

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Monday, August 05, 2013/Shravana 14, 1935 (Saka)

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### OBITUARY REFERENCES

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, Shri Madan Bhatia, Shri Kota Punnaiah, Shri Samar Mukherjee and Shri Khurshed Alam Khan, former Members of this House.

**Shri Gandhi Azad** passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2013, at the age of 66 years.

Born in July, 1946 at Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Azad was educated at D.A.V. Degree College, Azamgarh; D.N. College and Meerut College. A social worker, Shri Azad started his career as a teacher in a primary school and also served in various Government Departments including the Sales Tax Department. He was also associated with various social welfare organisations.

Shri Gandhi Azad represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two terms from November, 1996 to November, 2002, and again from November, 2002 to November, 2008. He was the Leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party in the Rajya Sabha from December, 1996 to July, 1998.

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

In the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

**Shri Madan Bhatia** passed away on the 27th of June, 2013, at the age of 83 years.

Born in August, 1929 in Jhelum, Shri Bhatia was educated at Government Colleges in Lahore and Ludhiana and at Lincoln's Inn, Cambridge University.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Bhatia served as Chairman of the All India Conference of Lawyers in October, 1980. He was actively involved in the uplift of the downtrodden sections of society and established '*Janata Vikas Kendra*' in slum areas of Delhi. He also authored the book 'Public Service Law Through Cases'.

Shri Bhatia was a Nominated Member of this House for two terms, from September, 1982 to September, 1988 and again from November, 1988 to November, 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Madan Bhatia, the country has lost a distinguished Parliamentarian, a legal luminary and a dedicated social worker.

**Shri Kota Punnaiah** passed away on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2013, at the age of 87 years.

Born in May, 1926 in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Punnaiah was educated at Municipal High School and S.R.R. and C.V.R. Colleges, Vijayawada.

A social worker, Shri Punnaiah worked tirelessly for the uplift of the Backward Classes and weaker sections of society. He was President of the District Depressed Classes League, Khammameth. He was a Member of several bodies and institutions like the Journalists' Association of Khammameth, the All India Leather Advisory Committee and the Film Censor Board (Southern Region), Tamil Nadu. He was also Secretary of the State Social Welfare Committee, Government of Andhra Pradesh. An avid sports and music lover, he also had a Telugu play '*Mnade Kondalu*' and a

Telugu publication to his credit.

Shri Punnaiah represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from April, 1960 to April, 1966; from April, 1966 to April, 1972 and again from April, 1972 to April, 1978.

In the passing away of Shri Kota Punnaiah, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

**Shri Samar Mukherjee** passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013, at the age of 99 years.

Born in November, 1913 in Puras Village of Howrah district in West Bengal, Shri Mukherjee was educated at Calcutta University.

A freedom fighter and social worker, Shri Mukherjee underwent imprisonment several times during the freedom struggle. He was an active trade union leader. He served as the General Secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Union from 1983 to 1991 and thereafter as its Vice-President. He also served as General Secretary of the United Central Refugee Council. He was also the President of the All India Estate Insurance Employees Federation and the Federation of Printing Press and Allied Firms Employees Union.

Shri Mukherjee started his legislative career as a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1957 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1957 to 1962. He was also a Member of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1984.

Shri Samar Mukherjee represented the State of West Bengal in this House for two terms, from December, 1986 to July, 1987 and from July, 1987 to July, 1993. He was the Leader of CPI(M) in both the Houses.

In the passing away of Shri Samar Mukherjee, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a noted trade unionist, an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

**Shri Khurshed Alam** Khan passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013, at the age of 94 years.

Born in February, 1919 in Farrukhabad District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Khan was educated at Agra University and later at the Pennsylvania University, U.S.A.

An educationist and social worker, Shri Khan was associated with several educational and social welfare institutions. He served as Chairman of the Delhi State Haj Committee, and the Urdu Advisory Committee, Delhi Administration. He was also the Chairman of the World Tourism Organisation.

Shri Khan was Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial College, Delhi. He was Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi, from 1985 to 1990 and again from 1995 to 2001. He was a founder-member of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Trust which helps needy students with financial assistance for their studies.

