CHAPTER - VI

SRI BISWANATH DAS:
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The Legislature of the Indian Union consists of the President and the two Houses of the Parliament; The Rajya Sabha (The Upper House) and The Lok Sabha (The Lower House). The Lok Sabha is a directly elected popular chamber, where as the the Rajya Sabha or the Council of the States is an indirectly elected body, consisting of not a more than 250 members, as per the Constitution of India.

According to Art, 83 of the Constitution of India, the Council of States shall not be subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one third of the members there of shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by the parliament by law. The Members of the Rajya Sabha shall be elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly of each State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.

Art 84 of the Indian Constitution describes the qualifications of a person to be chosen to fill the seat of Council of States that; he should be a citizen of India, and should not be less then thirty years
Sri Biswanath Das was elected as a representative of Orissa to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament on 19th April, 1952, with two others namely Shri S. Panigrahi and Sri P.C. Bhanj Deo. His earlier experience of participation in legislative proceedings and debates as well as his knowledge of the Rules and procedures helped him to discharge his functions in the Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1958 successfully.\(^1\) In the post independence period, this was his first legislative experience. Here also as an able legislator, he had participated in a number of policy decisions that came to the Rajya Sabha for discussion.

**Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession Bill) 1954:**

On 24th August, 1952, there was serious allegations against the Railway Ministry and Railway Board for a series of corruption cases and theft in the railway godowns. The matter was referred to an Enquiry Commission. The Ministry tried to wash its hands off by raising all kinds of fantastic arguments which could convince none but themselves, and ultimately the sufferer was the public exchequerer. In this connection the Railway Minister brought a bill in the name of 'Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession) Bill, 1954.\(^2\)

This initiated discussion in the House.

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1. *India 1952 and 58*, Publication Division, New Delhi - p-258 and 197.
Sri Biswanath Das participated in the discussion saying that the Bill fall short of the situation to restrict large scale corruption, thefts in the railway godowns, workshops and even in the running trains. In this respect, he expected the Minister to come forward with an all embracing bill with more power than what were contained in the presented Bill. So he said on 24th August 1954 in Rajya Sabha:

"Sir this Bill is a very restricted one awfully limited in its scope. It confines only to the railway stores... Therefore looked at any point of view, I consider that the Bill is inadequate and will not be able to meet the needs of the situation... Unfortunately, Sir, ours is a country where you have only rights, rights for everybody and responsibility for none. The labourer is out for his rights, so also the officials are, and thus few people are to enforce these responsibilities."

Therefore Sri Biswanath Das advocated that the Hon'ble Minister should take some effective steps for the enforcement of responsibilities. So the persons who were in the charge of either the stores, or of the workshops or in the charge of the running trains were also to be held liable and responsible for the goods lost. Unless this liability was enforced, rightly and rigidly nothing substantial would come out of passing the Bill. Finally, he said that "mere trying to tackle the problem will not do we have to fight and reduce the evil to the minimum." With these suggestions, Sri Das supported
the Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession) Bill, 1954.

**Flood Management:**

In another situation, when there was serious flood situation in the states of Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the central government provided flood relief to these areas, but the relief materials were inadequate. In this context, Sri Biswanath Das expressed his concern on the matter by recommending some more assistance to the affected areas. On 20th September 1954, when Prof. G. Ranga viewed this situation as a national emergency, he wanted to recognise the situation as a national problem and wanted to initiate a Legislation in the House that would enable the Government to rehabilitate the affected people in other areas without breaking up their communal life.\(^3\) In this discussion, Sri Biswanath Das appealed to the House to understand the gravity of the situation and to take up some permanent measure in contrast to the temporary relief measures from year to year and accordingly to formulate plans and programmes to check these calamities. So he said,

"There are two sides of this situation-flood and famine. While speaking about difficulties of the people of this country, we are discussing only one side of the picture,

