

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE HUNDRED AND SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

Commencing on the 26th August, 1991/4 Bhadra, 1913 (Saka)

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 26th August, 1991/4
Bhadra, 1913 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Raghavji (Madhya Pradesh)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri C. Achutha Menon and Shri Irengbam Tompok Singh, former Members of the Rajya Sabha.

In the passing away of Shri C. Achutha Menon on 16th August, 1991 at the age of 78 years, the nation has lost an able administrator and an upright leader. A person of socialist and leftist ideas, Shri Achutha Menon had a long record of public service. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Menon actively participated in the non-cooperation movement during the country's struggle for independence and suffered imprisonment several times.

Shri Menon was born in Trichur in January 1913 and had his education at St. Thomas College, Trichur and Law College, Trivandrum. He had a brilliant academic career. He obtained his Law degree standing first in Madras University and winning the Bhashyam Ayyangar Gold Medal for

his impressive performance in Hindu Law. He gave up the legal profession to join the freedom struggle.

He joined the Communist Party of India in 1942 which he served in various capacities. He went underground for six years and suffered intermittent terms of imprisonment.

Shri Menon had a long parliamentary career spanning nearly three decades. He was a Member of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957 and of the Kerala Assembly from 1957 to 1959 and from 1960 to 1964. He became the Finance Minister of Kerala in 1957 and then its Chief Minister from November 1969 to March 1977. The period of Menon's stewardship in Kerala was marked by achievements in several spheres such as implementation of land reforms, nationalisation of private forests, the now famous "one lakh houses scheme", enactment of the Agricultural Workers Act and a massive industrialisation programme. He was a Member of this House from April 1968 to April 1970 representing the State of Kerala.

He was author of a number of books on a variety of topics. He also translated H. G. Wells' "Short History of the World" into Malayalam.

In the passing away of Shri Achutha Menon, the country has lost an administrator of great ability and achievement and a dedicated worker devoted to the cause of the working class and peasants.