RAJYA SABHA

_____

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

_____

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

_____

Friday, October 17, 2008/Asvina 25, 1930 (Saka)

_____

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla, Shri N.R. Dasari, Shri Thalai Vilalan, Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi, Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet and Shri Krishna Kumar Birla, former Members of this House.

Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla passed away on 21st April, 2008, at the age of 79 years.

Born at Rajkot in Gujarat, in September, 1928, Shri Shukla had his education at Mahatma Gandhi Vidyalaya, Dharmendra College, Gujarat College, and LA Law College.

An advocate by profession, Shri Shukla was associated with various social welfare organisations. Shri Shukla started his legislative career with the membership of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in 1967. He was also a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha. Shri Shukla represented the State of Gujarat in this House from August, 1993 to August, 1999.

---

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

In the passing away of Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian.

Shri N.R. Dasari passed away on 27th April, 2008 at the age of 81 years.

Born at Digawalli in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, in August, 1926, Shri Dasari had his education at Noosewith High School, Krishna District, Hindu College, Machilipattinam, AC College, Guntoor, SRR College, Vijayawada, and Bangabasi College, Kolkata.

A social worker, Shri Dasari participated in several agitations for distribution of land to the poor and championed the cause of peasants and agricultural labourers and was jailed several times. He served as National Vice-President of Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union in 2002 and also served as National Secretary of the CPI.

Shri N.R. Dasari represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from March, 1998 to April, 2004.

In the passing away of Shri N.R. Dasari, the country has lost a distinguished social worker.

Shri Thillai Villalan passed away on 20th May, 2008 at the age of 80 years.

Born at Chidambaram, in April, 1928, Shri Villalan had his education at Annamalai University and Law College.

An advocate by profession, Shri Villalan played a prominent role in Self-Respect Movement in Tamil Nadu and was a founder member of the DMK. Shri Villalan was also associated with various social organisations. He was a member of the Tamil Nadu Dramatic Advisory Committee, the Senate

Annamalai University, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Committee and the Soldiers-Sailors Rehabilitation Committee.

Shri Villalan was the Editor of the Tamil Publication "Thambi, "Poomalai" and "Munnari" and Sub-editor of "Dravida Nadu". He also authored a number of novels, mostly in Tamil. Shri Villalan represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from April 1968 to April 1974. He was also Member of the Public Accounts Committee and Committee of Privileges of Rajya Sabha.

In the passing away of Shri Thillai Villalan, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian.

Shri J. Chitharanjan passed away on the 13th June, 2008 at the age of 80 years.

Born at Quilon in Kerala in October, 1927, Shri Chitharanjan had his education at Quilon and Alwaye.

A trade unionist, Shri Chitharanjan was actively involved in the welfare of workers and weaker sections of the society. He also participated in the freedom struggle and student strikes of 1938, 1942, 1946 and 1948. Shri Chitharanjan was closely associated with the All India Trade Union Congress and served as its Vice-President from 1972 to October 1998, and rose to become its President in October 1998. Shri Chitharanjan also served as Secretary of the Communist Party of India.

Shri J. Chitharanjan started his legislative career with the membership of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and was member of that Assembly thrice. He also served as Minister of Health in the Government of Kerala from 1987 to 88. Shri Chitharanjan represented the State of Kerala in Rajya Sabha from April 1997 to April 2003. He was Leader of the CPI Group in Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2003.

In the passing away of Shri J. Chitharanjan, the country has lost a dedicated trade unionist and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi passed away on the 19th July, 2008 at the age of 73 years.

Born at Etah in Uttar Pradesh in July, 1934, Shri Zahidi had his education at Government College, Gonda and Etawah, Christ Church College, Kanpur and Agra University, Agra.

A journalist and a social worker, Shri Zahidi was involved in adult education work, setting up eye camps for the poor, slum clearance, and improvement of slum dwellers in and around Kanpur. He was associated with several social welfare and educational institutions. He was President of the Urdu Academy, Uttar Pradesh, from 1993 to 1995; Chairman, Unani Medical College, Kanpur, 1975; and Founder Executive Member of the Mohammadia Hospital Society, Kanpur. He became a Member of the Uttar Pradesh State Planning Commission in 1984.

Shri Zahidi was the Founder Member of Patrakar Sahayata Kosh Samiti, U.P., Press Club, Kanpur, and Small and Medium Newspaper Association, Delhi. He was the Editor, Printer, and Publisher of the 'Daily Siyasat Jadid', and 'Dainik Hindi Siyasat'.

Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi commenced his legislative career with the membership of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and served in that Assembly for three terms. He also served as Minister of Housing in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Zahidi presented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from November 1996 to July 1998 and again from July 1998 to July 2004.

In the passing away of Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi, the country has lost a distinguished journalist, a dedicated social worker, and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet passed away on August 1, 2008 at the age of 92 years.

