

5. Consideration and return of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:—

- (a) The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 1997.
- (b) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 1 Bill, 1997.
- (c) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1997.

6. General Discussion on General Budget for 1997-98.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, with your permission, I want to raise a matter related to the very irresponsible manner in which...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : महोदय.....

उपसभापति : क्या बात है, आज शार्ट-डयुरेशन डिस्कशन है।

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, I have given notice about the centenary celebration of Shri V.K. Krishnan Menon...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : मैडम, मुझे केवल दो मिनट का समय दिया जाये। मैं सभी सांसदों से निवेदन करूंगा....(व्यवधान)... मैं एक ऐसे गम्भीर विषय की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।....(व्यवधान)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, Ramdas Agarwalji. Let us hear what Mr. Baby wants to say—I don't know what he wants to say. We always give preference to Babies!

RE: CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF SHRI V.K. KRISHNA MENON

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, you are aware that this year happens to be the centenary year of one of the most outstanding sons of our country who was in the forefront of the freedom struggle, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. The centenary of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon is from 3rd May, 1996 to 3rd May, 1997. We have only two months remaining for the com-

pletion of this centenary celebrations of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon.

Madam, even the very inauguration of this centenary celebrations was held only a week ago. We have had a Committee for the centenary celebrations formed earlier under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. The present Chairman of the National Committee for Celebrations is the present Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda. Madam, when these centenary celebrations were inaugurated a week ago in Vigyan Bhavan by the hon. Chairman of our House, the Vice-President of our country, Shri K.R. Narayanan, the Prime Minister was present and a former Prime Minister was also present. The National Doordarshan did not cover the inauguration of the centenary celebrations of one of the most outstanding sons of our country who was in the forefront of our freedom struggle. One need not have to introduce the credentials of Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. He was a Member of this House in the year 1956 representing the State of Madras. Madam, the late Krishna Menon was a Member of the other House representing three other Provinces, namely, Bombay, West Bengal and my own home State, Kerala, to which Mr. Menon belonged. I do not know whether the step-fatherly treatment meted out to the centenary celebrations of Shri Krishna Menon — I do not say step-motherly; I say step-fatherly attitude — ... (*Interruptions*)... is due to the fact that he belonged to the farthest State of the country. I do not know whether it is due to this fact that his centenary celebrations are being treated so shabbily. Madam, this 'is not a question of treatment meted out to one of the outstanding sons of our country; but this is an insult to the generation which fought for our freedom. Madam, during the time of freedom struggle he was known as the spokesman of the freedom struggle in ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baby,
...(Time-bell)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, the issue of Kashmir is being discussed within and outside the country. The longest speech ever made on the floor of the United Nations was by Shri Krishna Menon on matters relating to Kashmir. He is also known as the hero of Kashmir. Is it possible, is it justifiable that such a person can be forgotten during his centenary year? I want the Information and Broadcasting Minister to come forward and make a statement as to how the centenary celebrations of V.K. Krishna Menon for which a National Committee has been constituted with the Prime Minister as its Chairman was not covered by Doordarshan. Madam, as per protocol any function participated in by the Vice-President and the Prime Minister has to be covered. I do not know whether the holding of two important portfolios by Mr. Ibrahim is due to the fact that there is dearth of able people in the United Front. It may be only because of this reason that both of his portfolios deal with the sky. May be, for this reason he has been given these two important portfolios. He owes an explanation to this House....
(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are no two opinions about Krishna Menonji.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, a ruling should come from the Chair. ...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: In conclusion I would like to say that so far as the period of the coming two months is concerned, we should try to amend the injustice that has been meted out to the memory of Mr. Menon. I understand that the National Committee has given certain suggestions. One of them was that there should be a session in the Central Hall to pay homage to him.

The other suggestion was that unveiling of his portrait could also be considered.

There was also a suggestion that the airport at Calicut should be named after Shri V.K. Krishna Menon so that Mr. Ibrahim could do something for the failure that his Ministry committed in this particular case. Madam, Mr. V.K. Krishna Menon.
...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baby,
...(Time-bell)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, Mr. Menon is also considered as the co-author of the foreign policy of our country under the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. ...
(Interruptions)...

