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 21, 2011/ Phalguna 2, 1932 (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 21st February, 2011.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri I.T. Lohani, Shri P.A. Solomon, Shri Surendra Mohan, Shri K. Karunakaran and Shri Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman, former Members of this House and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, one of the country's celebrated Hindustani classical vocalists.

Shri I.T. Lohani passed away on the 6th of September, 2010, at the age of 93 years.

Born in June, 1917 at Palanpur in Gujarat, Shri I.T. Lohani was the Nawab of the Palanpur princely State till its merger with the

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

Union of India. He had donated five per cent from his Privy Purse for five years to be used in the Palanpur State. Shri Lohani was the President of the Palanpur State Cabinet from 1945 to 1948. He was appointed *Aide-de-Camp* to the President of India and conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Commander of the Indian Navy in August, 1959.

Shri Lohani served as the President of Indo-Arab Society and was a member of the Executive Committee, International Forum, Society of Goodwill and Culture. He was the Director of the *Maktaba Jamia Ltd.*, a book-publishing company of Delhi. He was also a keen photographer and an avid sports lover.

Shri I.T. Lohani represented the State of Gujarat in this House from August, 1960 to April, 1964.

In the passing away of Shri I.T. Lohani, the country has lost an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri P.A. Solomon passed away on the 9th of December, 2010, at the age of 93 years.

Born in July, 1917, at village Kattor in Kerala, Shri Solomon had his education privately. He joined the trade union movement in 1937, while he was a worker in a coir factory at Alleppey. Shri Solomon underwent imprisonment for his participation in various trade union activities and strikes. Shri Solomon was a member of the Managing Committee of the Travancore Labour Association in 1937, Vice-President of the Arroor Coir Factory Workers' Union in 1939 and Sita Ram Textile Workers' Union in 1941. He also served as General Secretary of the All-Travancore Estate Workers' Union, Punnalur in 1945. Shri Solomon was nominated to represent plantation workers in the Tripartite Conference held in 1946. He had also participated in the '*Punnapra Vayalar*' struggle launched against the Diwan's rule in the State.

Shri Solomon was the Editor of the 'Trade *Union*,' a weekly organ of the State Trade Union Council.

Shri P.A. Solomon represented the State of Kerala in this House from April, 1958 to April, 1964.

In the passing away of Shri P.A. Solomon, the country has lost a veteran trade union leader.

Shri Surendra Mohan passed away on the 17th of December, 2010, at the age of 84 years, following a cardiac arrest.

Born in December, 1926, at Ambala City, Shri Surendra Mohan had his education at S.A. Jain College, Ambala City, Banaras Hindu University, D.A.V. College, Jalandhar City and D.A.V. College, Dehradun.

A teacher by profession, Shri Surendra Mohan had actively participated in student, peasant and political agitations and went to jail several times. He also organized social education among weaker sections of the society. He served as Social Investigator in Agra University from 1955 to 1956 and Lecturer of Sociology in Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi from 1956 to 1958.

Shri Mohan was Honorary Member of the State Planning Board, Uttar Pradesh from 1978 to 1979. He was a Member of the Indian Delegation to the Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Kingston in 1978. He was also a Member of the National Executive of People's Union of Civil Liberties.

Shri Mohan contributed several articles on political and sociological matters in daily papers and periodicals in Hindi, Urdu and English. He also contributed regularly to the *Janata English Weekly*, Bombay since 1958.

Shri Surendra Mohan represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1978 to April, 1984.

In the passing away of Shri Surendra Mohan, the country has lost a veteran parliamentarian and a renowned Socialist leader.

Shri K. Karunakaran passed away on the 23rd of December, 2010, at the age of 92 years, after prolonged illness.

Born in July, 1918, in Kannur District of Kerala, Shri K. Karunakaran had his education at Raja's High School, Chirakkal, Kannur and College of Arts, Thrissur in Kerala.

An artist, political and social worker and a Trade Unionist, Shri Karunakaran had actively participated in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned several times. He entered the field of politics at an early age and went on to make a mark in state politics. Shri Karunakaran organized trade union activities and was one of the founders of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in Kerala. He was a Member of the Trichur Municipal Corporation from 1945 to 1947. He was also a Member of the Indian Delegation to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conference in 1957 and Chairman of the Committee on Population, National Development Council in 1992. He was an avid sports lover and was himself a football player in his younger days.

