

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Friday, December 15, 2017/ Agrahayana 24, 1939 (Saka)

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### OBITUARY REFERENCES

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger, Shri S.B. Ramesh Babu, Shri Rishang Keishing, former Members of this House, Shri Arjan Singh, Marshal of the Indian Air Force, Shri Jayantilal Barot, Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar, Shri Gaya Singh, Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta, Shri Mirza Irshadbaig and Shri Sukomal Sen, former Members of this House.

**Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger** passed away on the 7th of July, 2017 at the age of 91 years.

Born in October, 1926 at Darjeeling in West Bengal, Shri Pulger was educated at the St. Roberts School, Darjeeling.

A social worker, Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger represented the State of Sikkim in this House for a brief period, from the 20th of October, 1987, to the 1st of March, 1988.

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

**Shri S.B. Ramesh Babu** passed away on the 27th July, 2017, at the age of 68 years.

Born in February, 1949 at Hyderabad in Telangana, Shri Ramesh Babu was educated at the Badruka College of Arts and Commerce and the Law College, Osmania University at Hyderabad.

An advocate and social worker, Shri Ramesh Babu was active in sports and other extra curricular activities during his student days. He worked for the upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. He served as the President and Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Coordination Council and as President of several employees associations.

Shri S.B. Ramesh Babu represented the State of Andhra Pradesh (undivided) in this House from April, 1982 to April, 1988.

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

**Shri Rishang Keishing** passed away on the 22nd of August, 2017 at the age of 97 years.

Born in October 1919, at Ukhrul district of Manipur, Shri Keishing was educated at the St. Paul's Cathedral College of Kolkata.

Shri Keishing participated in the freedom struggle during his student days. As a social worker, Shri Keishing was instrumental in establishing several high schools and was the founder Headmaster of the first High School in Ukhrul district. He established the Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas in 1998 and served as the Chairman of the Eastern Border Development Authority and the Barak Development Board.

Shri Keishing started his legislative career as a Member of the First Lok Sabha in 1952 and was also a Member of the Third Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Manipur Territorial Council, from 1957 to 1961 and again from 1967 to 1971. Shri Keishing was a Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly for a period of 29 years

continuously, from 1972 to 2001. He served as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Manipur, from 1974 to 1976 and as Opposition Leader in the Manipur Legislative Assembly, from 1976 to 1980. Shri Keishing was the Chief Minister of Manipur four times - from 1980 to 1985; from 1985 to February, 1988; 1994 to March, 1995 and again from 1995 to December, 1998.

Shri Rishang Keishing represented the State of Manipur in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 2002 to April, 2008 and again from April, 2008 to April, 2014. Shri Keishing held the distinction of being the oldest Member of the Rajya Sabha during his tenure as well as the oldest serving parliamentarian.

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

**Shri Arjan Singh**, Marshal of the Indian Air Force passed away on the 16th of September, 2017 at the age of 98 years.

Born in April, 1919, in Lyallpur District of Punjab (now Faisalabad in Pakistan), Shri Singh underwent early education at Montgomery, British India (now in Pakistan). He then joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) College at Cranwell in the United Kingdom (UK) and was commissioned as a pilot officer in December, 1939.

A fearless and exceptional pilot, Shri Singh displayed consummate leadership of his squadron during the Arakan and Imphal Campaign in 1944 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in recognition of his feat. He had the honour of leading the fly-past of more than a hundred Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft over the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day on the 15th of August, 1947. His astute and motivating leadership led to victory in the 1965 India-Pakistan war. In 1966, Shri Singh became the first officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to the rank of Air Chief Marshal.

After his retirement from the Indian Air Force in 1970, Shri Arjan Singh served as the Ambassador of India to Switzerland and Vatican, from 1971 to 1974; as the High Commissioner to Kenya,

from 1974 to 1977; as a Member of the National Commission for Minorities, from 1978 to 1981; as the Chairman of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, from 1980 to 1983 and as the Lt. Governor of Delhi, from 1989 to 1990.

Shri Singh was the recipient of several medals and honours including the Padma Vibhushan. In 2002, he was conferred the honorary rank of Marshal, the first and only 'Five Star' Rank officer of the Indian Air Force.

In the passing away of Marshal Arjan Singh, the country has lost an icon of the Indian Air Force, a legendary war hero, who was a true embodiment of valour and discipline and a paradigm of military leadership.

**Shri Jayantilal Barot** passed away on the 23rd of September, 2017, at the age of 75 years.

Born in August, 1942, at Bhandu in Mehsana District of Gujarat, Shri Barot was educated at the P.K. Mehta High School and the Sarvajanic Vidyalaya, Mehsana and the A.V.P. Technical Institute, Rajkot.

