

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 / Agrahayana 20, 1940 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to refer with profound sorrow, to the passing away of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister and a former Member of this House, Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh, Shri Karma Topden, former Members of this House; Shri Somnath Chatterjee, former Speaker of Lok Sabha; Shri Kuldip Nayyar, Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna, Shri Darshan Singh Yadav, Dr. Ratnakar Pandey. Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Shrimati Malti Sharma, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, former Members of this House; Shri Ananthkumar, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and sitting Member of Lok Sabha; Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Baishnab Parida, former Members of this House.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away on the 16th of August, 2018, at the age of 93 years.

Born on 25th December, 1924 in Gwalior, Shri Vajpayee graduated from Gwalior's Victoria College (now Maharani Laxmibai Government College of Excellence) as Bachelor of Arts in Hindi, English and Sanskrit. He did M.A. in political science from DAV College, Kanpur.

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

At a very young age as a student, Shri Vajpayee participated in the freedom movement and was imprisoned in 1942 during the Quit India Movement. A man of letters, Shri Vajpayee served as the editor of magazines 'Rashtra-Dharma' and 'Panchjanya'; and of dailies 'Swadesh' and 'Veer Arjun'. The poet in him resulted in several collections of poems, a few notable ones being; 'Mrityu Ya Hatya', 'Kaidi Kavirai Ki Kundalian', 'Amar Aag Hai', 'Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen', 'Shakti Se Shanti' etc.

As all of you would fondly remember, Shri Vajpayee was one of the doyens of our country's political leadership who influenced the course of events after independence. During his long stint in public life, Shri Vajpayee epitomised the 'politics of grace'. Despite his strong ideological moorings, Shri Vajpayee was respected across the political spectrum. He never hesitated to rise above the politics, whenever warranted in the larger interests of the country. A multifaceted visionary, Vajpayeeji made seminal contributions to the development story of our country as a politician, Parliamentarian, Leader of the Opposition, Minister and Prime Minister.

An erudite scholar and a gifted orator, Shri Vajpayee always carried an affable smile on his face that disarmed even his bitter critics, both within and outside the Parliament. He was a parliamentarian par excellence and was always in the forefront of resolving crisis situations that needed solutions.

Shri Vajpayee's long stint in the Parliament started with his election to Lok Sabha from Balrampur constituency in Uttar Pradesh in the second general elections in 1957. In all, he was member of the Lok Sabha for a record ten times, having been elected to the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha. He served as Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, from 1993 to 1996 and 1996 to 1997. He was also the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and the Department-related Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Atalji was also a Member of this august House twice. He first represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1962

to February, 1967 and the State of Madhya Pradesh from June, 1986 to June, 1991. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances and the Committee on Petitions.

To be elected to Parliament, a record 12 times, since 1957 till 2009, is a great testimony to the goodwill and confidence that the people reposed in Shri Vajpayee.

As Minister of External Affairs, during 1977-79, his first Ministerial responsibility and later as Prime Minister, during 1998-2004, Shri Vajpayeeji contributed significantly towards imparting our diplomacy and foreign policy with a sense of purpose and dynamism and laying strong foundations for economic resurgence of our country.

In respect of foreign relations, Shri Vajpayee gave a new direction to our country's relations with important countries like China and the USA. As Minister of External Affairs, Vajpayeeji visited China which resulted in breaking a new ground. During his stint as Prime Minister, the US President, Mr. Bill Clinton, made a historic visit to India, 22 years after the last visit by the US President, Mr. Jimmy Carter. Mr. Clinton's visit to India in the year 2000 laid the foundation for new vistas in India - US ties. Atalji, as Prime Minister, launched sincere and spirited initiatives to improve India-Pakistan relations, but the leadership on the other side did not rise to the occasion. Still, the famous Lahore Declaration, followed by the historic Lahore Bus Yatra in February, 1999, made India and Pakistan committed to dialogue, expand trade relations, mutual friendship and envisaged a goal of de-nuclearised South Asia.

It was during Shri Vajpayeeji's stewardship of the destinies of the nation as Prime Minister that 'connectivity revolution' was brought about and strong foundations were laid for modernisation of infrastructure and improved connectivity through focused planning and infusion of substantial investments. Development of national highways and Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros, vibrant telecom sector, improved road and air connectivity marked the high points of infrastructure development in our country. I have had the honour of being associated with the launch of Pradhan Mantri

Gram Sadak Yojna as Minister of Rural Development in the Government led by Shri Vajpayeeji. Launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was yet another far reaching initiative.