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namely the disasters of floods. There are areas in this vast country of ours, which have suffered famines. Mine is a state which was always a surplus province, that supplies rice to all our neighbouring brothers and sisters. But, this year, we have to ask for rice and wheat from other states. This is the position of Orissa. Therefore, I would have expected from Government a full and categorical statement giving description not only of the flood, but also of the plans and programmes of the Government, which are proposed to be taken in regard to famine as a temporary relief for the year and also what the permanent measures the Government proposes to take in this direction... While I am talking on this question, I have to warn my Hon’ble friend that we have to take care of the control of illicit cultivation that has been going on widely all over the country in recent years especially the under-developed areas of the hilly countryside. Unless and until that is done, I dont think that we will be able to control the problem of flood permanently... for this the Government must take into confidence the non-official section of the people as also the voluntary organisations that have been accustomed to work in flood times and times of stress and necessity of these areas”.4

As a representative of the people of Orissa, Sri Biswanath Das truly spoke for the demands of the people in the interest of the masses in the Rajya Sabha.

Export Duty on Tea:

On 6th December 1954, a proposal for enhancement of Export Duty on Tea was initiated in Rajya Sabha. Sri Biswanath Das supported this proposal saying that unless the Government policy in regards to the policy of laissez faire plantation and labour employed in these estates was given necessary protection, this resolution for enhancement of Export Duty on Tea would be meaningless. He justified his statement saying that "unfortunately this control on Tea Board did nothing to help the condition of labourers engaged in the tea gardens. He further argued that "...Since this Tea Board serves the tea industry only... it did nothing either to help the Indian tea planters who were losing and who were going to lose their gardens in very large numbers..." On the contrary, these people had to purchase things at very heavy prices and the result would be that whatever little they would get, they had to refund. That also would go to the middle man, and not to these people. He showed the example of Section 10(2) of the Tea Act, where provisions were made for possible amenities to plantation labourers who were very highly underdeveloped and were in conditions akin to those of 'Adivasis' of interior India. And these

people formed not a small fraction but over a third of labour population. So he requested the government to make representation on behalf on this section to the Tea Board. Again, he said that under section 12 of the Tea Act 1953 the new Tea Boards were given the power to provide further extention of Tea Gardens to various other suitable areas. The British wanted to colonise Assam and Darjeeling. The result was that their activities were confined only within these areas. However, in India, there are many areas where tea plantations could be carried on. So, Sri Das asked the Government to call upon this Tea Board to say whether anything of this kind had been done by the Board to explore the possibilities of extending cultivation of tea to other areas where plantation had been started or are intended to be started. Thus, Sri Das appealed to the House to agree to the export duty provided the above conditions were satisfied. Attempts should be provided to uplift the Indian Planters like British Planters for getting preferences, without discriminations. Unless this assurance was forthcoming from the Government, Sri Das said, 'I think we have to say that we should reject this Resolution,' Thus Sri Das gave his conditional support to the proposed Resolution, provided they would be instrumental in removing regional imbalances and would act as protector of labourer interest.

Inter State Water Dispute Bill 1955:

On 22nd December 1955, when the Inter State Water (Dispute) Bill 1954 was brought before the House for discussion, that provided, "if it appears to the Government of any state that a water dispute with the Government of another state has arisen or likely to arise, by reason of the fact that the interest of the state or any of the inhabitants thereof, in the water of an inter-state river on river valley, likely to be affected prejudicially by (a) ...... (b).... or (c) ......, the State Government may in such form or manner as may be prescribed, request the Central Government to refer the water dispute to a Tribunal for adjudication."

- The Bill aroused serious discussion in the House. Sri Biswanath Das opposed the Bill on the ground that, "it contradicts the decision of the Select Committee on Inter-State Water Dispute Bill in Clause '8', that says 'that notwithstanding anything contained in 'section 3' which relates to complaints by State Governments as to Water Disputes on 'sections 5' which is about adjudication of 'Water Disputes', no reference shall be made to a Tribunal on any dispute that may arise regarding any matter which may be referred to arbitration under the River Boards Act of 1955." 7

Sri Das justified his argument further by saying that

"I think we should be doing a great injustice to the states as such you close the gates of the Supreme Court even though you appoint Tribunals and that Tribunals can not be any other Tribunal than the Supreme Court for which we have got respect reverence and regard."^8

So Sri Biswanath Das suggested an amendment to Clause 11 of the proposed Bill. Sri Biswanath Das moved his amendment...

