

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, February 23, 2015/ Phalguna 4, 1936 (Saka)

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I have recognised Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of the Indian National Congress Party in the Rajya Sabha as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 16th of February, 2015, consequent upon his re-election to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Presidents' Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23rd of February, 2015.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of His Majesty **King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud**, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the 23rd of January, 2015. His death is an irreversible loss to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people and also to the world community which has lost a statesman and a visionary leader.

India enjoyed excellent and friendly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Abdullah. These bonds have been especially strengthened by the presence of the large expatriate Indian community, which has found a home in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This House joins the ruling family of Saudi Arabia, the leadership and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this hour of sorrow and grief.

I also refer to the passing away of Shri S. K. T. Ramachandran, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, former Members of this House, Shri R. K. Laxman, an eminent cartoonist and Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama, a sitting Member of this House.

Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran passed away on the 11th of November, 2014, at the age of 80 years.

Born in March, 1933, at Podiyanur in Tamil Nadu, Shri Ramachandran was educated at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai and Loyola College, Madras.

An agriculturist by vocation, Shri Ramachandran served as Extension Officer Statistics in various Community Development Blocks in Tamil Nadu from June, 1958 to September, 1963 and as Statistical Assistant in the Department of Statistics, Tamil Nadu from September, 1963 to September, 1967. He conducted socio-economic surveys in the Madras city and in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu during

that period. He also served as Director in the Fertilizer Corporation of India, New Delhi from February, 1984 to February, 1987.

Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from July, 1989 to July, 1995.

In the passing away of Shri S. K. T. Ramachandran, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha passed away on the 31st of December, 2014, at the age of 82 years.

Born in September, 1932, in District Dinagpur of West Bengal, Shrimati Kamla Sinha was educated at Calcutta and Patna Universities.

A trade union activist, Shrimati Kamla Sinha was closely associated with development-related work and environment protection. She served as President of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (India) from 1987 to 1990 and again from 1992 to 1994 and the Hind Khet Mazdoor Sabha (India) from 1991 onwards. She also served as President of the Indian Centre for International Cooperation; Nari Shakti, Bihar; Green India, Bihar and the SAARC Women Parliamentarian's Forum. She led Hind Mazdoor Sabha delegations to several International Trade Union Conferences.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha started her legislative career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council in 1972 and was a Member of that Council from 1972 to 1984.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms – from April, 1990 to April, 1994 and again from April, 1994 to April, 2000. She served as a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen from May, 1994 to May, 1997. She also served as Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs from June, 1997 to March, 1998 in the Union Council of Ministers.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha also served as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname from 2000 to 2003.

In the passing away of Shrimati Kamla Sinha, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a noted trade unionist.

Shri Rameshwar Thakur passed away on the 15th of January, 2015, at the age of 87 years.

Born in July, 1927, in District Godda of Bihar (now in Jharkhand), Shri Rameshwar Thakur was educated at Patna and Calcutta Universities and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Shri Thakur had participated in the 'Quit India Movement' and underwent imprisonment. He worked tirelessly for the welfare and upliftment of tribals and other weaker and downtrodden sections of the society.

Shri Thakur served as a Lecturer in the Calcutta University from 1955 to 1960 and as a Visiting Professor at the Department of Management Study in the Delhi University.

He served as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India from 1966 to 1967. He was Chairman of the Study Group on Banking Costs set up by the Banking Commission from 1969 to 1971.

Shri Thakur also served as Director of the Unit Trust of India, Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation, Punjab National Bank and Chambers of Commerce of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. He also led many Indian delegations to various international conferences.

Shri Rameshwar Thakur represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms – from April, 1984 to April, 1990 and again from April, 1990 to April, 1996. He served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance from June, 1991 to January, 1993; as Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development from January, 1993 to December, 1994 and as Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from April to December, 1994 in the Union Council of Ministers.

Shri Rameshwar Thakur served as Governor of Odisha from 2004 to 2007, Andhra Pradesh from 2006 to 2007, Karnataka from 2007 to 2009 and Madhya Pradesh from 2009 to 2011 .

In the passing away of Shri Rameshwar Thakur, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal passed away on the 17th of January, 2015, at the age of 86 years.

Born in April, 1928, in District Barabanki of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal was educated at the Government Inter College, Faizabad and the Lucknow University.

