

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, July 26, 2010/ Sravana 4, 1932 (Saka)

FELICITATIONS TO NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, on behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I wish to extend a very cordial welcome to the newly-elected and re-elected Members. I am sure that the Members, who are new to this House, will soon acquaint themselves with the Parliamentary practices and procedures and utilize them to enrich the proceedings of this House. We look forward to them for their valuable contributions in making the functioning of Parliamentary democracy more effective and enhancing the dignity and prestige of this august House.

I once again welcome the newly-elected and re-elected Members and express good wishes to them.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri K.A. Krishnaswamy, former Member of this House, Shri Virendra Bhatia,

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

sitting Member of this House and Shri Digvijay Singh, former Member of this House.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat passed away on the 15th of May 2010 at the age of 86 years after a brief illness.

Born in October 1923, in Khachariawas village, in Sikar district of Rajasthan, Shri Shekhawat could not complete his higher education due to his father's untimely demise. A farmer and agriculturist, Shri Shekhawat started his political career in the year 1952 and had the unique distinction of being the only member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly to have won in every Legislative Assembly election he contested since 1952 except in 1972. He was a member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1972 and again from 1977 to 2002.

Shri Shekhawat served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan for three terms; from 1977 to 1980, from 1990 to 1992, and again from 1993 to 1998. He was also the Leader of the Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, from 1980 to 1990 and 1998 to 2002. He dominated the political scene of Rajasthan as a colossus for over five decades. As Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Shekhawat always had a vision to develop the State of Rajasthan as an economically prosperous, infrastructurally well developed, socially forward looking and literate State. Shri Shekhawat launched several poverty alleviation programmes such as *Antyodaya*, Food for Work, and *Apna Gaon and Apna Kaam*. The *Antyodaya* approach was eventually accepted by the Government of India and launched as the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). He was the first Chief Minister in the country to constitute a State Wakf Authority under the Wakf Act. He established Rajasthan State Urdu Academy for the development of Urdu language and literature. He espoused the small family norm and conceptualized the innovative *Raj Laxmi Scheme*, which was implemented through the Unit Trust of India. Shri Shekhawat authored collections of his speeches under the titles '*Chintan Aur Avdharna*' and '*Aam Admi Aur Loktantra*' in Hindi, and '*Vision of Vibrant India*' in English.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from April, 1974 to December, 1977. He was elected as the Vice-President of India in August, 2002 and served as *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha from 19th of August, 2002 to 21st of July, 2007.

Shri Shekhawat had a glorious record of service to the country and the people in his many years in Public life. He earned the respect and admiration of the people for his dedication, sense of public service, and innate simplicity. His services to the country shall always be remembered.

In the passing away of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the country has lost an outstanding leader of our times, an eminent parliamentarian, a statesman, and an able administrator.

Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy passed away on the 18th of May, 2010 at the age of 78 years.

Born at Kaniyur in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu in March, 1932, Shri Krishnaswamy had his education at Annamalai University, Pachaiyappa's College and Law College, Chennai.

An advocate and journalist by profession, Shri Krishnaswamy was elected thrice to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. He was also a Member of the Legislative Council of Tamil Nadu. He had served as Minister for Rural Industries, Labour, Animal Husbandry, Milk, Local Bodies and Law in the Government of Tamil Nadu from 1978 to 1987. Shri Krishnaswamy was the editor and publisher of Tamil daily 'Thennagam' and had contributed to many weekly and monthly magazines.

Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from April 1972 to April 1978.

In the passing away of Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, the country has lost a distinguished administrator, an able parliamentarian and a veteran journalist.

Shri Virendra Bhatia passed away on the 24th May 2010 at the age of 63 years.

Born at Village Sheikhupura in Sialkot District, Pakistan in April 1947, Shri Bhatia had his education at Lucknow University, Lucknow.

