

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, July 27, 2015/ Shravana 5, 1937 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri R. S. Gavai, a former Member of this House; Shri Kalpataru Das, a sitting Member of this House and Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique, a former Member of this House.

Shri R. S. Gavai passed away on the 25th of July 2015, at the age of 86 years.

Born in October 1929 at Amravati district of Maharashtra, Shri R. S. Gavai was educated at Nagpur University.

An agriculturist, Shri R. S. Gavai took active part in political and social activities since his student days. He was associated with several social welfare organizations providing assistance in the eradication of untouchability and leprosy. He was the Chairman of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti and the Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur. He was a Member of the Land Reforms Committee of the Government of India. He did pioneering work in introducing the

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

Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra in 1975. He was the President of the Republican Party of India.

Shri R. S. Gavai was the recipient of several awards, including the National Press Award for outstanding contribution to various fields of public life by the National Press India, New Delhi. A widely travelled person, Shri Gavai was a Member of several delegations.

Shri R. S. Gavai started his legislative career as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 1964 and was a Member of that Council for six consecutive terms up to 1994. He was the Deputy Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council from 1968 to 1978 and the Chairman of that Council from 1978 to 1984. He was also a Member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Shri R. S. Gavai represented the State of Maharashtra in this House from April 2000 to April 2006.

He also served as the Governor of Bihar from 2006 to 2008 and that of Kerala from 2008 to 2011.

In the passing away of Shri R. S. Gavai, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Kalpataru Das passed away on the 25th of July 2015, at the age of 65 years.

Born in August 1950 at Jajpur district of Odisha, Shri Kalpataru Das was educated at B.J.B. College, Bhubaneswar.

A political and social worker, Shri Kalpataru Das held several important positions in various bodies and organizations. He worked extensively for the welfare and upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society.

Shri Kalpataru Das started his legislative career as a Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1995. He was a Member of that Assembly for four consecutive terms from 1995-2014. He served as the Minister of Panchayati Raj and Parliamentary Affairs in the Government of Odisha from 2013-2014.

Shri Kalpataru Das represented the State of Odisha in this House from April, 2014 till his sad demise. He was also the Leader of the Biju Janata Dal in the Rajya Sabha for a brief period.

In the passing away of Shri Kalpataru Das, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique passed away on the 26th of July, 2015, at the age of 81 years. Born in December, 1933, in Jorhat district of Assam, Shri Handique was educated at the J.B. College, Jorhat, and the Presidency College, Calcutta.

A social worker, Shri Handique founded many educational institutions and was actively involved in promoting craft skills amongst women, setting up of community halls for tea plantation workers and minority population and organising relief works in natural calamities. He was also associated with the preservation of Tai cultural heritage, language and literature. He served as the Chairman of the Jyoti Chitrabon, the first film studio in the public sector in the country and of the North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation. He was also a Member of the Court of North-Eastern Hill University and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique started his legislative career as a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1972 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1972 to 1976. He was also a Member from Tenth to Fifteenth Lok Sabha. He also served as the Chairman of the Railway Convention Committee. He served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, Parliamentary Affairs, Chemicals and

Fertilizers and Mines and was also the Minister of Mines and Development of North Eastern Region in the Union Council of Ministers.

Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique represented the State of Assam in this House from April, 1980 to April, 1986.

In the passing away of Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri R. S. Gavai, Shri Kalpataru Das and Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique.

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

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