"....A direct appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court on the decision of the Tribunal within six days after its publication arranged under section 6" to be substituted. However this amendment proposal was negative in the House.^9 But the concern of Sri Biswanath Das to render justice to the states in case of any such dispute by the supreme authority of justice is praise-worthy.

**Report of the States Reorganization Commission :**

When the above report came up to the House for discussion, Sri Biswanath Das welcomed it wholeheartedly saying ; "Let it be our endeavour to see that the Government of India successfully redraws the map of India to the satisfaction of all and with the concurrence and good wishes of the people of this country."^10

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9. Ibid, p - 1010
To the same context he also congratulated the recommendations made by the Commission for abolition of the Office of Rajpramukhas, (for which Sri Das had been fighting since he was a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1947) and creation of one class state. He thanked the members of the Commission for their emphasis on the security of India. For this he also appealed to all Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians to get over their differences by sitting together with a determination to solve and see that these problems were solved once for all. He believed that unless it was done, democracy would be meaningless and nationalism would be unfair.

In the discussion Sri Biswanath Das as a true representative of Orissa, also spoke for the integration of Oriya tracts to the State of Orissa. He gave the evidence of the 1951 Census Report, according to which the percentage of Andhra people was only one seventh in Ganjam and one-sixteenth in Koraput, and in the whole state, their percentage was only 2.3% of the population. This was contrary to the belief that Andhra people were living all over Orissa in a majority. He justified the claim of Orissa on the Sadar subdivision and Saraikala subdivision of Singhbhum district not only because of linguistic, social, economic and cultural homogeneity in those areas.
but also on grounds of geographical continuity and historical traditions. In this context, he cited the evidence of O’ Donnel Committee Report, which admitted that, it were the Oriyas, who had social similarities and economic relations with the people of these sub-divisions of Bihar. In this context, Sri Das referred to the page 10 of vol - I, of the Report, wherein it had been said that after the detailed Census of 1931, on the basis of language, the Oriyas living in Sadar sub-division alone numbered 89.631. This meant that Oriya population was five times more than the combined population of Hindi and Bengali speaking people in the sub-division. Even the Chairman of O’ Donnel Committee, Mr. Fazl Ali admitted that, he had refrained from taking any part in the territorial dispute on the boundary matters. Therefore, Sri Das suggested that this boundary question should be referred to a Tribunal under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India, so that judicious and balanced mind be applied in taking decisions on those vital matters of territorial jurisdiction.11

**Railway Budget (1956):**

On 29th February 1956, Railway Buget was put on the floor of Rajya Sabha for discussion. Sri Biswanath Das participated in

the discussion saying that this was a wholesome budget, that could not be discussed in isolation, and it was needed to be scrutinized from all points of view. He said the Railway Budget should be treated as a business concern. Labour participation in that concern was most necessary and labour should have been utilised to the best for which it meant for participation of labour in the management was necessary and desirable. For this, they should learn discipline. Sri Biswanath Das also suggested that participation of the private sectors in this concern should be initiated by making amendment in the Railway Act, especially in the areas of workshops and factories in this venture.12

Sri Biswanath Das also discussed the need of 'regionalisation' of this industry. Diversification of this industry to different areas, would remove regional imbalances, which was one of the major issues of the country. According to Sri Biswanath Das 'if you do not develop the country, you go down. What else could you improve without restorting to the regionalisation of industries.... And unless and until all states developed simultaneously you will leave Mother India limping..."13

In the discussion, Sri Biswanath Das also gave suggestions for the development of railways. He demanded for better passenger amenities provisions like catering facilities, light in the train etc. In small railway stations, the convenience of the passengers should be taken care of. In fact, Sri Das provided a comprehensive matter-of-fact speech, that touched almost all conceivable subjects in the interest of the Railway Administration.