Born at Ropowal village of Jhalandhar district of Punjab in March, 1916, Shri Surjit joined the national movement at a tender age of 14 and was imprisoned several times during the freedom struggle. He was associated with various organisations, including, the Naujwan Bharat Sabha of Shahid Bhagat Singh and Kirti Kisan Party. He worked tirelessly for communal harmony and rehabilitation of people during partition. He was also one of the organisers of Kishan Sabha in Punjab.

Shri Surjeet also joined the Communist Party of India in 1935 and was General Secretary of the Communist Party of India-(Marxist), CPI (M) from 1992 to 2005. A simple and dedicated person, he was committed to the welfare of the downtrodden sections of the society and the working class.

Shri Surjeet began his legislative career with the Membership of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and was Member of that Assembly from 1953 to 1957 and again from 1967 to 1969. Shri Surjeet represented the State of Punjab in the Rajya Sabha from April 1978 to April 1984.

Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet had a few publications to his credit. Besides he had also published many pamphlets on various political and economic issues. He was editor of Loklehar.

In the passing away of Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able

Parliamentarian and a Champion of the downtrodden and the working class.

Shri Krishna Kumar Birla passed away on the 30th August, 2008 at the age of 89 years.

Born at Pilani in Rajasthan in October 1918, Shri Birla had his education in Calcutta, Delhi and Punjab universities. He was also conferred D. Litt (Honoris Causa) by the Pondicherry University in 1997.

An industrialist by profession, Shri K. K. Birla was a multi-faceted personality. His industrial empire spread across various fields like Sugar, fertilisers, chemicals to heavy engineering, textiles, shipping and media. He was the Chairman of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, a premier educational institution. He was President of Indian Sugar Mills Association and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He also served as Director of the Central Board of State Bank of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. He was trustee of the Birla Education trust. He was the Chairman of the Hindustan Times and a number of companies in the K. K. Birla group.

Shri Birla was the Sheriff of Calcutta in 1961. He established the K. K. Birla Foundation for awarding excellence in Indian literature, scientific research, Indian philosophy, art and culture and sports. Shri Birla also had a few publications to his credit.

Shri Krishna Kumar Birla represented the State of Rajasthan for three terms in the Rajya Sabha from April 1984 to April 2002 and actively participated in the debates of the House.

In the passing away of Shri Krishna Kumar Birla, the country has lost an eminent industrialist, a distinguished parliamentarian, an educationist and a philanthropist.

Hon. Members, I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Field Marshal S. F. H. J. Manekshaw.

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw passed away on the 27 June, 2008 at the age of 94 years.

Popularly known as Sam Bahadur, Field Marshal Manekshaw was born in Amritsar, Punjab in April 1914 and completed his schooling in Amritsar and Sherwood College, Nainital. He then joined the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, in 1932, and was Commissioned into the Army in 1934. He was first attached to the Royal Scouts, then to 12 Frontier Force Rifles, and later he joined the Gurkha Regiment.

Sam Manekshaw was a man of inspiring leadership and was a great motivator. He had incisive grasp of the situation. He complemented his professional genius and competence with wit and humour, which made him popular, in general, and in the army, in particular. His dedication for his men to instill a sense of duty earned him the epithet 'a soldier's General.' He carved out a niche for himself in the annals of the Indian Army.

The Field Marshal's brilliant military strategy, decision-making, co-ordinating skills and, above all, his fine leadership was at its glorious best during the 1971 war, a moment of India's crowing military achievements.

For his bravery, efficiency and selfless service to the nation, several awards were conferred on Sam Manekshaw. He was decorated with Military Cross during the Second World War and was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1968 and Padma Vibhushan in 1972. Before his retirement, he was made Field

Marshal, thereby becoming only the second Indian to be thus decorated.

In the passing away of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the country has lost one of India's greatest soldier and an inspiring leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla, Shri N.R. Dasari, Shri Thillai Villan, Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi, Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Shri Krishna Kumar Birla and Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw.

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

_____

I. REFERENCE TO THE VICTIMS OF BOMB BLASTS IN JAIPUR, BANGALORE, AHMEDABAD, DELHI, MALEGAON AND AGARTALA AND STAMPEDE AT NAINA DEVI TEMPLE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH AND AT CHAMUNDA DEVI TEMPLE AT JODHPUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is with utmost grief and sorrow that I refer to the dastardly killing of 157 innocent people in bomb blasts that took place in Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Modasa, Malegaon and Agartala on 13th May, 25th and 26th July, 13th, 27th and 29th September and 1st October, 2008, respectively. More than 750 persons were reported to have been injured in these blasts.

No words are strong enough to condemn these heinous and senseless acts and I am sure that the whole House will join me in condemning these acts. Such heartless acts of terrorism

need to be dealt with firmly. On this occasion, we express our firm resolve to fight terrorism with determination.

