

# RAJYA SABHA

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## \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Monday, February 22, 2010/Phalguna 3, 1931(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 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010.

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### OBITUARY REFERENCES

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami, former Member of this House; Shri Jyoti Basu, former Chief Minister of West Bengal; Shri Janeshwar Mishra, sitting Member of this House; and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, former Member of this House.

**Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami** passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at the age of 73 years.

Born at Jaipur City in Rajasthan in January, 1936, Shri Swami had his education at Maharaja's College, Jaipur; University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, and University Law College, Jaipur.

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

An advocate by profession, Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami worked for the welfare of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. Shri Swami was an ardent sports lover and was the Chairman of the Rajasthan University Sports Board from 1963 to 1966 and the Rajasthan State Sports Council from 1969 to 1972. He was President of the Rajasthan Badminton Association from 1970 to 1976. Shri Swami was also President of the Jaipur Bar Association from 1973 to 1977. Shri Swami had several publications to his credit.

Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from April, 1976 to April, 1982.

In the passing away of Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami, the country has lost an able parliamentarian, a noted social worker and a keen sports person.

**Shri Jyoti Basu** passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010 at the age of 95 years.

Born in Kolkata in July, 1914, Shri Basu was educated at Loreto School, St. Xavier's School, Presidency College, Kolkata, and qualified as a Barrister-at-law from Middle Temple, London.

After completing his studies in 1940, Shri Jyoti Basu returned to India and was entrusted with responsibilities in respect of trade union activities. Shri Basu played an active role during 1946, when Bengal witnessed the Tebhaga Movement followed by workers' strike and communal riots. Shri Basu was arrested several times during the 1950s and 1960s and for certain periods he went underground. Shri Basu was a charismatic mass leader known for his political and administrative skills and rose above regional politics to become a powerful voice in the communist movement and the national political scene. He espoused the cause of common people and worked for the upliftment of the working class and other weaker sections of the society.

Shri Jyoti Basu was first elected to the Bengal Provincial Assembly in 1946 and was Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly continuously from 1952 to 1971 and again from 1977 to

2001. He initially also served as the Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for a long time. He became the Deputy Chief Minister of two successive United Front Governments in West Bengal in 1967 and 1969. Shri Basu became the Chief Minister of West Bengal in 1977 and served as Chief Minister for 23 years, making him the longest serving Chief Minister in India. During his tenure, he embarked on a programme of land reforms and instituted Panchayati Raj system in the State. He was also the main architect of Industrial Policy Resolution in West Bengal.

A veteran leader, Shri Jyoti Basu made significant contributions to public life and especially to the development of West Bengal. His sagacity and leadership at both the State and national levels inspired many.

In the passing away of Shri Jyoti Basu, the country has lost an outstanding statesman, an able administrator and a crusader of the cause of the toiling masses.

**Shri Janeshwar Mishra** passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2010 at the age of 76 years.

Born at village Shubhanathahi in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh in August, 1933, Shri Mishra had his education at Ballia and Allahabad University.

A social worker, Shri Janeshwar Mishra led several mass movements in Allahabad and espoused the cause of the common masses. He took an active interest in the socialist movement under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and led several protest marches against social evils and inequalities.

Shri Janeshwar Mishra started his legislative career as a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha in 1969. He was also a Member of the Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Lok Sabha. Shri Mishra served as Minister of State in the Ministries of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Energy and as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport in the Union Council of Ministers from 1977 to 1980. He also served as Minister of State (Independent

Charge) in the Ministry of Communications and as Minister of Railways from 1989 to 1991 and was Minister for Water Resources and Petroleum and Natural Gas from 1996 to 1998.

Shri Mishra represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1994 to April, 2000, from April, 2000 to April, 2006 and from April, 2006 till his sad demise. He also served on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Rajya Sabha from November, 2004 to July, 2005. Shri Mishra was Leader of the Samajwadi Party in the Rajya Sabha and actively participated in the proceedings of the House.

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

**Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha** passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010 at the age of 86 years.

Born at village Kuchera in Rajasthan in August, 1924, Shri Mirdha had his education at Allahabad and Lucknow Universities and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

An agriculturist by vocation, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha had keen interest in fine arts and sports. He served as Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi and was Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at the time of his passing away. He also participated in various Parliamentary Conferences and led an Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly in September, 1984.

Shri Mirdha started his legislative career as a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1953 and served as Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Transport, Public Works and Forest in the Government of Rajasthan from 1954 to 1957. He was also Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1967.

Shri Mirdha represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from May 1967 to April 1968; from April 1968 to April 1974; from April 1974 to April 1980 and from July 1980 to December 1984. Shri Mirdha, who served as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha from

March 1977 to April 1980, conducted the proceedings of the House with dignity and firmness. He endeared himself to all sections of the House.

Shri Mirdha was also a Member of the Eighth and Tenth Lok Sabha and held several key portfolios in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State in the Ministries of Home Affairs, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Defence Production, External Affairs; as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministries of Supply and Rehabilitation, Irrigation, Communications and Textiles and as Cabinet Minister of Textiles with additional charge of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from 1970 to 1977 and from 1983 to 1989.

In the passing away of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a multi-faceted personality.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Dinesh Chandra Swami, Shri Jyoti Basu, Shri Janeshwar Mishra and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha.

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

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#### **REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI**

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Hon'ble Members, as you are aware, a massive earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale devastated Haiti on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010, causing widespread loss of lives and destruction of property. More than one lakh people are reported to have been killed. An Indian national working with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was also killed in the earthquake.

The Government of India has sanctioned US\$ 5 million in cash towards relief assistance as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti and is committed to assist Haiti in the international reconstruction efforts.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in sending our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the people of Haiti, who have lost their near and dear ones in the earthquake and pray for the early recovery of those who were injured.

*(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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