Shri Khurshed Alam Khan represented the NCT of Delhi and the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April 1974 to April 1980 and again from July 1980 to December 1984. Shri Khan was also a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State and as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in varying spells from October 1980 to October 1986.

Shri Khan served as Governor of Goa from July 1989 to March 1991 and as Governor of Karnataka from January 1991 to December 1999. During this period, he also held additional charge as Governor of Maharashtra and Kerala.

In the passing away of Shri Khurshed Alam Khan, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, Shri Madan Bhatia, Shri Kota Punnaiah, Shri Samar Mukherjee and Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.

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

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**I. Reference to the Victims of Flash Floods, Cloudbursts and Landslides in Uttarakhand and Floods due to Heavy Monsoon Rains in Several Parts of the Country**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, as you are aware, 580 persons lost their lives, while 4,473 others were reportedly injured and approximately 5,526 persons are still reportedly missing in flash floods, landslides and cloudbursts that took place in Uttarakhand on June 9, 2013. Also, twenty security personnel belonging to the Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force and ITBP involved in rescue and relief operations lost their lives in a MI-17 Helicopter crash on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. There has also been a severe damage to infrastructure and property in the State. The holy shrine of Kedarnath and certain pilgrim spots bore the brunt of nature's fury.

Heavy monsoon rains and floods have also severely affected several other parts of the country leading to loss of lives and destruction of crops, infrastructure and property, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The loss of so many precious lives in these natural calamities is unfortunate and indeed sad.

I request the whole House to join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones and pray for the speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the injured and displaced.

**II. Reference to the Four Incidents Regarding the Maoists  
Attack in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh, Terrorist Attacks in  
Srinagar, CPI (Maoist) Ambush in Jharkhand and Serial Bomb  
Blasts in the Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar**

Hon. Members, as you are also aware, 27 persons including former Union Minister, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, some Congress leaders including Shri Mahendra Karma, Shri Nand Kumar Patel and several others lost their lives and 37 others were injured when a large group of Maoists attacked a cavalcade carrying these leaders and workers in Jiram Ghati area in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh, by exploding an IED, followed by heavy firing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013.

In two other incidents of terrorist attacks at Hari Singh High Street, Hyderpora Bypass and Barzula in Srinagar on the 22nd and the 24th of June, 2013, 10 security personnel (8 Army and 2 Police personnel) were killed and 17 others, including a civilian, were injured.

On the 22nd of July, 2013, 6 persons including the Superintendent of Police, Pakur, were also killed and 3 others were injured, when CPI (Maoist) ambushed the convoy of the S.P. at Jamni in Dumka District of Jharkhand.

Hon. Members, in yet another senseless act of violence, nine serial bomb blasts occurred in the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhgaya in Bihar on the 7th of July, 2013, targeting innocent pilgrims and monks who had gathered to worship at the temple. The incident left two injured. The blasts in the Mahabodhi Temple, a World Heritage Site and one of the holiest Buddhist Shrines in the world, is a cause of anguish and deep concern for all of us.

The loss of precious lives and injury to people in all these incidents is indeed tragic and unfortunate. Such dastardly attacks and acts of violence deserve to be condemned in the strongest terms and must be confronted with determination and firmness.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in expressing our deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

### **III. Reference to the Death of School Children due to Food Poisoning in Saran District of Bihar**

Hon. Members, as you are aware, 23 children lost their lives and 23 others were taken seriously ill due to food poisoning after consuming mid-day meal at Navsrijit Government Primary School in Chhapra in Saran District of Bihar on the 16th of July, 2013.

The loss of so many innocent lives is, indeed, painful and sad. 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 in this tragedy.

