukaf, Delhi, since 1947. He was a Member of the Ajnamin-e-Taracui Urdu ; All India Muslim Educational Conference ; a Member of the Court of Muslim University, Aligarh ; and a Member of the First Lok Sabha from 1952-57.

Sir, I hope that this august House will associate with me in expressing condolence at the sad demise of these respected leaders and in communicating the same to the members of the bereaved families.

Shri LAKHSMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Mr. Speaker Sir, while associating myself with the leader of the House in his expression of profound grief, I beg to add a few words.

Sir, Dr. Roy was a great personality. I do not think there can be a better reference to Dr. Roy's personality than what Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, made about him. The Prime Minister said "A great man, a giant among men has gone and left us sad and mourning". Sir, as an architect of modern West Bengal, Dr. Roy was a source of inspiration to the whole of India. As a physician, he enjoyed confidence of stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Motilal Nehru and others. As a politician he enjoyed the confidence of Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das and other national leaders. He was an eminent physician, an able administrator and a friend of the poor. His death is a vital blow to the whole of India. Though a partyman he could rise above party at times when the interest of West Bengal was involved. It is this great quality which earned for him a unique position in West Bengal. It is this quality which strengthened the position of Dr. Roy in placing West Bengal securely on the road to progress.

Sir, I had the opportunity of meeting Rajarshi Tandon on a few occasions during my student days at Allahabad. A perfect gentleman of noble and inspiring personality, Shri Tandon was a living symbol of India's culture. Some of his qualities which attracted the people of all sections towards him are rare in public life. As a patriot he devoted himself fully to the national struggle for Independence during which he was imprisoned seven times, the last being during the Quit India Movement of 1942. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly, House of People and was also a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha. As a patriot of independent thinking and firm conviction, he came in direct clash with Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru over some vital issues and this ultimately led to his resignation from the Congress Presidentship in the year 1951. His contribution to literature, specially to the development of the Hindi language, was considerable. Towards the latter part of his life he devoted himself whole-heartedly to the cause of Hindi. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a personal friend of Tandonji. While paying tribute to Tandonji, he (Dr. Rajendra Prasad) referred to him as "a personality of unparallel devotion, strength of will and sacrifice". This is exactly what he was.

Sir, the late Kalipada Mookerjee, Minister of West Bengal, earned fame as a constructive worker and was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He was closely associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His untimely and sudden demise came as a shock to all, especially to those who knew him well.

Sir, the sad news of the demise of Maulana Hifzur Rahman came yesterday. Since the Khilafat Movement in 1919, he had been taking an active part in advancing the national cause of the country. He was a famous Urdu writer and an educationist of fame. His contribution to the cause of Indian Independence and also his services to the Nation after Independence will be ever remembered by the Indian people. His death has caused an irreparable loss to the country.

Sir, on behalf of the United Opposition Front express our deep sense of mourning at the sudden demise of these personalities of great constructive ability.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully associate with the Leader of the House in his expression of sad feelings at the demise of Dr. Roy, Rajarshi Tandon, Shri Kalipada Mookerjee and Maulana Hifzur Rahman.

All these noble souls had dedicated their lives for the liberation of India from the hands of imperialism. At a time when the Nation was groping in darkness, they were among those people who sought to find out a path. They were among those who have left their mark in Indian history. At a time of historical contradiction between colonialism and nationalism, they showed that the first and foremost duty of a colonial people was to liberate themselves from the foreign yoke.

Sir, these noble souls have been taken away by death. Death is a mighty leveller. No man is born immortal. From the King down to the street sweeper, all will have to meet the same fate some day. These noble souls by their service to the cause of the country have left a glorious tradition for the Nation to follow.

Mr. SPEAKER: I fully associate with what has been expressed by the Leader of the House, the leader of the Opposition Group and Shri Barbaruah. I only add a few words to what they have said.

The cruel hand of death has taken away from amongst us Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Dr. Roy belonged to the group of old stalwarts of our national leaders. A life long celibate his life was a dedicated one for the cause of our country and nation.

Dr. Roy served the country in various capacities such as the Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University, the Mayor of Calcutta Corporation and as the Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1948 till his death. In all these capacities he shone brilliantly well.

He was a constructive genius. He founded the Jadavpur T. B. Hospital and the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan. Another great achievement of Dr. Roy in the field of constructive work had been the formation of the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation.

In politics his had been a unique life in India. He came to limelight of Indian politics in 1923 when he was set up as a candidate for the Bengal Legislative Assembly by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das on behalf of the Swarajist Party against Sir Surendranath Banerjee. Dr. Roy could defeat Sir Surendranath in the contest. When he was called upon by the West Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party to shoulder the burden of the Chief Ministership of partition-ridden Bengal West Bengal was almost on the breaking point politically, socially

and economically. The able hand of Dr. Roy was successful in rallying together all the constructive forces of West Bengal for solving the most intricate problems of West Bengal caused by the partition of India. He could solve most of her problems.

He was a great architect and a builder. He dreamt of a prosperous and happy India and he started work for India of his dream in West Bengal. He could not complete his work. The void created by his death in the socio-economic and political life of India will take a long time to be filled up. We join our hands in prayer with millions of people of India and outside for the peace and rest of his soul.

Shri Purushottam Das Tandon has rightly been called a Rajarshi. He started his life as a lawyer and died as a Rishi. He was a man of strong conviction. He could defy the world for the sake of his conviction. He resigned his Presidentship of the Indian National Congress because he had some differences with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on certain issues. But that did not take away his friendship towards him. He was a great lover of Panditji.

As the Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly he could establish many valuable precedents from which his successors, not only in Uttar Pradesh but in the rest of India also, were benefited. His loss is an irreparable one and we pray for the peace and rest of his soul.

None of us was prepared to receive the news of death of Shri Kalipada Mookerjee, Minister of West Bengal. Kali Babu was a valiant fighter for freedom of India. He was serving as a Minister of West Bengal since 1947. He was very popular.

He played also an important role in pre-partition days in Assam politics as the General Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, in which capacity he served Bengal for so many years. Many of us saw him sitting in the Assam Pradesh Election Committee meetings at the time of selection of candidates from Sylhet, which was a part of Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and administering valuable advice. We shall ever remember him with gratefulness. We mourn his sudden and premature death and pray to God for the rest and peace of his soul.

Maulana Hifzur Rahman was a close associate of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He was a believer in Jamiat-ul-Ulema Politics. He had to suffer a lot for his conviction. He was one of the few of his co-religionists who fought against the two nation theory of the Muslim League of India. In him India has lost a liberal and broad-minded leader. But we are sure his teachings cannot go in vain and some day or other they prevail on us.

We pray to God for the rest and peace of his soul.

Now, I request the hon. Members to stand in silence for two minutes and pray to God for peace and rest of the departed souls.

(The House stood in silence for two minutes in prayer.)

Mr. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect and honour to the departed souls the House stands adjourned till 10-00 a. m. tomorrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m., on Saturday, the 4th August, 1962.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.