

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, March 12, 2012/Phalguna 22, 1933 (Saka)

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 12th March, 2012.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Rameshwar Singh, Shri Kartar Singh Duggal, Shri Ashwani Kumar and Shri Bibudhendra Mishra, former Members of this House.

Shri Rameshwar Singh passed away on the 15th of January, 2012, at the age of 82 years.

Shri Rameshwar Singh was born in Balia District of Uttar Pradesh in 1930.

An agriculturalist, Shri Rameshwar Singh actively participated in the freedom movement and worked for the upliftment of farmers and downtrodden sections of the society. He was also associated with various social institutions in different capacities.

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

Shri Rameshwar Singh served as Editor of the publications 'Janmukh' and 'Janta Paksh'.

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

In the passing away of Shri Rameshwar Singh, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter and a noted social worker.

Shri Kartar Singh Duggal passed away on the 26th of January, 2012, at the age of 94 years.

Born in March, 1917, in Village Dhamial in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Shri Kartar Singh Duggal had his education in Forman Christian College, Lahore.

Shri Kartar Singh Duggal started his career as Programme Executive in All India Radio in 1942 and retired as Director in 1966. During this period, he wrote and produced programmes in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and English. He also served as Secretary of the National Book Trust between 1966 and 1973, Advisor in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and was attached to the Planning Commission from 1973 to 1976. He was President of the Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Delhi; Punjab Sahitya Akademi, Chandigarh; Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Delhi and Indo-Bulgarian Literary Club. He was the Founder Member of the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation; Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Zakir Husain Educational Foundation.

An author of repute, Shri Duggal was an adept writer in English, Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu languages, and several of his works have been included in various Universities at Graduate and Post-Graduate levels. Many of his works have also been translated into Indian and foreign languages. His short story 'Come Back My Master' was included in the Greatest Short Stories of the World.

Shri Kartar Singh Duggal was the recipient of many national and international awards and recognitions, notable amongst them being the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1965, Ghalib Award for Urdu

Drama by the Ghalib Academy in 1976; the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1981, Prasaran Gaurav by All India Radio Artists' Association in 1986 and Padma Bhushan in 1988. He was also honoured as a Distinguished Man of Letters by the Government of Punjab in 1962 and was conferred D. Litt. (Honoris Causa) by the Punjab University in 1994.

Shri Kartar Singh Duggal was a Nominated Member of this House from August, 1997 to August, 2003.

In the passing away of Shri Kartar Singh Duggal, the country has lost a versatile literary personality and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Ashwani Kumar passed away on the 4th of February, 2012, at the age of 83 years.

Born in November 1928, in Phagwara, Punjab, Shri Ashwani Kumar had his education at D.A.V. School, Phagwara; D.A.V. Middle School, Lahore; S.S.B.S. High School, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh; Gorakhpur High School, Gorakhpur; and Colleges of Science and Technology, Benaras Hindu University.

A social worker and a businessman, Shri Ashwani Kumar participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942 and was associated with several social welfare organisations. He served as President of the Bharat Bharati Vidyalaya, Betul, Madhya Pradesh from 1979 to 1985.

Shri Ashwani Kumar represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms; from July, 1980 to July, 1986 and again from July, 1986 to July, 1992. He also served on the Panel of Vice Chairmen, Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1985.

In the passing away of Shri Ashwani Kumar, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a noted social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra passed away on the 15th of February, 2012, at the age of 91 years.

Born in Puri District of Odisha in November, 1920, Shri Bibudhendra Mishra had his education at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and Law College, Patna.

An Advocate by profession, Shri Bibudhendra Mishra took active part in politics from his student days and underwent imprisonment during the Quit India Movement. He served as Secretary of the Orissa I.N.A. Relief and Rehabilitation Committee in 1946, besides being associated with several other social welfare organisations. Shri Mishra was Assistant Editor of The Samaj and had several publications in Odia language to his credit.

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra represented the State of Odisha in this House from April, 1958 to February, 1962. Shri Mishra was also a Member of the Third Lok Sabha. He served as Union Deputy Minister of Law from May, 1962 to June, 1964; of Industry and Supply from June, 1964 to January, 1966; and as Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry from January, 1966 to March, 1967, in the Union Council of Ministers.

In the passing away of Shri Bibudhendra Mishra, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able administrator and a noted parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Rameshwar Singh, Shri Kartar Singh Duggal, Shri Ashwani Kumar and Shri Bibudhendra Mishra.

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

Reference to the Victims of Earthquake in Philippines

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, a massive earthquake of 6.9 magnitude on the Richter scale, struck the central Philippines off shore Negros Oriental and Cebu on the 6th of February, 2012, in which 69 persons lost their lives, 112 were injured and 62 are still missing. The earthquake also caused extensive

damage to houses, public buildings, roads and bridges. The fortitude and strong sense of unity with which the people of Philippines have responded to this tragedy, which struck the country shortly after the horrific storm 'Sendong' hit the country, is really admirable.

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

Reference to the Victims of Two Avalanches in Jammu and Kashmir

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are also aware, two avalanche incidents took place in the Guraz and Sonamarg Sectors of Jammu and Kashmir on 22nd and 23rd February, 2012 respectively, in which 19 Army personnel – 16 at Guraz and 3 at Sonamarg – have lost their lives. The loss of precious lives of our soldiers 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 concern for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones.

(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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Secretary-General.

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