All India Institute of Medical Science Bill, 1956:

Sri Biswanath Das gave a conditional welcome to the All India Institute of Medical Science Bill of May 8, 1956. This Bill intended to upgrade Medical Institutions and also improve the professional capacity of medical practitioners. On the issue Sri Das raised several questions like, what it going to be the position of medical colleges that were at that time being controlled by various universities that were autonomous? What would be the position of the existing Medical Institutions, that were running at the time? Whether those Institutions were going to be upgraded or would go down to be assigned the position of second or third grade Medical Colleges? Sri Das wanted to have categorial assurance from the Hon'ble Health Minister on all these pertinent questions. At the same time he also wanted to know the future of Homeopathic and Ayurvadic systems
of medicine Sri Das always favoured the later two indigenous systems of medicine and wanted their protection. For the development of Ayurvedic and Homeopathic system he suggested to set up Research Centres under Government patronage.¹⁴

**Minimus Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1956:**

Sri Biswanath Das opposed to the idea of fixation of a minimum wage for agricultural labourer as suggested in the Minimum Wages Bill. He showed the practical impossibility of fixation of a minimum wage earlier to the introduction of the Amendment Bill in 1956. He proved himself after the lapse of nine years, when the Bill was introduced for the first time with the initiative of Jagjivan Ram to protect the interest of labourers. In his argument he said "....that even after nine years had elapsed, the Government had not been able to fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers, merely providing justifiable opposition." He reminded the House, that he had put up against the provision of the Bill which his Hon'ble friend and co-worker Sri Jagjvan Ramji with all his zeal for labour welfare undertook legislation in this country nine years ago. He pointed out that practical impossibility of implementation of this legislation was further proved by the evidence from the West,

where Europe took several decades to fulfill this goal. So far, in India, he pointed out that the aspirations of labourers had been fulfilled in legislation only. But implementation was by far the most difficult thing that could be thought of in a country so vast as ours. "Agriculture" provided the mainstay of the country and was the single largest industry. So the assurance of the Government to provide minimum wages to the agriculture sector so vast as ours was just like a mirage that would never be attended. So he said "...That in a vast country like India, with a large population, and with the limited space with unlimited mouth to feed, the problem is all more difficult." However, Sri Das provided the practical way to deal with the problem by making it clear "you have been free only for the last ten years, and it does take time to prepare yourself for a higher and nobler life. I claim that the Ministry has been making hectic efforts to see that the misery is soon wiped out; that being the position, I do not see any reason why there should be complaints. There should be co-operation." This shows Sri Biswanath Das's practical way of approaching to a problem. He was more a realist than a populist leader. He did not find any gain in making only Legislations without their implementation.
Opium Law 1957:

On 9th December 1957, the Bill on Opium Law came to the House for discussion. The Bill intended to regulate the use of opium for restricted use. Sri Das supported the use of opium only for medical purpose, which came as a rider and not as a principal on main item. Otherwise, he was in favour of total prohibition Opium item and also opposed to the idea of licencing it as he held "...licencing and lickage always go together." This shows that Sri Das was sceptical as far as the implementation of the Bill was concerned. So for the welfare of the society, he recommended for the total prohibition of opium and other similar intoxicants.15

Mines and Minerals Bill; 1957:

This Bill provided that the regulation of mines and development of minerals were to be under the control of the Union Government. The Bill after getting clearance from the Lok Sabha, was presented in Rajya Sabha on 24th December 1957. Sri Biswanath Das wanted to safeguard the interests of the small artisans who were engaged in the indigenous industry. So he suggested an amendment to the Bill, which provided that "...Any mining operation

15. *Rajya Sabha Debates*, 9th December 1957,
that is conducted and carried on by a village artisan in pursuance of his profession by himself or by the members of his family, shall not be deemed to be an offence, under this act."\textsuperscript{16} The application of the Bill may exclude the operation of those artisans, who had been engaged in the act of mining operations, getting the ore and preparing the iron implements in their workshops or even the ordinary labourers who were going to get ore for the indigenous washing of gold. However, Sri Das got the assurance from the Hon'able Minister, that the rights of these indigenous labourers would be safeguarded, and control by Union in no way would disturb them from their work. Thus, when Sri Das got the categorical assurance from the concerned Minister that the labourers already engaged in the indigenous industries would not be affected by the Bill, he withdrew the amendment that he proposed. He said that as the people who depended on this source for their livelihood would be exempted from the scope of the Bill, he had no objection to transfer the ownership of Mines to the Government, whereby the mines could work properly according to the policy of the Government specified under the Mines and Minerals Act 1957. \textsuperscript{17}

