RAJYA SABHA

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*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Thursday, February 12, 2009/Magha 23, 1930 (Saka)

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 12th February, 2009.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is with a deep sense of sorrow that I refer to the sad demise of **Shri R. Venkataraman,** former President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, on 27th January, 2009 at the age of 98 years.

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

Born at Rajamadam village in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu in December, 1910, Shri R. Venkataraman, popularly known as RV, had his education at Madras University and Law College, Madras.

Shri Venkataraman began his career as a lawyer in the Madras High Court in 1935 and later in the Supreme Court in 1951. He had an abiding interest in Labour Laws. He founded and edited the *Labour Law Journal*. He was also associated with trade union activities. Shri Venkataraman participated in the Quit India Movement and was detained for two years under the Defence of India Rules. In 1946, he was deputed by the Government of India to serve on the Panel of Lawyers to defend Indian nationals charged with offences of collaboration during the Japanese occupation of Malaya and Singapore.

Shri Venkataraman began his long and distinguished legislative career with the membership of the Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952, 1957, 1977 and 1980. He was Member of the Madras Legislative council from 1957 to 1962 and again, from 1962 to 1967. He served as Minister of Industries, Labour, Cooperation, Power, Transport and Commercial Taxes from 1957 to 1967 in the Government of Madras (now Tamil Nadu). He was Leader of the House in the Madras Legislative Council from 1957 to 1967.

Shri Venkataraman was Chairman of the Major Ports Commission; National Research Development Corporation; Committee on Automation; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; Committee of Enquiry into the working of State Electricity Boards and Public Accounts Committee of the Lok Sabha.

Shri Venkataraman was Member of the Planning Commission of India from 1967 to 1971 and held the portfolios of Finance and Defence in the Union Council of Ministers from 1980 to 1984.

Shri Venkataraman was a Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1953, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961. He was Leader of the Indian Delegation to the 42nd Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1958 and represented the country in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Vienna in 1978. He was Member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal from 1955 to 1979 and was its President from 1968 to 1979. He served as Governor of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank.

Shri Venkataraman was conferred *Honoris Causa,* the Doctorate of Laws by the Universities of Madras and Burdwan and Nagarjuna University. He was also awarded the Doctorate of Social Sciences by the University of Roorkee.

Shri R. Venkataraman was elected the Vice-President of India in August, 1984. As Chairman of Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1987, Shri Venkataraman conducted the proceedings of the House with vision, wisdom and learning. His presence enhanced the dignity of the Chair and his guidance enriched the understanding of the Members. He considered Parliament a very potent tool in making India 'the biggest democracy in quality'. He contributed immensely to the high traditions established by his distinguished predecessors through his objective and impartial approach towards all sections in the House.

Shri Venkataraman occupied the Office of the President of India from 1987 to 1992. As President, he guided the country through a testing period of coalition politics with wisdom and adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

He left an indelible mark in the society and polity and stood for probity in public life. He worked for the poor and deprived sections of society with commitment.

In the passing away of Shri Venkataraman, the country has lost a patriot, a veteran freedom fighter, a versatile Parliamentarian, an adept administrator and a humanist.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman.

I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shrimati Krishna Kaul, Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra, Shri E. Balanandan, Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal and Shri Ranbir Singh, former Members of this House.

Shrimati Krishna Kaul passed away on the 13th December, 2008 at the age of 87 years.

Born at Luckow in November, 1921, Shrimati Kaul had her education at Theosophical National Girls School and Women's College, Benaras; Allahabad University and St. Andrews College, Gorakhpur.

An educationist, philanthropist and a social worker, Shrimati Kaul participated in the Quit India Movement. She was associated with several social welfare organizations and worked for the upliftment of weaker sections of society. She organized blood donation camps and eye camps. She worked

for village upliftment and provided aid to physically handicapped. She had also organised free teaching programmes for slum children.

Shrimati Kaul was the Principal of the D.W.T. College; Dean, Faculty of Education, Kanpur University and Lecturer in the Allahabad University. She was also President of the Homoeopathic Medical College, Kanpur from 1972 to 1978 and Nursing Brigade, Indian Red Cross Society, Kanpur from 1971 to 1972.

A keen lover of fine arts, Shrimati Kaul organized, directed and participated in plays, musicals and dance programmes. She had also organized and participated in *Mushairas* and *Kavi Sammelans* and brought out a collection of Urdu Poems under the title '*Dilon-Ki-Aawaz'*.

