RAJYA SABHA

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*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Thursday, November15, 2007/Kartika 24, 1929 (Saka)

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SECRETARY GENERAL INTRODUCED

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have great pleasure in introducing to the House the new Secretary General, Dr. Vivek Kumar Agnihotri.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K., a sitting Member, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Shri

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* **This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**

S.R. Bommai and Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur, former Members of this House.

Shri Jana Krishnamurthy passed away on the 25th September, 2007, at the age of 80 years after a prolonged illness. Born at Madurai in the State of Tamil Nadu in May, 1928, Shri Krishnamurthy had his education at Madurai and Madras Law College, Chennai. An advocate by profession, Shri Krishnamurthy had engaged himself in several social and cultural activities right from his student days. He won many laurels for his outstanding oratorical skills during his college days. He practised law in Madurai for more than a decade. Shri Krishnamurthy was the Vice-President of Bhartiya Janata Party for about 15 years and rose to become its National President in March, 2001, and served that Party in that capacity till June, 2002.

Shri Krishnamurthy represented the State of Gujarat in this House from April, 2002, till his sad demise. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions from August, 2004, to September, 2006. Shri Krishnamurthy also had the distinction of serving as the Union Minister of Law and Justice from July, 2002 to January, 2003.

In the passing away of Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K., the country has lost an able Parliamentarian, a noted lawyer and a distinguished social worker.

Dr. L.M. Singhvi passed away on the 6th October, 2007, at the age of 76 years. Born at Jodhpur in the State of Rajasthan in November, 1931, Shri Singhvi had his education at Maharaj Kumar College, Jodhpur; Maharaja's College, Jaipur; Jaswant College, Jodhpur; Allahabad University; Cambridge University,

Harvard University; and, the Cornell University. An eminent jurist, Dr. Singhvi was a multi-faced personality. He served as the Advocate General of the State of Rajasthan from 1972 to 1977. He was the Chairman of the Rajasthan Law Reforms, Legal Services and Legal Aid Commission from 1973 to 1975, and of the Committee on Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Government of India in the year 1986. Between 2000 and 2001, Shri Singhvi also served as the Chairman of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora and he conceived the idea of an annual "*Pravasi Bharatiya Divas"*.

Dr. Singhvi was elected President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of India several times. He conceived and founded the Law Day, which is widely observed by the Bench and the Bar in India on the 26th November every year.

A seasoned diplomat, Dr. Singhvi, was High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom from 1991 to 1997. An author, poet, publicist, linguist, litterateur and patron of arts, Dr. Singhvi was elected President of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in the year 2000 for ten years. He was also President and Chairman of the National School of Drama and President of the Authors Guild of India from 1977 to 1991. He was also President and Life Trustee of the India International Centre.

A recipient of the *Padma Bhushan* in 1998, Dr. Singhvi was awarded U. Thant Peace Award in the year 1995. He was appointed one of the Presidents of the World Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1993. The legislative career of Dr. Singhvi started with the membership of the Third Lok Sabha, in which he was a Member from 1962 to 1967. He represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of Dr. L. M. Singhvi, the country has lost an eminent jurist, distinguished Parliamentarian, a renowned scholar, linguist and a connoisseur of art and culture.

Shri S.R. Bommai passed away on the 10th October, 2007 at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness. Born at Karadagi in the Dharwad District of Karnataka in June, 1924, Shri Bommai had his education at Hubli, Dharwad, Belgaum and Bombay University, Mumbai.

An advocate by profession, Shri Bommai participated in the Quit India movement in 1942. He took part in various social movements even during his college days. Shri Bommai was associated with various social welfare and educational institutions in different capacities.

The distinguished political career of Shri Bommai started with the membership of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in which he was a Member from 1967 to 1971, and, again from 1978 to 1989. He was also elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1972 and remained a Member till 1978. Shri Bommai was the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council of Karnataka from 1976 to 1978 and in the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka from 1978 to 1980. He was also the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He served as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Karnataka from 1981 to 1983 and held portfolios of Industry and Commerce, Finance and Revenue, Planning and Institutional Finance and Irrigation. Shri Bommai also had the distinction of serving as the Chief Minister of Karnataka from August, 1988 to April, 1989.

Shri Bommai represented the State of Orissa in this House from July, 1992 to April, 1998 and the State of Karnataka from April, 1998 to April, 2004. He was Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests from June, 1998 to December, 1999 and the Committee on Petitions from May, 2000 to 2001.

Shri Bommai also served as a Union Cabinet Minister from June 1996 to March 1998 and held the portfolio of Human Resource Development. He was President of the All India Janta Dal from 1990 to 1996.

In the passing away of Shri Bommai, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a devoted social worker.

Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur passed away on the 20th October 2007 at the age of 86 after a prolonged illness. Born at Sherkot in the Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mathur had his education at the Mission High School and D.A.V. College, Dehradun. An educated social and political worker, Shri Mathur participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942. He was one of the founder members of the Bhartiya Janta Party. Shri Mathur represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two terms, from April 1978 to April 1984 and again from April 1990 to April 1996. He was also the Deputy Leader and Whip of the Bhartiya Janta Party in the Rajya Sabha. Shri Mathur was a Member of the Indian delegation to the Inter Parliamentary Union Conference held at Caracus in the year 1979. He also visited China as a Member of the Indian goodwill delegation of Parliamentarians.

In the passing away of Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur, the country has lost a distinguished social worker and an able Parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K., Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Shri S.R. Bommai and Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

(*One minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.*)

V. K. AGNIHOTRI,
Secretary-General.

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