Hon. Members are also aware that 289 devotees, mostly women and children, were killed and several others injured in the twin incidents of stampede, one at Naina Devi Temple in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh and the other at the Chamunda Devi Temple in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, on the 3rd August, 2008, and the 30th September, 2008, respectively.

The loss of so many precious lives in the bomb blasts and stampede have shocked the whole country. The loss suffered by the kith and kin of the deceased is irreparable. Our hearts go out to the bereaved families and we pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured in these incidents.

II. REFERENCE TO THE VICTIMS OF FLOOD IN BIHAR

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the hon. Members are aware, around the third week of August, the Kosi River, a tributary of the Ganges, broke through the embankments after the monsoon rains and wrecked death and destruction in Bihar. Lakhs of people have been displaced and properties worth crores have been damaged and many persons have reportedly lost their lives. The havoc caused by the river is unprecedented and the magnitude of loss suffered by the State is substantial.

Relief and rehabilitation measures have already been taken up on a war footing. And, efforts are being made to restore normalcy in the flood-affected areas of Bihar.

I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing its condolences and sympathies with the affected families.

III. REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF FLOODS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the hon. Members are aware, there have been unprecedented floods in Assam, Orissa, Gujarat and other parts of the country which have resulted in death and devastation on a massive scale. I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing its condolences and sympathies with the affected families.

(One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased in each of the above tragedies.)

DISQUALIFICATION OF SHRI ISAM SINGH, MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Veer Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha, filed before the then Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, a petition dated 4th April 2007, under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and Rule 6 of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on grounds of Defection) Rules, 1985, praying that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, be pleased to hold that Shri Isam Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha, stands disqualified under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India and also declare his seat in the Rajya Sabha vacant.

The then Chairman forwarded copies of the petition and the annexures thereto to Shri lsam Singh and Sushri Mayawati, the then Leader of the *Bahujan Samaj Party* in Rajya Sabha, under rule 7(3) of the said Rules, on the 20th of April, 2007, requesting them to forward their comments on the petition to him within seven days from the receipt of the same.

Sushri Mayawati in her comments agreed with the contention of the petitioner and contended that Shri lsam Singh, who had been elected to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Uttar Pradesh as a candidate of the *Bahujan Samaj Party*, was expelled from the party for violating the party norms and for anti-party activities. Further, his act of forming a new political party "*Bahujan Kranti Party*" on the 10th September, 2006 and his becoming its National President is a conduct that indicates that he has voluntarily given up the membership of the *Bahujan Samaj Party* and, therefore, be disqualified w.e.f. 10th September, 2006.

Shri Isam Singh in his comments disagreed with the charges made against him. Shri Isam Singh contested the contents of the petition. He denied having received any Show Cause Notice and said that it was a manipulated document meant for his harassment. In fact, he came to know about his suspension from the Party from media. He denied making false allegations against Sushri Mayawati and accused her of taking a dictatorial action, when he tried to uplift the image of the Party. Shri Isam Singh denied the charges of voluntarily giving up membership of the *Bahujan Samaj Party* and joining a new political party. He also stated that he had formed a new political party only after his expulsion from the BSP, and hence there was no question of his disqualification as a Member of Rajya Sabha. He requested that Shri Veer Singh's petition seeking his disqualification may be dismissed.

After considering the comments of Sushri Mayawati as well as of Shri Isam Singh in relation to the petition, the then Chairman was satisfied, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the case that it was necessary to refer the petition to the Committee of Privileges of the Rajya Sabha for

making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 7 of the Rules and ordered accordingly on 24th July, 2007.

The Committee of Privileges submitted its Report to me on the 22nd May, 2008.

On receipt of this Report, I forwarded a copy thereof to Shri Isam Singh and gave him opportunities to appear before me on July I and 4, 2008 to represent his case and to be heard in person in terms of Rule 7 (7) of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985.

Taking into account the facts of the case and the report of the Committee of Privileges and in accordance with the provisions of article 102 (2) read with the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India, I decided and declared by an order as follows:

> "In exercise of the powers conferred upon me under article 102(2) read with paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India, I, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Chairman, Rajya Sabha, hereby decide that Shri lsam Singh, an elected member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Uttar Pradesh, by voluntarily giving up his membership of the *Bahujan Samaj* Party, his original political party, has become subject to disqualification for being a Member of the Rajya Sabha in terms of paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India."

Accordingly, Shri Isham Singh has ceased to be a Member of Rajya Sabha with effect from 4th July, 2008.

———————

GOVERNMENT BILLS - *INTRODUCED*

I. **THE PREVENTION OF MONEY-LAUNDERING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008.**

II. **THE MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2008.**

V. K. AGNIHOTRI,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in