



Gulzarilal Nanda

Gulzarilal Nanda (4 July 1898 – 15 January 1998)^{[1][2]} was an Indian politician and economist who specialised in labour issues. He was the Acting Prime Minister of India for two 13-day tenures following the deaths of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 and Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966 respectively. Both his terms ended after the ruling Indian National Congress's parliamentary party elected a new prime minister. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1997.

Early life

Birth

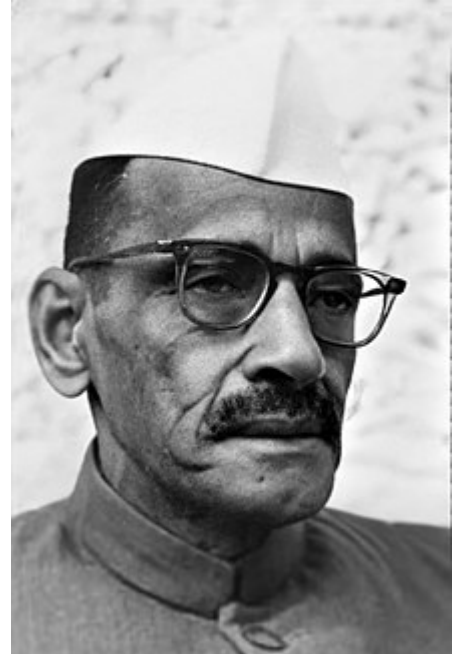
Nanda was born on 4 July 1898 in Sialkot in the Punjab, British India in a Punjabi Hindu Khatri family.^[3] Sialkot later became a part of the Punjab Province of Pakistan in 1947, after the partition of India. Nanda received his education in Lahore, Amritsar, Agra, and Allahabad.

He met Mahatma Gandhi in 1921, where he settled in Gujarat on his request.

Research worker

Nanda worked as a research scholar on labour problems at Allahabad University (1920–1921), and became a professor of economics at National College in Bombay (Mumbai) in 1921. The same year, he joined the Indian Non-Cooperation Movement against the British Raj. In 1922, he became secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association where he worked until 1946. He was imprisoned for Satyagraha in 1932, and again from 1942 to 1944.. He was honoured with "Proud Past Alumni" in the list of 42 members, from "Allahabad University Alumni Association", NCR, Ghaziabad (Greater Noida) Chapter 2007–2008 registered under society act 1860 with registration no. 407/2000.^{[4][5][6]}

Gulzarilal Nanda



Nanda in 1965

Acting Prime Minister of India

In office

11 January 1966 – 24 January 1966

President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Vice President Zakir Husain

Preceded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

Succeeded by Indira Gandhi

In office

27 May 1964 – 9 June 1964

President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Vice President Zakir Husain

Preceded by Jawaharlal Nehru

Succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

Union Minister of Home Affairs

In office

29 August 1963 – 14 November 1966

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

Lal Bahadur Shastri

Indira Gandhi

Preceded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

Succeeded by Yashwantrao Chavan

He married Lakshmi, with whom he had two sons and a daughter.^[7]

Lok Sabha member

Nanda was elected to the Lok Sabha in the 1957 elections, and was appointed Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning, and later, as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. He visited the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, and Austria in 1959.

Nanda was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in the 1962 elections from the Sabarkantha constituency in Gujarat. He initiated the Congress Forum for Socialist Action in 1962. He was Union Minister for Labour and Employment in 1962–1963, and Minister for Home Affairs in 1963–1966.

Nanda was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in the 1967 and 1971 elections from the Kaithal Constituency in Haryana. He was a principled man. In 1971, he resigned from the Congress saying that he did not like the politics of that era.^[8]

Acting Prime Minister

Nanda was the Acting Prime Minister of India twice for thirteen days each: the first time after the death of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, and the second time after the death of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966.^[9] He was the Home Minister of India during both these periods, and this is the reason why he was chosen as Prime Minister. The Indian Constitution has no provision for an "acting" Prime Minister.^[10] Both his terms were uneventful, yet they came at sensitive times

because of the potential danger to the country following Nehru's death soon after the Sino-Indian War in 1962 and Shastri's death after the Indo-Pakistani war of 1965.^[11]

Death

Nanda died on 15 January 1998 at the age of 99; from 25 November 1997 when former Malawian President Hastings Banda died; until his own death Nanda was the oldest living former state leader.^[12] At his death, Nanda was the last surviving member of the second and third Nehru cabinets and the last living state leader to have been born in the 19th century.

Union Minister of External Affairs

In office

27 May 1964 – 7 June 1964

Prime Minister *Himself* (Acting)

Preceded by Jawaharlal Nehru

Succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission

In office

17 February 1953 – 21 September 1963

Preceded by *Position established*

Succeeded by V. T. Krishnamachari

Leader of the House in Lok Sabha

In office

11 January 1966 – 24 January 1966

Preceded by Jawaharlal Nehru

Succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

In office

27 May 1964 – 9 June 1964

Preceded by Lal Bahadur Shastri

Succeeded by Satya Narayan Sinha

Personal details

Born	4 July 1898 <div><u>Sialkot</u>, <u>Punjab Province</u>, <u>British India</u> (present-day <u>Punjab</u>, <u>Pakistan</u>)</div>
Died	15 January 1998 (aged 99) <div><u>Ahmedabad</u>, <u>Gujarat</u>, India</div>
Political party	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
Spouse	Lakshmi Nanda (from 1916)
Children	3
Alma mater	<u>Allahabad University</u>

Gandhian life

He lived a very simple life, with no personal property at the time of his death. He never allowed politics to influence his family life. Yet he always had enough time for his family. He once engaged his government provided driver for a car that was used by his family. He never allowed his family to use his official vehicle. He once got angry with his staff when he learned that his grandson, Tejas used his office paper and drew a picture. He immediately purchased paper from market and gave his grandson to draw on it.^[13]

He was also concerned about rising corruption in the country and suggested to decrease wasteful consumption by officials and people in general. He had also opposed the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi, as he felt that the sacrifices to bring democracy to India became meaningless due to the tyranny.^[14]

Awards and honours

-  India:
 -  Bharat Ratna (1997)

In popular culture

A Dedicated Worker – Shri Gulzarilal Nanda is a 1999 short documentary film directed by A. K. Goorha and produced by the Films Division of India which covers Nanda's work towards labourers and others as the PM and otherwise.^[15]

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External links

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