An agriculturist, Shri Barot was actively involved in co-operative, labour and rural development activities. He served as the Sarpanch of the Linch Gram Panchayat and as a Member of the Mehsana District Panchayat. He was the Chairman of the Gujarat Khadi and Village Industries Board from 1998 to 2002 and also of the Gujarat Backward Classes Development Corporation and the Gujarat Housing Board.

Shri Jayantilal Barot represented the State of Gujarat in this House from April, 2002 to April, 2008.

In the passing away of Shri Jayantilal Barot, the country has lost a dedicated social activist and an able parliamentarian.

**Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar** passed away on the 28th of September, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in March, 1932, at Mattan in Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Fotedar was educated at the Amar Singh College, Srinagar and the Allahabad University.

An advocate, Shri Fotedar was drawn to politics right from his student days. He started his legislative career as a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1967 and was its Member from 1967 to 1977. He served as the Minister of State of Revenue, Irrigation, Law and Housing in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shri Fotedar also served as Political Aide to former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi from 1980 to 1984, and as Political Secretary to former Congress President, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, from 1984 to 1987.

Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 1985 to April, 1990 and again from April, 1990 to April, 1996. He also served as the Minister of Steel and Mines, Labour, Energy and Health and Family Welfare in the Union Council of Ministers, during the period from July, 1987 to December, 1989 and again from June, 1991 to January, 1993.

In the passing away of Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

**Shri Gaya Singh** passed away on the 7th of October, 2017, at the age of 73 years.

Born in November, 1944, at Alawan village in Nalanda District of Bihar, Shri Singh was educated at the B.N. College, Patna University.

Shri Singh was closely associated with the All India Students' Federation and the All India Youth Federation during his student days. A champion of the rights of workers, Shri Singh served as the Vice-President and the President of the Trade Union International Metal (World Federation of Trade Unions), as Secretary and Working

President of the All India Trade Union Congress and as President of the All India Steel Workers Federation.

Shri Gaya Singh represented the State of Bihar in this House for two consecutive terms - from July, 1992 to July, 1998 and again from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of Shri Gaya Singh, the country has lost a noted trade unionist and an able parliamentarian.

**Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta** passed away on the 4th of November, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in August, 1932, at Bega Village in Sonapat, Haryana, Dr. Gupta was educated at the D.A.V. College, Dehradun.

A businessman, Dr. Gupta was actively involved with many voluntary organisations, particularly in the field of education. He was the Patron of the Jai Narain Vidya Mandir, Bareilly, and Managing Trustee of the Jai Narain Charitable Trust. He also served as the President of the Shishu Shiksha Prabandh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh; the Jugaldevi Saraswati Vidya Mandir and the Motilal Kheria Vidya Mandir, Kanpur.

Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 1992 to July, 1998.

In the passing away of Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

**Shri Mirza Irshadbaig** passed away on the 15th of November, 2017, at the age of 68 years. Born in October, 1949 at Modasa in Gujarat, Shri Irshadbaig was educated at the Gujarat University and Sir L.A. Shah Law College, Ahmedabad.

An agriculturist, Shri Irshadbaig was associated with several sports and educational institutions. He served as the President of the Gujarat State NTC Run Mills Technicians and Officers Staff Union and Director of the Gujarat State Youth Board, the Gujarat State Minority Board and the Gujarat State Housing Board. He was also a Member of the Sabarkantha District Panchayat, from 1975 to 1980.

Shri Mirza Irshadbaig represented the State of Gujarat in this House, from March, 1983 to April, 1984 and again from April, 1984 to April, 1990. He also served as a Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen.

In the passing away of Shri Mirza Irshadbaig, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted social activist.

**Shri Sukomal Sen** passed away on the 22nd of November, 2017, at the age of 83 years.

Born in June, 1934, in Dacca District (now in Bangladesh), Shri Sen was educated at the Surendra Nath College, Kolkata and the Calcutta University.

A trade unionist, Shri Sen served as the General Secretary of the All India State Government Employees' Federation and Vice-President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. A prolific writer, he had several publications as well as articles and essays on various subjects to his credit. He was also the Editor of the monthly Journal 'Employees Forum'.

Shri Sukomal Sen represented the State of West Bengal in this House from April, 1982 to April, 1988 and again from April, 1988 to April, 1994. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, from 1988 to 1990; Committee on Subordinate Legislation, from 1990 to 1991 and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, from 1991 to 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Sukomal Sen, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted trade union leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Khamsum Namgyal Pulger, Shri S.B. Ramesh Babu, Shri Rishang Keishing, Shri Arjan Singh, Shri Jayantilal Barot, Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar, Shri Gaya Singh, Dr. Ishwar Chandra Gupta, Shri Mirza Irshadbaig and Shri Sukomal Sen.

