RAJYA SABHA

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*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Tuesday, February 23, 2016/ Phalguna 4, 1937 (Saka)

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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, 2016.

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Sushil Koirala**, former Prime Minister of Nepal, on the 9th of February, 2016, at the age of 76 years.

In his long and distinguished political career, Shri Koirala dedicated his life to the progress and development of Nepal and its people. As a harbinger of peace and harmony amongst nations, he worked tirelessly to promote cordial relations between India and Nepal and in strengthening the bonds between the two countries. His death is an irreversible loss to Nepal, its people and also to the world at large.

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

This House joins the bereaved family, the Government and the people of Nepal in mourning the passing away of Shri Sushil Koirala and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in this hour of grief.

Hon. Members, I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Bandhu Mahto, a former Member of this House, Shri A. B. Bardhan, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and a former Member of this House, Shri Kapil Verma and Prof. M. Sankaralingam, former Members of this House, Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai, doyenne of Indian classical dance and Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, former Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Shri Bandhu Mahto passed away on the 29th of November, 2015, at the age of 81 years.

Born in November, 1934, in Samastipur district of Bihar, Shri Mahto was educated at the Samastipur College, Samastipur and Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur.

An agriculturist, Shri Mahto worked tirelessly for the welfare of the masses by solving drinking water problems through government schemes and taking steps to increase agricultural output using scientific methods. He was instrumental in opening schools in remote rural areas and also establishing night schools for educating adults. He served as the Chairman of the Bihar Rajya Kala Academy and as the Director of the Allahabad Bank.

Shri Mahto started his legislative career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1972 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1972 to 1977. He also served as a Minister in the Government of Bihar from 1972 to 1973.

Shri Bandhu Mahto represented the State of Bihar in this House from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Shri Mahto, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri A.B. Bardhan passed away on the 2nd of January, 2016, at the age of 91 years.

Born in September, 1925, Shri Bardhan was drawn to the student movement right from his childhood. He joined the All India Students' Federation (AISF) in 1940 and became its National Secretary in 1945. He was a leading figure in the Trade Union Movement and rose to become the General Secretary and President of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). He also served as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI) for many years. He was a selfless revolutionary, who devoted his energy and intellect for the emancipation of the downtrodden and toiling masses.

Shri Bardhan had a brief legislative career as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962. Shri Bardhan was also a prolific writer and had many books on ideological and political issues to his credit.

In the passing away of Shri A. B. Bardhan, the country has lost a noted trade union leader, a dedicated social worker and an outstanding public figure, who was widely respected across the political spectrum.

Shri Mufti Mohd Sayeed passed away on the 7th of January, 2016, at the age of 79 years.

Born in Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir in January, 1936, Shri Sayeed was educated at the Sri Pratap College, Srinagar and the Aligarh Muslim University.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Sayeed was actively involved in social welfare activities and in finding a long term solution to the problem of unemployment amongst the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He started his legislative career as a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1962 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1962 to 1972; from February, 1985 to October, 1986;

from 2002 to 2005 and from 2015 till January, 2016. He was also a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council from 1972 to 1977. He held several portfolios in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation, from 1967 to 1970; Minister of Works and Urban Development, from 1972 to 1974; and Minister of Education, from 1974 to 1975.

Shri Sayeed was a Member of the Ninth and Twelfth Lok Sabha. He also served as Minister of Tourism from May, 1986 to July, 1987 and as Minister of Home Affairs from December, 1989 to November, 1990, in the Union Council of Ministers.

Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed represented the State of Jammu and Kashmir in this House, from October, 1986 to July, 1989 and the State of Uttar Pradesh, from July, 1992 to July, 1996.

Shri Sayeed served as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir for two terms - from November, 2002 to November, 2005 and again from March, 2015 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator, and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Kapil Verma passed away on the 9th of January, 2016, at the age of 87 years.