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

### **IV. Felicitations to Indian Sportspersons**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, on behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the Indian Cricket Team for winning the ICC Champions Trophy; the Indian Archery Team for winning one Gold and two Bronze medals in different events in the Third Archery World Cup Championship held in Medellin, Columbia in July, 2013; Ms. K. Jennitha Anto for winning the Thirteenth IPCA World Women's Individual Chess Championship for the disabled in Czech Republic on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013; the Indian Wrestlers' Team for winning fifteen medals including three Gold, nine Silver and three Bronze medals, besides winning the Champions' Trophy in the Free Style category in the Asian Cadet Championship in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013 and Shri Aditya Mehta for winning the Gold medal in the Men's Snooker event in the World Games held at Cali, in Columbia, from 26<sup>th</sup> of July to 30<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013.

I hope that such outstanding performance by our sportspersons, in all the fields mentioned, would be a great source of inspiration for our younger players.

I wish all these sportspersons success in their future endeavour also and that they bring more laurels to the country.

**PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE  
CONSTITUTION**

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA):** I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Proclamation [G.S.R. 486(E)], issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution on the 13th July, 2013, revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 18th January, 2013, in relation to the State of Jharkhand, under clause (3) of the said article.

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**GOVERNMENT BILL**

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013 was introduced.

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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER**

**Formation of a Separate State of Telangana**

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** In the matter relating to the formation of a separate State of Telangana, the Constitution of India lays down a procedure for formation of a new State. Besides, a number of substantive matters have to be addressed within the formation of a new State. These matters are under consideration of the Government. The Ministry of Home Affairs will bring a comprehensive note for the Cabinet containing both substantive and procedural issues for the decision of the Cabinet. These will include, but not limited to, sharing of river waters, generation and distribution of electricity, safety and security of all residents in all the three regions, guarantee of fundamental rights of all residents, etc. Once the Cabinet takes decisions on these matters, there will be an opportunity for this House to have a structured discussion on the subject. The Government will welcome such a discussion at an appropriate time.

## **SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION**

### **Large Scale Devastation Caused by Cloud Burst, Flash Floods and Land Slides Recently in Uttarakhand**

**SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI, initiating the discussion, said:** The natural calamity that occurred in Uttarakhand is unprecedented and the people of entire country are affected by it. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 people lost their life or are missing in this calamity. I myself and on behalf of my party pay tribute to the people who lost their lives in this calamity. I am highly obliged to the people of the entire country and NGOs who extended their help and cooperation to us.

State Government did not take any action despite the warning of heavy rain by the meteorological department. I thank to the personnel of ITBP and Airforce who played crucial role in saving the life of thousands of people. If State Government had taken the action on 18<sup>th</sup> many people would have been saved. Contradictory statements are being made about the missing people. The roads are in very bad shape there. Border Road Organisation can not reconstruct the roads due to the paucity of funds. I request you to reconsider about this State. The people are on the verge of the starvation and situation is very worst there. Today, rehabilitation is a very big problem there. I request you that the 300 villages should be rehabilitated immediately otherwise agitations would start there. All the efforts should be done to save tourism, employment and people there. Central Government should take the responsibility of it and declare it as a national calamity. A commission should be constituted under the chairmanship of a sitting judge of Supreme Court to look into the matter.

Even Minister in the State Shri Ashwini Kumar did not get the telephone facility. Several members of his family were flown away, but no attempt was made even to save them. When a Minister is getting this type of treatment then what about the general public? I think the actions of this cruel Government are needed to be investigated. A Commission of Enquiry should be constituted under

the Chairmanship of a Supreme Court Judge to look into the matter and the LOP should certainly be included in the Committee, constituted by the Prime Minister. If it is possible, the LOP of the State should also be included in this Committee, otherwise the people of the State would continue to suffer.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** I express my deep condolences to the people who lost their lives in the Uttrakhand incident and also to those who are still missing. I urge upon the Government to form a policy in this regard in consultation with the States so as to check the recurrence of such incidents. In my view, though it is the Nature's fury, yet mistakes committed by us as well as by the Government are responsible for such an incident.

We have disturbed Nature, and have set up several hydro-electric projects, and constructed houses along the banks of the rivers. That is why we had to suffer a big loss. There was lack of co-ordination between Disaster Management Agencies of the Central Government and the State. (*Speech unfinished*)

*Discussion not concluded.*

**SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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