

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, November 22, 2011/Agrahayana 01, 1933 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. Ram Dayal Munda and Shri Silvius Condpan, sitting Members of this House and Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto and Dr. Bapu Kaldate, former Members of this House, and Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda away on the 30th of September 2011, at the age of 72 years.

Born in August 1939, in Ranchi District of Jharkhand, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda had his education at Ranchi University and University of Chicago.

A farmer, social worker, academician and an internationally acclaimed traditional adivasi artist and musician, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda was involved in the upliftment of the marginalised adivasi and dalit sections of the country and participated in various programmes of mass development, especially in the field of forest expansion and conservation. He played a prominent role in policy making at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Population at Geneva and the UN

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. Besides this, Dr. Munda was also closely associated with several other cultural and literary issues, both at national and international levels. He was the Leader of the Delegation to the Festival of India in the USSR in 1987 and a participant in the International Music Workshop in Bali, Indonesia in 1988, besides others.

Dr. Munda served as Professor at the Ranchi University and rose to become the Vice-Chancellor of that University in 1986. He also served as Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in the University of Minnesota from 1970 to 1981 and as visiting Professor at the Australian National University, Canberra, in 1983; Syracuse University, New York in 1996; and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 2001. He also served as Member of the Committee on Jharkhand Matters, Government of India from 1989 to 2000, and played a key role in it, resulting in the formation of the State of Jharkhand. He was also a Member of the National Advisory Council.

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda was the author of several books on tribal matters, the most notable among them, being 'Adi Dharma Bharatiya Adivasiyon ki Dharmik Asthayan'. He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2007 for his numerous contributions. He was awarded Padma Shree in 2010.

Dr Ram Dayal Munda was a nominated Member of the Rajya Sabha from March, 2010 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Dr Ram Dayal Munda, the country has lost a prominent Tribal leader, cultural activist, an academician and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Silvius Condpan passed away on the 10th October, 2011, at the age of 73 years.

Born in July, 1938, at Sonitpur District of Assam, Shri Silvius Condpan had his education at Don Bosco High School, B. Baruah College, Arya Vidyapeeth College and Gauhati University Law College, Guwahati.

An agriculturist, trade unionist, teacher, lawyer, political and social worker, Shri Condpan was associated with several welfare organizations and worked for the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society, especially upliftment of the tea garden labourers.

Shri Silvius Condpan started his legislative career as a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly and was Member of that Assembly for 23 years from 1978 to 2001. He served as Minister of Revenue, in 1980, and of Fisheries, Employment and Public Works Department, from 1991 to 1996 in the Government of Assam. He was also the Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly, from 1996 to 2001. He also served as Parliamentary Secretary, Government of Assam, from 1978 to 1979, as Chairman of the Assam State Housing Board from 1983 to 1985, and as Vice-Chairman of the Assam State Planning Board from 2001 to 2004.

Shri Silvius Condpan represented the State of Assam in this House from April, 2004 to April, 2010 and again, from April, 2010 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Silvius Condpan, the country has lost an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto passed away on the 11th of October, 2011, at the age of 86 years.

Born at Srinagar in March, 1925, Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto had his education at the Government High School, Srinagar.

An industrialist by profession, Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto served as President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry for four terms. He also served as Director, Indian Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi and as Member of the J&K State Planning Board, besides being associated with several other prominent organizations.

A widely travelled person, Shri Matto was also a member of the delegation sent to the Middle East, Europe, U.S.A. and Japan in 1970 for the promotion of Kashmir handicrafts.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto represented the State of Jammu and Kashmir in this House for two terms from April, 1982 to April, 1988 and again from April, 1988 to April, 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto, the country has lost an able parliamentarian.

Dr Bapu Kaldate passed away on the 17th, November, 2011, at the age of 81 years.

Born in Beed district of Maharashtra, in December, 1929, Dr Kaldate had his education at High School Pandhanpur and at T.R. Ayurvedic College, Pune.

A distinguished social worker, Dr. Bapu Kaldate took part in the Quit India Movement in 1942. He also underwent imprisonment a number of times for his involvement in different agitations relation to farmers' causes, prices and Samukt Maharashtra Movement.