At the same time, economic reforms were given the much desired push that resulted in increased investment flows leading to industrial expansion. Economic growth rate remained steadily high.

Alongside, as Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayeeji launched significant initiatives to strengthen internal and external security of the country. In 1998, underground nuclear testing was done in 1998 in the Pokhran desert, 24 years after first such test. Several leading countries acknowledged India's right in undertaking such nuclear tests. In the face of the sanctions that followed, Shri Vajpayeeji, as Prime Minister, steered the nation over the hurdles admirably till the sanctions were lifted later. India scored a decisive victory in the Kargil War forcing the infiltrators to retreat in 1999.

In the face of growing terrorism, the Prevention of Terrorism Act was passed in 2002 at a Joint Session of the Parliament, marking the country's resolve to fight terrorism.

Shri Vajpayeeji was the first Prime Minister to lead a coalition Government at the Centre for a full term. This speaks for his ability to harmonise different perspectives and his acceptance across the political spectrum.

It was only natural that Shri Vajpayeeji was honoured with several honours and awards for his distinguished and multifarious contribution to the story of independent India. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1992, Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Award for Best Parliamentarian in 1994 and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 2015.

About his poetry, Shri Vajpayeeji once said, 'My poetry is a declaration of war, not an exordium to defeat. It is not the defeated soldier's drum beat of despair, but the fighting warrior's will to win. It is not the dispirited voice of dejection but the stirring voice of victory.' This is what he wrote.

True to this spirit, Shri Vajpayeeji faced several challenges as a politician, Prliamentarian, Minister and Prime Minister. He had overcome all those challenges with his infectious smile and cheerful disposition.

In the passing away of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji the country has lost a visionary statesman, an erudite scholar, a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator, a proven leader of the masses and above all, a great human being who believed in the core Indian values of harmony and synthesis.

Shri R.K. Dorendra Singhji passed away on the 30th of March, 2018, at the age of 83 years.

Born in September, 1934, at Imphal in Manipur, Shri Singh was educated at the D.M. College, Imphal and the Calcutta University, Kolkata.

An advocate, Shri Singh was actively involved in various social service activities including flood, famine and fire relief works and was instrumental in organising mass movement demanding full statehood for Manipur. He also served as the Commissioner of the Imphal Municipality.

Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh started his legislative career as a Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly and remained its Member for six terms – from 1974 to 1980, from 1980 to 1984, from 1984 to 1988, from 1990 to 1995, from 2000 to 2002 and again from 2002 to 2007. He served as the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly from March to December, 1974. Shri Singh also served as the Chief Minister of Manipur for four terms – from December, 1974 to May, 1975; from May, 1975 to May, 1977; from January to November, 1980, and again from April, 1992 to December, 1993.

Shri Singh has several articles and essays on social and political themes, short stories and poems to his credit. He was also the Editor of a journal named 'Khonjel' and Joint Editor of the daily journal– 'Anouba Samaj'.

Shri R.K. Dorendra Singhji represented the State of Manipur in this House, from September, 1988 to March, 1990.

In the passing away of Shri R.K. Dorendra Singh, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Shri Karma Topden passed away on the 4th of August, 2018, at the age of 77 years.

Born in May, 1941, at Gangtok in Sikkim, Shri Karma Topden was educated at the St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, and the Manchester University, United Kingdom.

Shri Karma Topden started his career as a civil servant in the Indian Administrative Service and served as the Secretary to the Government of Sikkim. He also served as Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, from 1980 to 1987 and as Advisor to the Government of Sikkim, from 1987 to 1988.

Shri Karma Topden represented the State of Sikkim in this House for two terms, from 1988 to 1993 and again from 1994 to 2000.

Later on, Shri Karma Topden served as Ambassador to Mongolia from October, 2000 to October, 2002.

In the passing away of Shri Karma Topden, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee passed away on the 13th of August, 2018, at the age of 89 years.

Born in July, 1929, at Tezpur in Assam, Shri Chatterjee was educated at the Calcutta University, Kolkata, and the Cambridge University and the Middle Temple, United Kingdom.

An advocate by profession, Shri Chatterjee practised in the Calcutta High Court and later as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court. He served as a Senior Government Advocate in the Calcutta High Court from 1969 to 1970. As a social worker and trade unionist, Shri Chatterjee was associated with various educational, cultural and professional institutions, employees associations and trade unions.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee started his legislative career as a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha in the year 1971 and had the unique distinction of being a Member of the Lok Sabha for 10 consecutive terms from the 5th to the 14th Lok Sabha. He served as Speaker of Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009. He served as Chairman and Member of number of Parliamentary Committees during his long stint in Lok Sabha. He also served as the Chairman of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited and West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited.

