RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, February 03, 2020 / Magha 14, 1941 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman**, on the 10th of January, 2020.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was a visionary leader whose twin policies of moderation and mediation in addressing international issues won him praise and respect across the globe. Under his leadership, the Sultanate of Oman achieved spectacular progress and prosperity.

We, in India, will always remember him as a dear friend. Under his guidance, our mutually beneficial comprehensive partnership strengthened and scaled newer heights. Those bonds have been underpinned by the presence of a large expatriate Indian community in Oman.

His demise is an irreparable loss to the Sultanate of Oman and its people.

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

This House joins the ruling family of Oman, the Government and the people of the Sultanate of Oman in mourning the passing away of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in their hour of grief.

We deeply mourn the passing away of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said.

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

Reference to Unprecedented Bushfires in Australia

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, Australia is facing unprecedented bushfires since September, 2019, which have destroyed about 10.3 million hectares of land across the country, more than 2,500 homes, livelihoods and numerous other properties. Twenty-nine persons including four firefighters have reportedly lost their lives and millions of animals have perished in these bushfires. The ecosystem has been widely affected with various species of indigenous flora and fauna devastated by the fires.

The loss of precious lives and property in the Australian bushfires is indeed painful and unfortunate.

This House joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolences as well as deep sympathy and sorrow on the losses suffered by the friendly people of Australia and reiterate India's stand of solidarity with them in their hour of grief.

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

Felicitations to Former & Sitting Members on being Conferred with Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan Award

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, Shrimati M. C. Mary Kom, a Nominated Member of this august House, has been conferred the Padma Vibhushan for the year 2020 for her exceptional and distinguished service in the field of Sports.

Besides her, late Shri George Fernandes, late Shri Arun Jaitley and late Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, former Members of this House, have also been conferred the Padma Vibhushan for the year 2020 for their exceptional and distinguished service in the field of Public Affairs. Also, Shri S. C. Jamir and late Shri Manohar Parrikar, former Members of this House, have been conferred the Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order in the field of Public Affairs.

With this recognition, **Shrimati M. C. Mary Kom**, a 2012 London Olympics medalist and six-time World Boxing Champion, has become the first woman sportsperson of the country to be decorated with the Padma Vibhushan. Her illustrious career studded with exemplary achievements speaks volumes of her will power, passion, hard work, perseverance, unwavering dedication and commitment to continuously improve upon her performances and scale new heights in the field of Boxing. The fine balance which she has struck among her multifarious roles as a sportsperson, a legislator, a mother and a homemaker is a shining example worth emulation for all of us, particularly, the women of the country.

I wish Shrimati M. C. Mary Kom success in her future endeavours and hope that she continues to bring many more laurels to the country.

Late Shri George Fernandes, in a political career spanning more than four decades, served in the Union Council of Ministers holding key portfolios like Communications, Industry, Railways and Defence and was an able administrator. A veteran trade unionist, he participated in several human rights and civil liberties movements and was associated with a number of global campaigns on nuclear

disarmament and environmental issues. He served as a Member of this august House from August, 2009 to July, 2010.

Late Shri Arun Jaitley, a legal luminary, an outstanding parliamentarian, an eloquent orator and an astute politician, served in the Union Council of Ministers holding key portfolios like Information and Broadcasting, Disinvestment, Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Commerce and Industry, Shipping, Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs. As the Minister of Finance, he was instrumental in piloting several important legislations, including the GST Act, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the Benami Transactions Act, etc., which projected India as a modern economy. Shri Jaitley served as a Member of this House for four consecutive terms from 2000 to 2019. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha from 2009 to 2014 and as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha from 2014 to 2019.

Late Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, a leader who voiced the concern of the masses, an effective orator, an epitome of grace, grit, affection and amiability, served in various capacities during her entire political career. She was the first woman to be the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, the first Woman Outstanding Parliamentarian and the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi. As a Union Minister, she held the important portfolios of External Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting. She served as a Member of this House for three terms between 1990 and 2009.

Shri S. C. Jamir, a noted tribal leader, who is considered as one of the architects of modern Nagaland, played an instrumental role in the creation of the State of Nagaland. He served as the Chief Minister of Nagaland for four terms; as a Member of this House from July, 1987 to February, 1989; as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers and as the Governor of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Late Shri Manohar Parrikar, a very capable administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian, served as the Chief Minister of Goa thrice and as the Minister of Defence in the Government of India. He also served as a Member of this House from November, 2014 to September, 2017.

It is indeed a matter of great pride for this House that a sitting Nominated Member and five of our former Members have been conferred the prestigious civilian awards of the country.

On behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I place on record our appreciation for the exceptional services rendered by Shrimati M. C. Mary Kom, late Shri George Fernandes, late Shri Arun Jaitley, late Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri S. C. Jamir and late Shri Manohar Parrikar in their respective fields.

I also congratulate all the other Padma Awardees for the year 2020 for their outstanding accomplishments in their respective fields.

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in