



# BHUPESH GUPTA

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI



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## BHUPESH GUPTA

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Bhupesh Gupta was one of the leading luminaries of the Communist movement in India, an outstanding parliamentarian and a gifted orator. Bhupesh Gupta was born in October 1914 at Itna in Mymensingh district of East Bengal (now in Bangladesh). He was drawn into the national liberation movement at a very young age and joined a revolutionary group called *Anushilan*. He took an active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement, was arrested several times during the years 1930, 1931 and 1933 and was kept in detention till 1937. He passed his I.A. and B.A. examinations of the Calcutta University with distinction even while at the Berhampur detention camp. Subsequently, he went to England from where he did his Bar-at-Law. He was called to the Bar from the Middle Temple, London.

Bhupesh Gupta's involvement with the Communist movement started in the 1930s when he was in the detention camp. After completing his studies in England, 'Bhupeshda', as he was endearingly called by his friends and fellow workers, returned to India in 1941 and devoted himself full-time to the work of the Communist Party of India (CPI). He was one of the founders of the Friends of the Soviet Union (FSU) in 1941. In 1947, he was elected to the West Bengal Provincial Committee of the CPI and was appointed as Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Party's Bengali daily, *Swadhinata*, in 1951. He underwent imprisonment during 1951-52.

In 1952, Bhupesh Gupta was elected to the Rajya Sabha and remained its member till his death on 6 August 1981. He was the longest serving member in the Rajya Sabha at the time of his death and was highly respected as an indefatigable parliamentarian.

Bhupesh Gupta's speeches in the Rajya Sabha reveal his high oratorical skill. He was brilliant in his arguments and he was in his elements when it came to questions pertaining to the cause of the people. He was literally a champion of the toiling millions and a great defender of the downtrodden and the oppressed. Bhupesh Gupta had complete mastery over parliamentary rules and procedures. Everybody, friend and foe alike, admired his rare and exceptional qualities as a parliamentarian. He was rightly referred to as "the stormy petrel" of the Rajya Sabha.

On 22 June 1977, when the Rajya Sabha celebrated its 100th session and its 25th anniversary, Bhupesh Gupta was specially felicitated. Gratefully acknowledging the felicitations offered by the House, he said that his faith in the people had helped him to serve the country to the best of his ability.

Bhupesh Gupta was a parliamentarian non-pareil who practised what he preached. He ardently desired the growth of class-consciousness among the poor and the weaker sections and the emergence of their own powerful organisations which would fight for their cause. His writings and speeches on several occasions reflected this desire. He strongly advocated the strict implementation of minimum wages, regular employment and legislation to protect the weaker sections and to improve their living and working conditions.

The quality which made Bhupesh Gupta such an admired leader, which enabled him to become almost an institution in the history of parliamentary democracy in our country, was his total dedication to the cause of the oppressed and the downtrodden in the country, to the cause of Communism and to the cause of the interests of the working masses. This sincere and single-minded dedication marked his entire political life and gave it a character all of its own.



Bhupesh Gupta held various prominent positions in all the leading bodies of the Communist Party. He was also well-known outside the country, especially among those associated with the International Communist Movement. He was a member of the CPI delegation at the 1957, 1960 and 1969 meetings of the World Communist Movement. Bhupesh Gupta was also a member of the World Peace Council and was fully involved in its struggle for peace and against imperialism. He was a crusader against apartheid as well as racism.

Bhupesh Gupta was a powerful and prolific writer. He wrote a large number of books, articles and pamphlets on political, economic and social themes. He had eight books in English to his credit. He also wrote quite a few books in his mother tongue, Bengali.

From 1954 to 1957 and then again from January 1966, till his death, Bhupesh Gupta was the editor of "*New Age*", a weekly magazine of the CPI. Working in this capacity, he contributed a number of thought-provoking articles on issues of national and international significance. The *New Age*, under his personal guidance, devoted several of its columns to highlight the problems of the rural poor and their struggle for emancipation. Particular attention was focused on the atrocities against the weaker sections in different parts of the country. Besides, his powerful pen always aimed at facilitating the empowerment of women.

Bhupesh Gupta passed away at Moscow on 6 August 1981. Expressing shock over his death, the then President of India, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, in his message, said that Bhupesh Gupta was an able debator and his services will long be remembered by the country. The then Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Hidayatullah, said:

"...Apart from his personal qualities in which he combined commonsense with clarity, balanced

judgment with political acumen and foresight, his sincerity and motives could never be doubted. He wore his heart on his sleeve and whatever he did was never for personal aggrandisement or advancement." The then Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, said that in the death of Bhupesh Gupta, the nation had lost 'one of its most dedicated and eloquent sons.'

*[The Statue of Bhupesh Gupta, sculpted by Shri Debabrata Chakraborty, will be unveiled by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Statue has been donated by the Communist Party of India.]*