He was conferred the 'Outstanding Parliamentarian' Award by the Indian Parliamentary Group in 1996.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee contributed articles to leading journals and publications. He is also the author of 'Keeping the Faith - Memoirs of a Parliamentarian'.

Shri Kuldip Nayyar passed away on the 23rd of August, 2018, at the age of 95 years.

Born in August, 1923, in Sialkot (now in Pakistan), Shri Kuldip Nayyar was educated at the Murray College, Sialkot; F.C. College, Lahore; the Law College, Lahore and the Medill School of Journalism, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

A journalist, Shri Kuldip Nayyar started his career as Joint Editor of an Urdu daily 'Anjam' in 1948. He served as Press Officer to Shri Govind Ballabh Pant and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Union Home Ministers, from 1954 to 1964. He also served as the Editor and General Manager of the United News of India from 1964 to 1967, as the Editor of 'The Statesman', from 1967 to 1975 and of the 'Express News Service', from 1978 to 1981. Shri Nayyar was the Chairman of the Reorganisation of the News Agencies and of the Transparency International (India). During his long journalistic career, Shri Nayyar worked with various news agencies and media organisations in India and abroad. He also served as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civics and Politics, Poona College, Bombay University. Shri Nayyar also served as the India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in 1990.

A prolific writer, Shri Nayyar has a number of books to his credit, including an autobiography entitled 'Beyond the Lines'.

Shri Kuldip Nayyar was a nominated Member of this House, from August, 1997 to August, 2003.

In the passing away of Shri Kuldip Nayyar, the country has lost a veteran journalist, a distinguished parliamentarian and a crusader for civil rights and press freedom.

Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna passed away on the 29th of August, 2018, at the age of 61 years.

Born in September, 1956, at Nimmakur Village in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Harikrishna was educated at Chennai.

An artist by profession, Shri Harikrishna began his career as a child artist and had acted in several Telugu movies.

Shri Harikrishna started his legislative career as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, from 1996 to 1999. He also served as the Cabinet Minister for Road Transport in the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House, from April, 2008 to August, 2013.

In the passing away of Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted cine-artist.

Shri Darshan Singh Yadav passed away on the 30th of August, 2018, at the age of 74 years.

Born in July, 1944, at Heonra in Etawah District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Darshan Singh Yadav was educated at the A.K. College, Shikohabad and the Agra University.

An agriculturist and a social worker, Shri Yadav established Kendriya Samaj Seva Samiti with the aim to eradicate superstitions, dogmas and social evils prevalent in the society, prohibition of alcoholism and smoking, dowry system, promotion of widow

remarriage, environment conservation etc. Shri Yadav served as the Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Nalkup Nigam Limited. He also had a few books in Hindi to his credit.

Shri Darshan Singh Yadav represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from April, 2012 to April, 2018.

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

Dr. Ratnakar Pandey passed away on the 1st of September, 2018, at the age of 82 years.

Born at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Ratnakar Pandey was educated at the Harish Chandra College, Varanasi; the Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi and the Ranchi University, Ranchi.

A teacher by profession, Dr. Pandey served as the Principal of the Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi. He made valuable contribution to the promotion of Hindi language in Government offices and also served as a Member of Hindi Advisory Committees attached to a number of Union Ministries. He was the founder of 'Parijat', a literary forum, in Varanasi and was associated with the Nagari Pracharini Sabhas of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Karnataka. An author, critic and journalist, he edited and published a few Hindi magazines and has a number of books, written in Hindi, to his credit.

Dr. Ratnakar Pandey represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 1986 to July, 1992.

In the passing away of Dr. Ratnakar Pandey, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a well known Hindi protagonist.

Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya passed away on the 16th of September, 2018, at the age of 84 years.

Born in June, 1934, at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya was educated at the Allahabad University.

An advocate by profession, Shri Malaviya was associated with several social, cultural and literary organizations. He served as a member of the Executive Committee, District Bar Association of Allahabad for 15 years. He also served as a Member of the Allahabad Municipal Corporation, from 1970 to 1974 and was its Mayor from 1972 to 1973.

Shri Malaviya started his legislative career as a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, and remained its Member for two terms, from 1974 to 1977 and again, from 1977 to 1980. He served as a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh holding different portfolios, from June, 1977 to May, 1978 and from March, 1979 to February, 1980.

Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two terms - from 1984 to 1990 and again from 1990 to 1996. Shri Malaviya served as the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals and Parliamentary Affairs in the Union Council of Ministers, from 1990 to 1991. He also served on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, from 1988 to 1990.