Shri Karunakaran was a Member of the Cochin Legislative Assembly, from 1948 to 1949. He was also a Member of the First Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1952 and 1954. He was a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly continuously for seven terms between 1965 and 1995. He was Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on four occasions *i.e.* from 1967 to 1969; 1978 to 1980; 1980 to 1981 and 1987 to 1991. He also served as Minister of Home Affairs in the Government of Kerala from 1971 to 1977. He was Chief Minister of Kerala for four terms - from March to April, 1977; from December, 1981 to March, 1982; from May 1982 to May 1987 and from 1991 to 1995 and contributed immensely to the development of the State.

Shri Karunakaran served as the Minister of Industry in the Union Council of Ministers from 1995 to 1996. He was also a Member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha. He was also Chairman, Committee on Energy.

Shri K. Karunakaran represented the State of Kerala in this House from April, 1995 to April, 1997; from April, 1997 to March, 1998 and from April, 2004 to May, 2005.

In the passing away of Shri K. Karunakaran, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman passed away on the 11th of January, 2011, at the age of 75 years, after a brief illness at Hyderabad.

Born in January, 1936 at Kodangal, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Rahman had his education at Government High School, Kodangal; Saifabad Science College, Hyderabad; and Osmania University.

An advocate and an agriculturalist, Shri Rahman took special interest in the welfare of minorities and took active part in Wakf Developmental activities. He was President of the Bar Association, Kodangal from 1976 to 1984. Shri Rahman was also the President of the Wakf Complex Committee, Mahaboobnagar. He served as Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Wakf Board from 1989 to 1991. He also promoted Urdu language and served as Secretary of the Anjum Tarriqui Urdu, Kodangal and was also the Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy from 1985 to 1987. Shri Rahman was a Member of the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation from 1984 to 1985.

Shri Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from October, 1987 to April, 1988 and from April, 1988 to April, 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted social worker.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi passed away on the 24th of January, 2011, after protracted illness.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was born at Gadag in Dharwad District of Karnataka in February 1922. Music fascinated him from childhood. He was so strongly attracted to the classical music of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan, the great doyen and founder of *Kirana Gharana,* that he

left home at the tender age of 11 to learn music through the *Guru-Shishya* tradition and travelled far and wide in search of it. Later, under the guidance and training of Pandit Rambhau Kundgolkar, also known as Sawai Gandharva, a leading disciple of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan, he learnt various *ragas* and imbibed the best of the *Kirana Gharana*.

Pandit Joshi started his music career as a Radio Artist. He first performed live at the age of 19 and his debut album containing a few devotional songs in Kannada and Hindi was released when he was 22. He led the renaissance of Hindustani classical music with his unique style and mastery over *ragas*.

Pandit Joshi was known for his sonorous baritone voice that lent his *khayal* singing an admirable depth, even though he was equally proficient in singing evocative Kannada, Hindi and Marathi *abhangs* and *bhajans*. His rendering of the song *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara* on the theme of national integration captured the hearts of millions of Indians. Apart from classical music, Pandit Joshi also sang for several films in numerous languages including Hindi. Pandit Joshi was instrumental in organising the Sawai Gandharva Music Festival annually, as homage to his guru, Pandit Sawai Gandharva.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was the recipient of innumerable awards, notably the *Padma Shree* in 1972, *Sangeet Natak Akademi* Award in 1976, *Padma Bhushan* and National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer in 1985, and *Padma Vibhushan* in 1999. He was conferred the *Bharat Ratna*, the country's highest civilian award in 2008.

In the passing away of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, the country has lost one of the most respected and versatile musicians of our times and, the world, a towering musical genius. He left an indelible impact on the cultural scenario of post-Independence India and will be remembered for his resonant musical voice and inimitable stage presence.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri I.T. Lohani, Shri P.A. Solomon, Shri Surendra Mohan, Shri K. Karunakaran, Shri Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi.

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

REFERENCE TO VICTIMS OF STAMPEDE IN PULLUMEDU NEAR SABARIMALA TEMPLE, KERALA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you are aware, 102 persons lost their lives and 71 were injured in a stampede at Pullumedu in Peerumedu taluk in Idukki district of Kerala on the 14th January, 2011. The tragedy occurred at night while the pilgrims were returning after the 'Makara Jyothi Darshan' from Pullumedu, about 12 kilometers from Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple.

The loss of so many precious and innocent lives is very tragic and unfortunate. The loss suffered by the kith and kin of the deceased is irreparable.

I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy and concerns for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones and pray for the speedy 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.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in