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

**Reference to the Victims of a Boiler Explosion in a Power  
Generation Unit of NTPC at Unchahar in Rae Bareli District of  
Uttar Pradesh**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, you might be aware of the tragic incident of a Boiler explosion in a power generation unit of NTPC at Unchahar in Rae Bareli district of Uttar Pradesh on the 1st of November, 2017, in which 40 persons lost their lives and 39 others were injured.

**Reference to the Victims of Cyclone 'Ockhi' and Subsequent  
Heavy Rains in the Coastal Areas of the States of Kerala,  
Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, As you are also aware, Cyclone 'Ockhi' and subsequent heavy rains in the coastal areas of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep on the 1st of December, 2017, resulted in loss of lives of more than 60 persons with some still missing and injury to more than 100 others. The cyclone has affected more than thirty three thousand people and caused extensive damage to the agricultural crops, livestock, property and infrastructure.

The loss of so many precious lives in these tragedies is indeed unfortunate 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 and pray for the speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the injured and displaced.

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

### **Felicitations to the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Teams**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble Members, on behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey Team for winning the Asia Cup, 2017 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Kakamigahara, Japan, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2017 and the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017, respectively.

### **Felicitations to Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom and Shrimati Saikhom Mirabai Chanu**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, On behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I also congratulate Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom, a nominated Member of this august House, for clinching the gold medal in the 48 Kg. category at the Asian Women's Boxing Championships held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 and Shrimati Saikhom Mirabai Chanu for winning the gold medal in the Women's 48 Kg. Category at the World Weightlifting Championship held at California, USA, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017.

By their achievements, these sportspersons have made our country proud in the comity of nations. Their performance in international arena should inspire our youth and other sportspersons to emulate and improve upon their achievements.

We wish them success in all their future endeavours and hope that they would continue to make the country proud by bringing many more laurels in the future.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Member and Leader of the JD(U) in Rajya Sabha, the Petitioner, had filed two separate Petitions on 2nd September, 2017 under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India read with Rule 6 of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, praying that Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Members of the Rajya Sabha (Respondents) be disqualified under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for voluntarily giving up the membership of the party, JD(U), on whose tickets they were elected to the Rajya Sabha, by indulging in anti-party activities by publicly denouncing and openly criticising the collective decisions of the JD(U) and the Party President.

Both the Petitions were duly examined in accordance with the provisions of the Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, the procedural requirements laid down therein, and precedents. After taking into account the facts of each case, the comments of the Respondents on their respective Petitions, the comments of the Petitioner on the comments of the Respondents, the oral submissions made by both the Respondents during the oral hearing held on 8th November, 2017, the hon. Supreme Court's judgment in 1994 in the case of Ravi Naik versus Union of India and observations/judgments in similar anti-defection cases and precedents, it was crystal clear that by their conduct, actions and speeches, both the Respondents, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, had voluntarily given up their membership of the political party, JD(U), by which they were set up as candidates for elections to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Bihar and elected as such Members.

I, therefore, decided and declared vide my Order dated 4th December, 2017, that Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Members of JD(U), have incurred disqualification for being Members of the House, in terms of paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India and have thus ceased to be Members of the Rajya Sabha with effect from 4th December, 2017.

The detailed Orders issued by me in this regard have been notified in the Gazette of India on the 4th of December, 2017 and have also been re-produced in Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II of the same date.

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## **MATTER RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR**

### **Ockhi Cyclone in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN:** The Ockhi Cyclone has affected Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has written a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister requesting him to declare the Ockhi Cyclone as 'National Disaster' and provide all financial assistance as early as possible. Our Chief Minister has already announced a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for those who died in sea and Rs. 10 lakhs for those who died in Kanyakumari district because of the cyclone. The Government has taken all possible steps to restore normalcy. I once again request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to declare the Ockhi Cyclone affecting Kanyakumari as 'National Disaster' and provide all financial assistance as early as possible.

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

The following bills were introduced:

1. The Educational Innovations Commission Bill, 2017
2. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Insertion of New Article 21b)
3. The Prevention of Enforced Disappearance Bill, 2017
4. The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017
5. The Flood and Drought Control Bill, 2017

6. The Play Schools (Regulation) Bill, 2017
7. The Bail Bill, 2017
8. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Article 366)
9. The Vedic Education (Compulsory Teaching in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2017
10. The Solar Power (Development, Promotion and Mandatory Use) Bill, 2017
11. The Judicial Statistics Bill, 2017

**Desh Deepak Verma,**  
*Secretary-General.*

[rssynop@sansad.nic.in](mailto:rssynop@sansad.nic.in)