In the passing away of Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary passed away on the 21st of September, 2018, at the age of 78 years.

Born in January, 1940, at Jhanjharpur in Madhubani District of Bihar, Prof. Bhandary was educated at the C.M. College, Darbhanga and the Patna University.

An academician, Prof. Bhandary started his career as a Teacher at a college in Samastipur and rose to the post of Professor at the Mithila University, Darbhanga, Bihar. He was closely associated with the Socialist Movement right from his student days. As a social worker, he strived for the welfare and upliftment of the downtrodden and weaker sections of society and worked for rural development.

Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary represented the State of Bihar in this House for three terms - from July, 1992 to June, 1998; from June, 1998 to April, 2002 and again from April, 2002 to April, 2008. He also served as the Leader of the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Rajya Sabha.

In the passing away of Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shrimati Malti Sharma passed away on the 30th of September, 2018, at the age of 88 years.

Born in June, 1930, at Nahvi village in Sonapat District of Haryana, Shrimati Malti Sharma was educated at the Agra University, presently known as Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

A social worker, Shrimati Sharma strived for the welfare of women and the weaker sections of the society throughout her life.

Shrimati Malti Sharma started her legislative career as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, from 1977 to 1980. She also served as the Deputy Minister of Education in the Government of Uttar Pradesh, from 1977 to 1979.

Shrimati Malti Sharma represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from April, 1994 to April, 2000.

In the passing away of Shrimati Malti Sharma, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari passed away on the 18th of October, 2018, at the age of 93 years.

Born in October, 1925 at Balyuti village in Nainital District of Uttarakhand (erstwhile Uttar Pradesh), Shri Tiwari was educated at the Allahabad University.

Shri Tiwari participated in the Freedom Movement at the young age of 13 and underwent imprisonment during the "Quit India Movement" in 1942. He also served as the President of the Allahabad University Students' Union and as Secretary of the All India Students' Congress. As a journalist, he was the editor of a Hindi monthly-

'Prabhat'. He has a collection of articles- 'European Miscellany', published in 1964 and several other articles to his credit.

A social worker, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari started his legislative career as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and remained its Member for more than two decades- from 1952 to 1962, 1969 to 1979, 1984 to 1985, 1988 to 1989 and again from 1991 to 1993. He also served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council from January to March, 1985 and again from 1988 to 1990. Shri Tiwari served as the Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, from June, 1977 to March, 1978, October, 1978 to August, 1979 and again from December, 1989 to April, 1991. He also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Planning Commission, from 1971 to 1976. Shri Tiwari served as a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh holding different portfolios, from 1969 to 1975. He went on to become the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for four terms- from January, 1976 to April, 1977, from August, 1984 to 10th March, 1985, from 11th March, 1985 to September, 1985, and from June, 1988 to December, 1989.

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two terms- from December, 1985 to July, 1986 and again from July, 1986 to October, 1988.

He was also the Leader of the House, from April, 1987 to June, 1988. He was a Member of the Seventh, Eleventh and Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Shri Tiwari held several portfolios in the Union Council of Ministers, from 1980 to 1984 and 1985 to 1988. He also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Later on, Shri Tiwari became a Member of the First Legislative Assembly of the State of Uttarakhand and served as its Chief Minister, from 2002 to 2007. He also served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, from 2007 to 2009.

In the passing away of Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a distinguished parliamentarian, a great visionary and an extremely capable administrator.

Shri Ananthkumar passed away on the 12th November, 2018, at the age of 59 years.

Born in July, 1959 at Bengaluru in Karnataka, Shri Ananthkumar graduated in Arts from Kadasiddeshwar Arts College and also graduated in Law from JSS Law College, both in Hubballi, earlier known as Hubli, in Karnataka.

Shri Ananthkumar took active interest in students' issues and politics and also participated in the movement led by late Shri Jaiprakash Narayan. He was jailed in the Hubli Sub-Jail for a period of over 40 days during the Emergency.

Shri Ananthkumar was first elected to the 11th Lok Sabha in 1996 and had been Member of that House for six consecutive terms from the Bengaluru South Lok Sabha Constituency. Being a Member of Lok Sabha for 22 years without a break and being elected six times consecutively from an urban constituency with informed electorate speaks for his connect with the people he represented and his place in the hearts and minds of the people.

I have had the benefit of working closely with Shri Ananth Kumar during my long years in this House representing the State of Karnataka for the development of the state and the welfare of its people. I have lost a dear and personal friend in his untimely demise.