An advocate by profession, Shri Jaiswal was actively involved in the campaign for the abolition of caste system and worked tirelessly for the welfare of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society.

Shri Jaiswal started his legislative career as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1967 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1967 to 1968 and again from 1969 to 1974. He served as the Deputy Minister of Education from 1967 to 1968 and as Health Minister in 1970 in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha.

Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1990 to April, 1996.

In the passing away of Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi passed away on the 25th of January, 2015, at the age of 87 years.

Born in March, 1927, in Dharwar, Karnataka, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi was educated at Willingdon College, Maharashtra; R.L. Law College, Karnataka and the Bombay and Karnataka Universities.

A teacher and a journalist, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi served as a Fellow and Lecturer at the Willingdon College, Maharashtra, an

Assistant Professor of Law at the Karnataka University and Professor at the Law College, Dharwar, Karnataka. She was closely associated with a number of cultural, educational and literary organisations and associations of women, children and youth. She was instrumental in the establishment of several primary schools, high schools and training colleges for women. She served as Commissioner for Girls' Guides in Karnataka and as President of the Sansadiya Hindi Parishad.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi was a prolific writer and had several publications to her credit. She also served as Editor of the Kannada monthlies – '*Veermata*' and '*Samaj Kalyan*'. Dr. Sarojini Mahishi started her legislative career as a Member of the Third Lok Sabha in 1962. She was also a Member of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha. She served as a Member on the Panel of Chairmen, Lok Sabha and as Parliamentary Secretary attached to the Prime Minister from 1965 to 1966. She also served in the Union Council of Ministers as Deputy Minister attached to the Prime Minister from March, 1967 to February, 1969; Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation from February, 1969 to May, 1971; Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation from May, 1971 to October, 1974 and Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs from October, 1974 to January, 1976.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi represented the State of Karnataka in this House for two terms – from September, 1983 to April, 1984 and again from April, 1984 to April, 1990. She also served as a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1986.

In the passing away of Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

Shri R. K. Laxman passed away on the 26th of January, 2015, at the age of 93 years.

Born in October, 1921, at Mysore in Karnataka, Shri Laxman was educated at the Maharaja's College, Mysore.

Shri R. K. Laxman started sketching and doodling caricatures at a very early age. He came to limelight with drawing caricatures for

the local newspapers and when he illustrated his brother Shri R. K. Narayan's stories, published in *'The Hindu'*. His early engagements included working for animated films and drawing political cartoons for newspapers and magazines.

Shri Laxman started his career as a fulltime political cartoonist with the *"Free Press Journal"* in 1946. Thereafter, he joined the *"Times of India"* in 1947, where he continued for five decades.

Shri Laxman possessed the ability to accurately capture the quintessence of a personality in his cartoons. He was convinced of the value of satire and caricature and he put them to good use through his eloquent brush strokes carrying pithy captions. Portrayal of the *'Common Man'* as a mute spectator to different situations was his trade mark through which he highlighted varied issues faced by ordinary people on a daily basis. His *'You Said It'* series of pocket cartoons captured the essence of democracy and provided comic relief to readers.

Shri Laxman also had a few publications to his credit, the notable ones being *"The Tunnel of Time – An Autobiography"*, *"Hotel Riviera"*, *"The Distorted Mirror"*. His cartoons have also been compiled into several books.

Shri Laxman was honoured with the *Padma Bhushan* in 1973, the *Ramon Magsaysay Award* in 1984 and the *Padma Vibhushan* in 2005.

In the passing away of Shri R. K. Laxman, the country has lost a legendary cartoonist and one of the most versatile and influential intellectuals of our times.

Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama passed away on the 18th of February, 2015, at the age of 59 years.

Born in September, 1955, at Dibrugarh in Assam, Shrimati Sharama was educated at the Government Girls Intermediate College, Dehradun; Mahadevi Kanya Pathshala College, Dehradun and Sam

Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Science, Allahabad.

An agriculturist and social worker, Shrimati Sharama was actively involved in the welfare and upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. She served as the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun from 2003 to 2008. She also served as the Chairperson of the All India Council of Mayors, New Delhi, from 2005 to 2008 and of the Asian Council of Mayors, New Delhi, from 2006 to 2010.

Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama represented the State of Uttarakhand in this House from November, 2014 till her sad demise.

In the passing away of Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Shri R. K. Laxman and Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama.

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