

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, December 03, 2012/Agrahayana 12, 1934 (Saka)

**REFERENCE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF BHOPAL
GAS TRAGEDY**

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the occasion of the anniversary of the Bhopal Gas tragedy, which took place on the night of 2nd and 3rd December, 1984, on behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I express my heartfelt sympathies for those who lost their family members or were rendered disabled.

The tragedy still haunts us in the form of incapacitated people and children born with deformities. It was indeed a human tragedy of unparalleled magnitude which shocked the conscience of the world.

The criminal human folly that caused this tragedy has been compounded by indifferent attitude in subsequent years. It is incumbent on us, morally and legally, to do our utmost to support the surviving victims in every manner possible.

I am sure the whole House will join me in conveying our heartfelt sympathies to the people who have suffered due to this man-made tragedy.

(One minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragedy.)

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Inder Kumar Gujral**, former Prime Minister of India and a former Member of this House on the 30th of November, 2012, at the age of 92 years after a prolonged illness.

Born in December, 1919 at Jhelum, now in Pakistan, Shri Gujral had his education at Hailey College of Commerce and Forman Christian College, Lahore.

Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, who hailed from a family of freedom fighters, actively participated in the freedom struggle and underwent imprisonment during the Quit India Movement.

From his student days, Shri Gujral was active in politics and was President of the Lahore Students Union. Shri Gujral served as the Vice-President of the New Delhi Municipal Council for five years, from 1959 to 1964. He was Founder President of the Delhi Art Theatre. He served as Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, Shanti Niketan and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. He was Chairman of the Indian Council of South Asian Co-operation, President of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), and Chairman of the Government of India Committee for Promotion of Urdu.

A widely travelled person, Shri Gujral led several Indian Delegations including Indian Council of South Asian Cooperation in 1961; UNESCO Seminar on 'Man and New Communication Systems', Paris in 1973; UN Session on Environment, Stockholm, 1974; UNESCO Conference on Education and Environment, Tbilisi, 1977; United Nations General Assembly in 1996 and the UN Special Session of Economic Development in 1990.

Shri Gujral served as Ambassador of India to erstwhile USSR from 1976 to 1980, and as Special Envoy to Bulgaria in 1961, and to Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, Chad and Republic of Central Africa in 1975.

Shri Gujral was a prolific writer and had composed many poetic pieces in Urdu.

Shri Inder Kumar Gujral represented the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and the States of Punjab and Bihar in this House for three terms, from April, 1964 to April, 1970; from April, 1970 to April, 1976, and again from July, 1992 to March, 1998. He also served as a Member of the Ninth and Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Shri Gujral served as Union Minister of State in the Ministries of Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Communications, Works, Housing and Urban Development and Planning from 1967 to 1976. He served as Minister of External Affairs from 1989 to 1990 and again from 1996 to 1997 and as the Minister for Water Resources in 1996.

Shri Inder Kumar Gujral served as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha from June, 1996 to November, 1996 and again from April, 1997 to March, 1998. He also served as Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce from 1993 to 1996.

Shri Gujral occupied the Office of the Prime Minister of India from April, 1997 to March, 1998.

In the passing away of Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a great statesman, an able administrator, an erudite scholar and a distinguished parliamentarian.

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

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