Dr. Kaldate served as Chairman of the Rural Settlement for Master Plan of Aurangabad-Jalana region, and as Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, from 1978 to 1980. He was Convenor of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Maharashtra, from 1967 to 1972.

Dr. Bapu Kaldate started his legislative career as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1972. He was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979. He also served as Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings, Lok Sabha, in 1979.

Dr. Bapu Kaldate represented the State of Maharashtra in this House for two terms, from April, 1984 to April, 1990, and, again, from April, 1990 to April, 1996. He served on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Rajya Sabha, from 1986 to 1988. HE was also Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Rajya Sabha, from 1988 to 1990, House Committee, Rajya Sabha, from 1990 to 1991, and Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha, from 1991 to 1994.

In the passing away of Dr. Bapu Kaldate, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an eminent parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika**, a noted lyricist, composer and singer on the 5th of November, 2011.

Born in September, 1926, in Sadiya, Assam, Dr. Hazarika was exposed to the musical influence of his mother who initiated him in professional music of Assam. His association with the icons of Assamese culture at Tezpur was the beginning of his artistic growth and credentials.

Dr. Hazarika was the only person, in the past 40 years, to propagate a better cinema movement and was instrumental in integrating all the seven North-Eastern States including tribal culture through the medium of cinema. He had produced, directed, composed music and sang for several Assamese films. His remarkable popularity brought him to the Legislative Assembly of Assam as an independent Member from 1967 to 1972. He was solely responsible for installing the first State-owned film studio of its kind in India, in Guwahati, Assam.

Dr. Hazarika was honoured with eminent many awards and recognitions during his life time. He was the recipient of the *Padma Shree* in 1977, *Sangeet Natak Akademi Award* in 1987, *Dadasaheb Palke Award* in 1992, *Padma Bhushan* in 2001 and *Asom Ratna* in 2009.

In the passing away of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the country has lost one of the most respected and versatile musicians of our times and left an indelible impact on the cultural scenario of our country.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. Ram Dayal Munda, Shri Silvius Conpan, Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto, Dr. Bapu Kaldate and Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

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

Reference to the Victims of Earthquake in Sikkim

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, as you are aware, an earthquake of 6.8 intensity on the Richter scale occurred on the 18th of September, 2011 in which 75 persons are reported to have been killed and approximately six hundred have been injured. The earthquake caused large-scale devastation in Sikkim and loss of life and property in West Bengal and Bihar.

I am sure that the whole House will join me in expressing our sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families in Sikkim, West Bengal and Bihar and pray for early recovery of those who got injured in the earthquake.

Reference to the Victims of Earthquakes in Turkey

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, two massive earthquakes—one of 7.2 magnitude in the Richter scale and another of 5.6 magnitude—also struck Turkey's eastern province of Van on the 23rd of October and on the 9th of November, 2011 killing 641 people and injuring 276, while four others are still missing. These earthquakes have caused extensive damage to property.

The House deeply mourns the tragic loss of lives and damage to property due to these terrible earthquakes in Turkey, with which India enjoys close and friendly relations.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, its Parliament and the people, particularly, the bereaved families.

Reference to the Victims of Floods in Thailand

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, as you are aware, more than 500 people have lost their lives and more than two million people have been affected in the recent floods in Thailand. The floods

have destroyed homes, farm lands and affected businesses in the country.

I am sure that the whole House will join me in conveying our deep condolences on the losses suffered by the friendly people of Thailand. The people of India stand in solidarity with the people of Thailand in their hour of grief.

Reference to the Victims of Stampede Hardwar

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, around 20 people, mostly women, reportedly lost their lives and over 50 others were injured in a stampede that occurred when thousands of devotees assembled for a religious ceremony at the Chandidweep Ghat on the banks of the Ganga in Haridwar's Neel-dhara sector on the 8th of November, 2011.

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

Reference to the Victims of Fire in Nand Nagri, Delhi

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, around 15 persons lost their lives and more than 40 others were injured when a major fire engulfed a national congregation of transgenders at a community centre in Nand Nagri, Delhi on the 20th of November, 2011.

I am sure that the whole House will join me in offering our heartfelt sympathies and condolences for those who lost their lives in this tragedy and pray for speedy recovery of those who got injured in that tragic incident.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of those, who lost their lives in these tragedies.)

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