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली) : आपने अलार्म कर दिया (व्यवधान) 10 मिनट से चल रहा है (व्यवधान) इसीलिए जीरो-आर सबमिशन भी आपने नहीं दिया (व्यवधान)

There should be some *Utah*...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Madam, it is a serious matter and please give a direction from the Chair...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam can anybody shout at me without your permission?
...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No Nobody can...
(Interruptions)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, I am concluding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know Mr. Baby, that no Member in this House wants to undermine the mention you are making about Shri Krishna Menon. Nobody is trying to do that. But, we have the constraint of time.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Therefore, I am concluding. Shri V.K. Krishna menon who is considered to be the co-author of our foreign policy along with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, his centenary should be honoured in a befitting manner. I hope the Chairman of the National Committee, the hon. Prime Minister who is present here would explain the position...
(interruptions) ...Thank you.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): Madam, I just would like to make a point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You speak only for half-a-minute..(Interrup-tions)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Madam, I will not take more than half a minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, you just wait for half-a-minute. Mr. Mitra, you have to speak on this only for half-a-minute.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Yes, Madam. Madam, way back in November I raised the issue and I put a question to the hon. Minister for External Affairs about this great man who is the architect of our foreign policy of Non-Alignment. I asked him, what are we doing to celebrate his centenary? I do not even today know what happened to my question. I made a little private investigation. I was told that my question lapsed, the memory of this great man has lapsed and the question of the centenary of Krishna Menon has also lapsed. Madam, I hope, you will do something about it. ...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I myself hold Shri Krishna Menon in great esteem because his two elections in Bombay were fought from my personal home i.e., Heptulla Park. So, personally, I have great association with him. Apart from that he was a great son of India and something more should be done for him...(Interruptions).I know the hon. Prime Minister is with us and he has just got up to say something. I think Mr. Rajagopal would also like to say something.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Madam, I wanted to associate myself with the sentiments expressed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is better if the hon. Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Committee would say something...(interruptions)...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Madam, the entire House is associated with the sentiments expressed by Shri Baby...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. He got up, that is why I allowed him to make his point... (Interruptions)... There are no two opinions. Everybody holds him in great esteem...(Interruptions)... Yes...(Interruptions)...The whole House keeps him in great esteem...(Interruptions)...

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): The issue raised by Mr. Baby is not a party issue. It is a serious matter because there is a lapse on the part of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. I am going to instruct the Minister to make a detailed statement after an inquiry about the incident which took place on the day, why they have not relayed, what exactly is the reason. A detailed statement is going to be made either today or tomorrow, with your permission, because today you have my reply to the President's Address. Whenever you direct, a detailed statement would be made. And, about some of the actions which we have taken in connection with commemorating the centenary celebrations of the tallest leader, my colleague, the Minister for HRD is also going to make a detailed statement. As for the request made by the hon. member, I think the House will agree to name the Calicut Airport after the tallest leader.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: The necessary G.O. would be issued within a short span of time — within two or there days. With regard to other things, as I already mentioned, the Minister of HRD will make a detailed statement about the future course of action in the next three months and what we are going to do about the centenary celebrations of this leader.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A lot of contribution he made while he was in London. A very great number of people are there. Literature is available in London itself. I think something should be done over there.

AN HON. MEMBER: Pre-independence days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): Madam, I will make a statement. In London, we are going to have the bust of Shri Krishna Menon unveiled. Apan from this, a number of functions are being arranged by our High Commissioner there. I will give the details. The Committee has met four times and had drawn up a detailed programme.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

अब आपकी क्या समस्या हैं दोनों की ? सिकन्दर बख्त साहब को भी बोलना है।

RE. SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल (गुजरात) : उपसभापति महोदय, गुजरात के बारे में बात करना चाह हूँ (व्यवधान)

श्री अजीत जोगी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं भी बोलूंगा।

श्री मती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल : आप जरूर बोलिये। हमारा वियु हमें कहने दीजिये। जो आपको कहना है वह आप जरूर कहियें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Narma-da is flowing through the Rajya Sabha today.