An advocate by profession, Shri Virendra Bhatia had specialized in criminal and constitutional law and practised as a lawyer in the Uttar Pradesh High Court and the Sessions Court since 1971. He was designated as Senior Advocate by the Allahabad High Court in the year 2000. He served as Advocate-General of Uttar Pradesh from September 2003 to March 2006 and had the distinction of being the first Advocate-General to be accorded the status of a Cabinet Minister by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Bhatia was the Chairman of the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh in 2004 and the President of Oudh Bar Association, High Court, Lucknow for four years from 1995. Shri Bhatia was the recipient of Vidhi Ratna Samman, 2005 by the Kanpur Bar Association for his outstanding contributions to law, justice and welfare work for advocates. He also received the National Law Day award, 2005 for his contribution in the field of criminal law and for his dynamic schemes for the welfare of lawyers. During his tenure as Advocate-General, he worked for the benefit of lawyers and was honoured by the Uttar Pradesh Bar Council for the Lawyers' Welfare Scheme initiated by him.

Shri Virendra Bhatia was also an active social worker and as President of Rotary Club, Trans-Gomti, Lucknow was instrumental in successfully implementing the Polio Drops Drive for children.

Shri Bhatia represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 2006 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Virendra Bhatia, the country has lost a legal luminary, an able parliamentarian and a distinguished social worker.

Shri Digvijay Singh passed away on the 24th of June 2010 in London at the young age of 54 years.

Born at Gidhaur in Jamui District of Bihar in November, 1955, Shri Singh had his education at Patna University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Tokyo University.

A political and social worker, Shri Digvijay Singh was active in politics since his student days. He worked for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden and earned the respect and admiration of the people for his sincerity, dedication, sense of public service, innate simplicity and honesty.

Shri Singh led various Indian delegations to the United Nations on different occasions. He was the Government of India's Special Emissary to meet leaders like Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein and Pervez Musharraf.

Shri Singh was a keen sportsman and was the President of the National Rifle Association of India and Vice-President of the Indian Olympic Association.

Shri Digvijay Singh started his legislative career as a Member of the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Bihar in this House from April, 1990 to April, 1996. He represented the State of Jharkhand in this House from June, 2005 to April, 2009. He was a Member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha and a sitting Member of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha from May, 2009 till his untimely demise. Shri Singh served in the Union Council of Ministers as Deputy Minister in the Ministries of Finance and External Affairs from 1990 to 1991 and as Minister of State in the Ministries of Railways, Commerce and Industry and External Affairs from 1999 to 2004.

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

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Shri K.A. Krishnaswamy, Shri Virendra Bhatia and Shri Digvijay Singh.

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

**REFERENCE TO THE AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH IN
MANGALORE, COLLISION OF JNANESHWARI EXPRESS
WITH A GOODS TRAIN NEAR KHARAGPUR AND OF
UTTAR BANGA EXPRESS WITH VANANCHAL EXPRESS AT
SAINTHIA, WEST BENGAL**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, it is with utmost grief and sorrow that I refer to the crash of Air India Express B 737-800 aircraft operating from Dubai to Mangalore on the 22nd of May, 2010 at Mangalore airport. Out of the 160 passengers and 6 crew members on board, only 8 passengers survived the crash.

I also refer to the unfortunate collision of Howrah-Lokmanya Tilak Terminal bound Jnaneshwari Express and a Goods Train and derailment of 13 coaches near Kharagpur on the 28th of May, 2010 in which 149 passengers lost their lives and 158 were injured. In another incident, the New Cooch Behar-Sealdah Uttar Banga Express collided with Bhagalpur-Ranchi Vananchal Express at Sainthia Station in West Bengal on the 19th of July, 2010, in which more than 60 persons lost their lives and around 92 were injured.

The loss of so many innocent and precious lives in these tragic accidents has shocked the nation. The loss suffered by the kith and kin of the deceased is irreparable.

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

**REFERENCE TO THE VICTIMS OF MAOIST ATTACKS IN
DANTEWADA AND NARAYANPUR DISTRICTS IN
CHHATTISGARH**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, it is with utmost grief that I refer to the dastardly killing of more than 44 people, including 18 Special Police Officers, when Maoist blew up a bus carrying around 50 people near Sukma in Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh on the 17th of May, 2010. In a separate incident of Maoist attack in Narayanpur District of Chhattisgarh on the 29th of June, 2010, 26 CRPF personnel were killed and 8 were injured critically.

The loss of so many precious lives is tragic and unfortunate. This House strongly condemns these barbaric attacks and reiterates its resolve that such acts must be confronted with determination and firmness.

I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

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

V. K. AGNIHOTRI,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in