Shrimati Krishna Kaul represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April 1982 to April 1988.

In the passing away of Shrimati Krishna Kaul, the country has lost a noted social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra, a former Member of this House passed away on the 9th of January, 2009 at the age of 77 years.

Shri Mishra was born at Maghiana, District Jhang, West Pakistan, on September 28, 1932 and had his education at B.N. College, Patna University and City College, Calcutta University.

A journalist by profession, Shri Mishra was associated with trade union activities and was President of the All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association, Jaipur. He actively

participated in progressive literary movement in Rajasthan and also organized movement for eradication of illiteracy in the city of Jaipur. He was founder Chairman of the Observer Research Foundation. Shri Mishra edited several books in English and Hindi on economic, cultural and social aspects of Rajasthan and also wrote several articles on national, economic and political themes in journals and newspapers.

Shri Mishra represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from April, 1974 to April, 1980.

In the passing away of Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra, the country has lost a noted journalist and an able Parliamentarian.

Shri E. Balanandan passed away on the 19th January, 2009, at the age of 84 years.

Born at Sakthikulangara in Kollam District of Kerala in June, 1924, Shri Balanandan had his education at the local High School.

A renowned political and social worker and a trade unionist, Shri Balanandan served as the President of the Electricity Employees' Federation of India. He also served as the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the CITU from 1979 to 2003 and championed the cause of the working class with dedication and sincerity. He was also the Leader of CPI (M) Group in Parliament.

A committed and dedicated labour leader, Shri Balanandan wrote several articles on socio-economic problems and authored a publication entitled 'A Book on Silent Valley Projects'.

Shri Balanandan began his legislative career with the membership of Kerala Legislative Assembly and was a Member of that Assembly from March 1967 to June 1970 and again from October 1970 to March 1977. He was also a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984.

Shri E. Balanandan represented the State of Kerala in this House for two terms from July 1988 to July 1994 and again from July 1994 to July 2000.

In the passing away of Shri E. Balanandan, the country has lost a veteran trade union leader and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal passed away on the 25th January, 2009 at the age of 76 years.

Born at Kharsia in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh in February, 1932, Shri Agarwal had his education at Primary and Middle School, Naharpalli, Kharsia.

A businessman by profession, Shri Agarwal was the President of the Municipal Council, Kharsia and District Cooperative Bank, Raigarh. He also served as the Vice-President of the Madhya Pradesh State Marketing Federation, Bhopal. He was also associated with the Raipur edition of Daily 'Yugdharm', from 1977 to 1982. He also took keen interest in social activities and was the President of the Agarsen Jan Kalyan Trust, Kharsia.

Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal represented the State of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in this House for two terms from April 1990 to April 1996 and again from April 1996 to April 2002.

In the passing away of Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal, the country has lost an able parliamentarian.

Shri Ranbir Singh passed away on the 1st February, 2009 at the age of 94 years.

Born at Sanghi village in Rohtak District of Haryana in November, 1914, Shri Singh had his education at Gurukul, Bhainswal, Vaish High School and Intermediate College, Rohtak and Ramjas College, Delhi.

A social worker and an agriculturalist, Shri Ranbir Singh participated in the freedom movement and was imprisoned four times in eight different jails for a total period of three and a half years. He remained underground for four months in the years 1942 and 1944. Shri Singh took keen interest in rural reconstruction and was associated with several socio-political organizations.

Shri Singh enjoyed a rare distinction of being a Member of several different Constitutional and legislative bodies in India. Thus, he was a member of the Constituent Assembly from 1947 to 1950 and of the Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1952 and 1957. He served as Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1966 and Haryana Legislative Assembly for two terms from 1966 to 1967 and from 1968 to 1972. He also served as Minister for Irrigation and Power and Public Works Department in the Government of Punjab from 1962 to 1964 and as Minister for Public Works Department and Department of Health in the Government of Haryana from 1966 to 1967.

Shri Singh represented the State of Haryana in this House from April 1972 to April 1978. He served on the

Panel of Vice-Chairmen in Rajya Sabha in 1976. He was also the Chairman of the House Committee.

In the passing away of Shri Ranbir Singh, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter and an eminent Parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri R. Venkataraman, Shrimati Krishna Kaul, Shri Rishi Kumar Mishra, Shri E. Balanandan, Shri Lakkhiram Agarwal and Shri Ranbir Singh.

(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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