Born in March, 1928, in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Verma was educated at the K.P. Inter College, Allahabad and the Lucknow University.

A journalist by profession, Shri Verma had participated in the Quit India Movement during his student days. During his long journalistic career, he was associated with leading newspapers and news agencies. He was actively involved in social service activities, including adult literacy and health programmes, and worked for the upliftment of farmers and the weaker sections of society. He also took keen interest in the trade union movement, youth movement and

newspaper industry. He served as Director of the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Federation from 1962 to 1963.

Shri Verma founded the U.P. Journalists' Association and served as its President from 1972 to 1973. He was also one of the founders of the National Union of Journalists, India, and served as its President from 1980 to 1982. He also served as Chairman of the U.P. Press Correspondents Committee.

Shri Kapil Verma represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms - from January, 1985 to July, 1986, and again from July, 1986 to July, 1992.

In the passing away of Shri Kapil Verma, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an eminent journalist, an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Prof. M. Sankaralingam passed away on the 15th of January, 2016, at the age of 88 years.

Born in February, 1927, in Therekalputhoor of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Sankaralingam was educated at the St. John's College, Palayamkottai, and the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil.

A teacher by profession, Prof. Sankaralingam actively participated in the 'Quit India Movement' during his student days. He served as a Lecturer of Tamil and later on, Professor and Head of the Department of Tamil in various colleges in Tamil Nadu from 1957 to 1984. He founded the Arignar Anna College, Kanyakumari in 1970.

A keen agriculturist, he was also deeply committed to rural development and in achieving social justice by providing qualitative education to the rural poor. He was President of the Kanyakumari District Tamil Writers' Association and the Kanyakumari District Agriculturists' Association. He also had a few publications to his credit.

Prof. Sankaralingam started his legislative career as a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council in 1964 and was a Member of that Council from 1964 to 1984. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council from 1978 to 1980.

Prof. M. Sankaralingam represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from June, 1998 to June, 2004.

In the passing away of Prof. M. Sankaralingam, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai passed away on the 21st of January, 2016, at the age of 96 years.

Born in Kerala in May, 1918, Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai was educated at Shantiniketan and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Trained in multiple dance styles, including Bharatanatyam, Kathakali, Mohiniyattam and Manipuri, Shrimati Mrinalini had received acclaim in dance and theatre with her performances, both nationally and internationally. The Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, which was set up by her in 1948, trained a large number of students in dance, drama, music and puppetry over the last 68 years. She choreographed more than 300 dance dramas during her lifetime, which reflect her deep social and political consciousness. She was also a dedicated social activist who fought for the rights of women and children.

Shrimati Mrinalini served as the Chairperson of the Gujarat State Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. and of the Nehru Foundation for Development. She was also one of the trustees of the Sarvodaya International Trust, an organization for the promotion of Gandhian ideals. She also had a few publications to her

credit including an Autobiography titled 'Mrinalini Sarabhai, The Voice of the Heart'.

Shrimati Mrinalini was the recipient of innumerable awards, notable being the Padma Shri in 1965, the Padma Bhushan in 1992 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1993. She was the first Indian to receive the medal and Diploma of the French Archives Internationales de la Danse. She was also presented with a gold medal by the Mexican Government for her choreography for the Ballet Folklorico of Mexico.

In the passing away of Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai, the country has lost a cultural icon, who left an indelible mark as an activist and philanthropist. She will be remembered for her immense contribution to the world of creativity and performing arts.

Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar passed away on the 3rd of February, 2016, at the age of 92 years.

Born in Ferozepur District of Punjab in August, 1923, Dr. Jakhar was educated at the Forman Christian College, Lahore (now in Pakistan). He was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the Haryana Agricultural University and the Vidya Martand by the Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya.

An agriculturist, Dr. Jakhar took keen interest in the development of agriculture, horticulture and rural areas through the application of modern technology and scientific farming methods and innovations. He served as the Chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the International Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Association and as President of the Farmers' Forum, Punjab.

