

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, March 7, 2011/ Phalgun 16, 1932 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Arjun Singh, a sitting Member, on the 4th March, 2011, at the age of 81 years.

Born in November, 1930, at Churhat in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Arjun Singh had his education at Allahabad and Agra Universities.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Arjun Singh had an illustrious political career spanning more than five decades. He took keen interest in social work and had been closely associated with various cultural and social organisations. He started his legislative career as a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1957 and served as a Member of that House from 1957 to 1985 and again, from 1988 to 1991. He served as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on two occasions - from 1980 to 1985 and from 1988 to 1989. Under his leadership, Madhya Pradesh became the first State to give lease-hold rights upon plots and land to urban slum dwellers. He also served in the Government of Madhya Pradesh as Minister of State from 1963 to 1967, as Minister of Planning and Development in 1967 and as Minister of Education from

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1972 to 1977. He was the Leader of Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1980.

Shri Arjun Singh served as Governor of Punjab from March to November, 1985 and paved the way for the '*Rajiv-Sant Longowal Pact*' known as '*Punjab Accord*'. He served as Member of the Eighth and Tenth Lok Sabha. He was also Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha from July, 1991 to November, 1991. Shri Singh served as Union Minister of Commerce from November, 1985 to January, 1986; Union Minister of Communications from 1986 to 1988 and Union Minister of Human Resource Development from 1991 to 1994 and again from 2004 to 2009. He also served as Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development from 2002 to 2004.

Shri Arjun Singh was the Leader of several important delegations to international conferences, namely, Indian Delegation to the 26th General Conference of the UNESCO in 1991, 43rd Session of the International Bureau of Education in 1992 and 33rd General Conference of the UNESCO in 2006.

Shri Arjun Singh represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House from April, 2000 to April, 2006 and again, from April, 2006 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Arjun Singh, the country has lost an eminent administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Arjun 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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