Shri Ananth Kumar held several key portfolios in the Central Government. He was first inducted as the Minister of Civil Aviation in 1998 in the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and he was the youngest Cabinet Minister. Later, he handled various ministries like Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs, Culture, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Shri Ananth Kumar succeeded me as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and in that capacity, he was associated with the passing of the historic GST Bill by both the Houses of Parliament.

Shri Ananthkumar was known for his energy, enthusiasm and initiative in whatever responsibility he was assigned to handle. As the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Kumar implemented

mandatory neem coating of Urea, bringing down prices of basic metal stents and knee implants to make them more affordable for the needy common people.

His concern about affordable quality health care was also instrumental in the expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. He was also responsible for the launch of 'Suvidha-Biodegradable and environment friendly sanitary pads' at very low prices for the benefit of women. He also took keen interest in the revival of six closed fertilizer plants with huge investments.

In the demise of Shri Ananthkumar, the country has lost a passionate social activist.

Along with his wife, Shri Ananthkumar launched an NGO, Adamyia Chetna, which caters to the needs of underprivileged and needy school children and takes up issues relating to drinking water facility, infrastructure, educational aids and health checkups in schools besides conducting vocational training programmes for the underprivileged girls and women. He also launched an initiative, Green Bengaluru, to ensure one tree for each person. He was also the founder president of the Aerospace Museum Society, Bengaluru.

Shri Ananthkumar's vision about Information and Communication Technology was much ahead of others. He hosted an independent website as early as in 1998.

As a member of the Indian Parliamentary delegation to the 67th United Nations General Assembly, Shri Ananthkumar had the distinction of being the first Indian to address the United Nations in Kannada on the 16th of October, 2012.

As a Member of the Lok Sabha, he was also the Chairman of the Department-related Standing Committees on Coal and Steel, Finance, Chemicals and Fertilizers and External Affairs.

In the passing away of Shri Ananthkumar, the country has lost a peoples' representative who had worked hard for their welfare, a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a committed social worker.

Shri P.K. Maheshwari passed away on the 15th of November, 2018, at the age of 76 years.

Born in August, 1942, at Nagpur in Maharashtra, Shri Maheshwari was educated at the Post Graduate Teaching Department and the G.S. College of Commerce, Nagpur University.

A journalist, Shri Maheshwari served as the Chief Editor of 'Nava Bharat' and 'Central Chronicle'. He also served as the Chairman of United News of India, the President of the Madhya Pradesh Daily Newspaper Association and the Joint President of the Federation of Madhya Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhopal.

Shri Maheshwari took a keen interest in penning down articles and editorials for the newspapers.

Shri P.K. Maheshwari represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House, from April, 2000 to April, 2006.

In the passing away of Shri P.K. Maheshwari, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a veteran journalist.

Shri Baishnab Parida passed away on the 22nd of November, 2018, at the age of 77 years.

Born in February, 1941, at Srirampur in Jajpur District of Odisha, Shri Parida was educated at the University of Calcutta, Kolkata and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Russia.

A social activist, Shri Parida was actively involved in students and trade union movements in West Bengal and Odisha and led peasant and share-croppers' movements in Odisha. He established many schools, colleges, libraries and hospitals in Odisha. He also campaigned for the eradication of illiteracy and abolition of untouchability in Odisha.

Shri Parida has several poems, books and articles on social and political issues to his credit. He has also translated many Russian Classics into Odia and prominent Odia literature into the Russian language. He was the Editor of 'Utkal Samaj', an Odia daily, from 1993 to 1995.

Shri Baishnab Parida represented the State of Odisha in this House, from July, 2010 to July, 2016.

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

Hon. Members, we deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri R. K. Dorendra Singh, Shri Karma Topden, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Kuldip Nayyar, Shri Nandamuri Harikrishna, Shri Darshan Singh Yadav, Dr. Ratnakar Pandey, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Shrimati Malti Sharma, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, Shri Ananthkumar, Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Baishnab Parida.

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

Reference to the Victims of Cyclones Titli in the States Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, 83 persons lost their lives, some were injured, displaced and property and infrastructure were damaged in Cyclone Titli that wreaked havoc in the States of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, in the month of October, 2018.

Reference to the Victims of Cyclones Gaja hit the Coastal and Interior Regions of Tamil Nadu

Hon. Members, in yet another tragic disaster, Cyclone Gaja hit the coastal and interior regions of Tamil Nadu in the month of November, 2018, in which 53 people lost their lives and 259 persons were injured. Extensive damage to property and infrastructure was also reported.

The loss of precious lives and injury to people in both these natural calamities 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.)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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