Sri Biswanath Das was also very much concerned about the

\textsuperscript{16} Rajya Sabha Debates, 24th December, 1957, p - 4052.
\textsuperscript{17} Rajya Sabha Debates, 24th December, 1957, p - 4052.
proper utilisation of the mineral resources for the best interest of the country. As per the sections 15, 16 and 18A of the 'Industries Development and Regulation Act', the Government had to lay down rules regarding the matters which might be taken into account in granting and issuing of licences and permissions. In this respect Central Government had to consult the Development Councils if needed. While doing so, the Central Government, as Sri Das suggested, should take into account two points, namely the "Industrial Policy Resolution", that the House had already adopted and the "socialistic pattern of society" that was incorporated in the Indian Constitution.¹⁸

Discussing the proposed Bill, Sri Das said that "This Bill leaves the whole thing in the hands of exploiters as it is. Mineralogy and Mining Policy should receive its shape from the Land policy of the Government. We have liquidated the zamindars, we have liquidated the middlemen and we are going to liquidate the bigger agriculturists also, if all that has been stated is going to come true...- That being so, there is no reason why in this sector the whole growth should concentrate in the handful of people." In fact, Sri Das supported the regulation and control of mineral resources by the Government,

with a purpose to benefit the common people.\footnote{Rajya Sabha Debates, 24th December, 1957, p-4018}

For the best use of these resources, Sri Das suggested that the Geological Survey of India, a Central Government's concern should take active interest in helping the unemployed youth in exploring the minerals. By doing so, the Government would also be able to fight the problem of unemployment to a certain extent. The effort Sri Das did for changing the orientation of Government in this sector from profit making to public welfare concern, clearly reflects his socialistic bent of mind.

**Report on the University Grants Commission:**

The Report on the University Grants Commission was brought to the Rajya Sabha on 23rd April 1958 for discussion. Sri Biswanath Das wholeheartedly welcomed the report, which according to him was first of its kind in the history of the Union Government. In this respect he thanked the Hon'ble Minister in charge of education Dr. Sapru. While doing so, Sri Das appealed to the Minister "...We want freedom of thought and the freedom of educational universities. The University Grants Commission is a very important institution in this regard and I am very glad to see that absolute freedom has been conceded to this commission", For making the University
Grants Commission, an autonomous body, Sri Das greatly appreciated the efforts of the Education Ministry. But at the same time, he went against the view of Education Minister that, 'the responsibility of the Government of India in this regard was only in a general way'. Sri Das protested against this statement and said, "the responsibility of the centre is as great and as onerous as that of the provinces."

He further said that, planned economy, planned programmes and five year programmes would be meaningless if we would have this attitude - Thus Sri Das pointed out that the responsibility of the Centre could never be sidelined. The States are field workers, who got their sources of revenue from the Centre. As the Central Government had elastic sources of revenue, it could look to many matters of the state including education.20

In his argument Sri Das had tried to convince both the Central Government and the University Grants Commission, against the provision of 'Matching grants'. In this context, he stated that "the British Government had left India leaving some states fortunate and some other in an unfortunate condition, so far as economic development was concerned. "If you want to take India to its destined goal you cannot stand on matching grant." Thus, Sri Das

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explained that in case of 'matching grants', the poorer states would remain poor as they would get less from central revenue since they pay less. However, it was the responsibility, as Sri Das pointed out, of the Central Government to see that a certain standard should be maintained in all Universities. For this Sri Das recommended that 'the poorer states should get more attention and more money on grants from the central government for higher education. He supported the argument further by giving evidences. "I can not agree with anyone, who stands on matching grants. You have got a giant and a pigmy and you want them to work together. Bombay will give you ten thousands whereas, where is Assam, where is Orissa where is Rajasthan going to get money for matching grants ?" Therefore Sri Das requested the Hon'ble Minister to repudiate this concept of 'matching grant' at least in the field of education.