Dr. Jakhar was also a teacher and an educationist and was closely associated with several social, cultural and literary organizations, which endeavoured for the upliftment of the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society and eradication of

illiteracy. He also has a few publications to his credit. He served as the President of the Rajaji International Institute of Public Affairs and Administration and as Chairman of the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust and of the Third World Hindi Conference, Delhi.

Dr. Jakhar started his legislative career as a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1972 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1972 to 1979. He served as the Deputy Minister of Co-operation, Irrigation and Power in the Government of Punjab from 1973 to 1977. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1979.

Dr. Jakhar was a Member of the Seventh, Eighth, Tenth and Twelfth Lok Sabha. He served as the Speaker of Lok Sabha for two consecutive terms -- from 1980 to 1985 and 1985 to 1989 -- and has the rare distinction of being the only Speaker of Lok Sabha to have presided over two successive Lok Sabhas for their full terms.

Dr. Jakhar also served as the Minister of Agriculture in the Union Council of Ministers from 1991 to 1996 and was also a Member of the Planning Commission. He was also Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals.

Dr. Jakhar served as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 2004 to 2009.

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

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Sushil Koirala, Shri Bandhu Mahto, Shri A. B. Bardhan, Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, Shri Kapil Verma, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai and Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar.

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

REFERENCES BY THE CHAIR

1. Reference to the Victims of the Terrorist Attack on the Pathankot Airbase in Punjab

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, seven security personnel were killed and 25 others, including 23 security personnel, were injured in a terrorist attack on the Pathankot Airbase in Punjab, which took place from the 2nd to the 4th of January, 2016. Such dastardly attacks and acts of senseless violence deserve to be condemned in the strongest terms and must be confronted with determination and firmness.

2. Reference to the Victims of Avalanche in Southern Ladakh and in the Northern Part of the Siachen Glacier-Saltoro Ridge Region in Jammu and Kashmir

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you might also be aware that four jawans of the Three Ladakh Scouts lost their lives in an avalanche in Southern Ladakh on the 3rd of January, 2016. In another similar incident, a Junior Commissioned Officer and eight jawans from the 19th Battalion of the Madras Regiment lost their lives, when a massive avalanche hit their army post in the Northern part of the Siachen Glacier-Saltoro Ridge region in Jammu and Kashmir on the 3rd of February, 2016. Lance Naik Shri Hanumanthappa Koppad, who was rescued alive after being buried under 35 feet of snow for six days, also lost the battle for his life at the Army R&R Hospital in New Delhi, on the 11th of February, 2016. The country will always remember the sacrifices of these soldiers in securing the international border.

3. **Reference to the Victims of the Terrorist Attack at Pampore near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir**

MR. CHAIRMAN: In yet another tragic incident, five security personnel, including three Army Commandos, two CRPF Jawans and a civilian, have been killed and several others have been injured in a terrorist attack, which took place from the 20th to the 22nd of February, 2016, at Pampore near Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.

This House joins me in unequivocally condemning the attacks perpetrated by the terrorist outfits.

The loss of precious lives and injury to people in all these tragic incidents is, indeed, painful and unfortunate. The House joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

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

PROCLAMATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) (a) Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 105(E)], issued by the President, on the 26th of January, 2016, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Arunachal Pradesh, under clause (3) of the said article.

(b) Order [G.S.R. No. 106(E)], dated the 26th of January, 2016, made by the President, under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation.

(c) Reports of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, dated the 15th and 18th of January, 2016 to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 105(E)].

(ii) (a) Proclamation [G.S.R. 185(E)], issued by the President, under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution, on the 19th of February, 2016, revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 26th of January, 2016, in relation to the State of Arunachal Pradesh, with effect from the 19th of February, 2016.

(b) Report of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, dated the 16th of February, 2016 to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 185(E)].

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,

Secretary-General.

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