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल : महोदया, मैं सरदार सरोवर के बारे में रहना चाहती हूँ। मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी से विनती करती हूँ कि आप थोड़ी देर ठहरिये तो हमें सरदार सरोवर के बारे में सहूलियत मिल जाएगी।

महोदया, सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गुजरात सरकार ने सरदार सरोवर डैम का बांध 81.3 मीटर

से आगे बढ़ा कर 85 मीटर तक ले जाने के लिए अपील की थी। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उनकी इस अपील की थी। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उनकी इस अपील को स्वीकृत नहीं किया है, रिजेक्ट किया है यदि ऐसा कहें तो कोई गलत नहीं होगा। अभी तक सरदार सरोवर का केस सुप्रीम कोर्ट में था। तब रिहेबिलिटेशन के इश्यु पर जैसे जैसे रिहेबिलिटेशन होगा वैसे वैसे ही परमिशन दी जाएगी। अब आर.आर. कमेटी ने 85 तक पूरा रिहेबिलिटेशन हो गया है, ऐसी रिपोर्ट दी है और जिस दिन केस चल रहा था इसके अगले दिन 90 मीटर तक रिहेबिलिटेशन हो गया है, परमिशन देने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं है, ऐसी रिकमेंडेशन आने के बाद भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आगे बांध का काम करने की छुट्टी नहीं दी है। उन्होंने आर्गुमेंट में बताया है कि 82.5 पर स्ट्रकर का निर्माण होना चाहिए। स्ट्रकर का निर्माण तो कभी भी हो सकता है लेकिन पहले आर.आर. कमेटी की बात कही गई, बाद में इश्यु बदल कर स्ट्रकर की बात ले कर आए हैं। इसी तरह से सुप्रीम कोर्ट अगर इश्यु बदल कर इसको मना कर दे तो यह बांध कभी भी बनने वाला नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि सरदार सरोवर प्रोजेक्ट अकेले गुजरात का प्रोजेक्ट नहीं है। यह चार स्टेटों का एक नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट है। जब भाखड़ा नंगल प्रोजेक्ट बना था तब ऐसा कोई इश्यु नहीं आया था। पूरे देश को पी.एल. 480 के सड्डे हुए गेहूं से बचाने का काम इस हैम ने किया था। अगर यह सरदार सरोवर डैम बनेगा तो जो हमें आज अनाज की कमी महसूस होती है और विदेशों से इस साल गेहूं आयात करने की परिस्थिति बनी है, पूरे देश को अनाज के बारे में स्वावलम्बी बनाए रखने में यह प्रोजेक्ट रहेगा। यह नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट है, इसको नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट की तरह ही देखा जाना चाहिए। मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी से विनती करती हूँ कि जितनी जल्दी हो सके, तुरंत इस प्रोजेक्ट को नेशनल प्रोजेक्ट डिक्लेयर करें। इससे पूरे देश को फायदा होगा।

उपसभापति महोदया, दूसरा मैं यह हाईलाइट करना चाहती हूँ, कि इसका पानी जहां जा रहा है वह कच्छ प्रदेश पूरा डेजर्ट है और यह पाकिस्तान के बार्डर पर है। हर साल हजारों लोग कच्छ को छोड़ कर बाहर विदेशों में या गुजरात के बाहर जहां पानी उपलब्ध है वहां जा कर बस गये हैं। कच्छ खाली हो गया है और उसके जो ओल्ड लोग हैं वह अपने पुत्रों और पुत्रियों के मनी आर्डरों पर जी रहे हैं। हर साल उसकी बस्ती कम हो रही है। अगर यह वेक्यूम हो गया तो पाकिस्तान के बार्डर पर प्रोटेक्शन का भी बड़ा खतरा है।