In the discussion on the Report of University Grant Commission, Sri Biswanath Das stressed the need of 'discipline' of the students. In the same discussion, he argued for a national language for the Independent India. Freedom also calls for the freedom from an alien language in a country. He pointed out that even after ten or twelve years of attainment of freedom the students were being taught in the same English medium by persons, who
probably did not know good English. Providing the instances of Japan, China, Turkey and Egypt, Sri Das stated thus, "the formulation of a national language, that is; Hindi for our country was the need of the day. He believed that forcing a foreign language upon an independent country, was against the morals of a country's freedom and self-respect."21

Sri Biswanath Das also wanted the University Grants Commission to adopt the age old philosophy of our country as incorporated in 'Veda', 'Vedanta' and 'Srimad Bhagabwatham' into the curriculum of education.22 He wanted to revive the ancient philosophy and scientific values of Indian culture and civilization. For this he made an appeal to the University Grants Commission to bestow their thought on the education policy as well as the curriculum. He also expected the University Grants Commission to take some positive steps in the direction of health and wellbeing of the student community.23

Resolution on Implementation of Land Reform Programme :

The Resolution on Land Reforms Programme of 1957 had a lot of attraction for Sri Biswanath Das, who had spent a major portion

23. Rajya Sabha Debates, 23rd April 1958, p-222.
of his usetime and work to agrarian cause and tenancy legislation programmes in Orissa since 1920. He was the one, who was the pioneer in organising the first ever peasant movement in India for the obolition of Zamindary system in the province. He was not really happy to see the slow progress of the Land Reforms Programme in the Second Five Year Plan.²⁴

In the discussion on the Resolution, Sri Das firstly showed his concern against the decision of the Planning Commission for leaving land reform to the States of India, as a state subject. He rather felt that, there was a certain amount of contradiction which was bound to arise because different states in India have different percapita income. They also have different percapita landholdings and land space. He illustrated his argument saying thus, "...Take the case of Assam, where you have more space you have more space and more land area available per head than you could have on in a state like Travencore Cochin or a state like West Bengal or for the matter of that the state of Bihar minus the Ranchi division. With this difference in the land holdings and per head land available for the people, uniformity in planning would be impossible." With this evidence he complained against the Planning Commission which

had left the entire planning to the State.

In this discussion, Sri Das appealed to the Minister of Planning to make agricultural co-operative planning attractive to the people. For this, he suggested the Planning Commission to introduce co-operative cultivation in the villages, where there was 'Tenancy Rights' in operation. He also suggested the Planning Commission to encourage the scheme of "Gramdan" formulated by Vinobaji and demonstrate in those villages which had supported this scheme by depositing their lands in one hand. They should know that these could be the successful units of co-operative cultivation. He appealed to the Central Government and the State Governments to come up in their efforts to undertake a number of villages say 150 or 200 in specific areas and carry on experiments in co-operative cultivation. He expected that the country would be benefitted by this method of cultivation. He was optimistic while saying that it could solve the problem of land and shortage of finance in the country.

Summary :

As a member of Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1958, Sri Biswanath Das showed extra ordinary qualities of conviction, straightforwardness, fearlessness and a sense of public responsibility throughout his career. This made him a true legislator in the national
level as a representative of the people of Orissa. His participation in many important discussions like Land Reforms Bill, Mines and Minerals Bill, Report of the University Grants Commission, State's Reorganisation Commission, clearly reflects his attitude of a true parliamentarian, who always tried mitigate regional imbalances and take up the development of the whole country as a whole. In his participation of Land Reforms Bill, he appealed the Planning Commission to get over the differences and inequalities. In the discussions on flood situation and dealing with such other natural calamities as well as the Inter-State Water Dispute Bills, he always tried to work out a permanent solution to all these problems on national as well as regional basis.

As a true representative of the peasant community, he fought for their rights through his discussions on the bills like Mines and Mineral Bills and Land Reforms Programme Bills of 1957. Keeping in view the interest of the poor labourers and landless peasants he also advocated the method of co-operative farming activities.

As a true admirer of Indian culture, civilization, philosophy and the ancient systems of eduction, he tried to see the protection of these rich values, and wide spread application of these for the betterment of our society. He was an ardent advocate for the about
the adoption of Indian language that is Hindi as the national language. For him freedom would be meaningless if we would follow the foreign culture, foreign language which were alien to our country.

Sri Das was an idealist who had laid importance on the discipline at the individual level as well as at the community level. In the discussion on the Report of the University Grants Commission, he pointed out that a proper development of a country would be possible, if the students who were the future of a country, would be men of character and integrety.