RAJYA SABHA

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*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Monday, September 14, 2020 / Bhadra 23, 1942 (Saka)

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OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Pranab Mukherjee**, former President of India and former Member of this House.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee passed away on the 31st of August, 2020, at the age of 84 years.

Born in a family of freedom fighters in December, 1935, at Mirati Village, in Birbhum District of West Bengal, Shri Pranab Mukherjee was educated at the Calcutta University.

In his long and illustrious political career spanning more than five decades, Shri Mukherjee held several portfolios as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers. A man for many seasons, Shri Mukherjee handled his ministerial assignments with remarkable dexterity. He spearheaded critical decisions of the Government on a wide ranging issues including Information Technology and Telecommunication, UIDAI and Metro Rail. As Finance Minister, he saw India through the 2008 global financial crisis and as an External

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

Affairs Minister, he oversaw the signing of the India-United States Civil Nuclear Deal.

Known for his profound intellect and sharp memory, Shri Mukherjee had an in depth knowledge that spanned across a wide variety of subjects such as International Relations, Financial Affairs, Public Policy and Parliamentary Procedures. This held him in good stead when he represented the country at international fora. Shri Mukherjee also led several Indian delegations to various International conferences and fora. His leadership in the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries was well acclaimed nationally and internationally.

As a legislator, Shri Mukherjee made rich contributions to the parliamentary culture of debate, discussions and deliberations by his firm grasp over the issues concerning the nation. Through his mastery of parliamentary procedure and his active participation in the cut and thrust of debates, he played a huge role in shaping laws and policies. A true gentleman and a consensus builder, he strived to forge unity and consensus amongst diverse political parties with multitude of viewpoints. He was widely acknowledged and admired by all and was the main troubleshooter for the Government. Shri Mukherjee served as the Leader of the House, Rajya Sabha, from 1980 to 1985 and Leader of the House, Lok Sabha, from 2004 to 2012.

Shri Mukherjee served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission from, June, 1991 to May, 1996. For his valuable and immense contribution to the Indian Parliament, Shri Mukherjee was conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 1997. An orator par excellence, his clear articulation dotted with anecdotes and humour left an indelible impression on his audience. His number crunching ability and sharp memory was bewildering.

Shri Mukherjee represented the State of West Bengal in this House for four terms—from July, 1969 to July, 1975; July 1975 to July, 1981; August, 1993 to August, 1999 and August, 1999 to May,

2004 and the State of Gujarat, from August, 1981 to August, 1987. He also served as a Member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha.

Shri Mukherjee went on to adorn the highest constitutional office of the country and served as the 13th President of India, from 2012 to 2017.

An avid reader, Shri Mukherjee has authored several books on Indian economy and nation building. An admirer of Rabindra Sangeet, Shri Mukherjee served as the President of the Rabindra Bharati Society.

Shri Mukherjee was awarded *Padma Vibhushan* for his exceptional and distinguished service in the field of Public Affairs in 2008 and *Bharat Ratna* for exceptional service of the highest order in the field of Public Affairs in 2019. He was also conferred the Best Administrator in India Award in 2011.

In the passing away of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the country has lost an adept administrator, an astute politician, an outstanding parliamentarian, an erudite scholar and a visionary statesman.

Hon. Members, during the inter-Session period, three of our sitting Members, namely, Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar and Shri Amar Singh as well as 15 of our former Members, namely, Shri Hiphei, Shri M.V. Rajasekharan, Shri Sanatan Bisi, Shri Basant Kumar Das, Shri R.T. Gopalan, Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak, Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi, Shrimati Saroj Dubey, Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, Shri Bishnu Charan Das, Shri Ram Awadesh Singh, Shri Shyamal Chakraborty, Shri Nandi Yellaiah and Shri Narendra Kumar Swain and Pandit Jasraj, renowned Indian classical vocalist, also left us for the heavenly abode. May God bless their souls!

Due to paucity of time, I am not reading out the detailed obituary references prepared in their respect, but a gist of the same. However, the detailed obituary references will be deemed as read, will be part of record of the House and will be incorporated in the Debate of the House.

Shri Beni Prasad Verma passed away on the 27th of March, 2020, at the age of 79 years.

Born in February, 1941, at Sirauli Village in Barabanki District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Verma was educated at the Lucknow University.

An agriculturist and a social worker, Shri Verma started his career as a legislator in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1974 and served as a Member of that Assembly for 6 terms, from 1974 to 1980 and 1985 to 1995. During that period, he also served as a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh holding different portfolios.

Shri Verma was elected as a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha in 1996 and further went on to serve as a Member of the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabha. Shri Verma served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State holding the portfolios of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Independent Charge) for a brief period during 1996; as the Minister of Communications, from 1996 to 1998; as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Steel, from January to July, 2011; and as the Minister of Steel, from 2011 to 2014. He also served as the Chairman of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, from 2009 to 2011.

Shri Beni Prasad Verma represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 2016 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Beni Prasad Verma, the country has lost a veteran socialist leader, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar passed away on the 28th of May, 2020, at the age of 82 years.

Born in August, 1937 at Kalpetta in Wayanad District of Kerala, Shri Veerendra Kumar was educated at the Zamorin's College, Kozhikode; the Vivekananda College, Chennai and the Cincinatti University, Ohio, U. S. A.

A prolific writer and social activist, Shri Veerendra Kumar actively participated in peoples' struggles in Kerala during the last five decades. Shri Veerendra Kumar was the Chairman and Managing Director of the Mathrubhumi Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd since 1979 till his sad demise. He served as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India, from 1992 to 1993, from 2003 to 2004 and again from 2011 to 2012. He also served as the Chairman of INS Kerala Regional Committee, from 2006 to 2009 and as the President of the India Newspaper Society, from 2003 to 2004. Shri Veerendra Kumar was also a Member of the International Press Institute, the Commonwealth Press Union and the World Association of Newspapers.

Shri Veerendra Kumar made immense contributions to Malayalam Literature through his writings. He penned several books in Malayalam. He was recipient of several literary awards including the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Academy Award, Rajiv Gandhi National Award, Odakkuzhal Award, Navadanya Award, Amritakeerti Puraskar, Kusumanjali Sahitya Samman and Kamaladalam Award, amongst others.

Shri Veerendra Kumar started his legislative career as a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1987 and served in that Assembly till 1991. He also served as the Minister of Forests in the Government of Kerala in 1987. Shri Veerendra Kumar was a Member of the Eleventh and Fourteenth Lok Sabha. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State holding the portfolios of Finance, Urban Affairs and Employment, and Parliamentary Affairs, and as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour, from 1997 to 1998. He was also the Leader of the Janata Dal (Secular) Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha, from 2004 to 2009.

Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar represented the State of Kerala in this House for two terms- from April, 2016 to December, 2017 and again from March, 2018 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a writer par excellence.

Shri Amar Singh passed away on the 1st of August, 2020, at the age of 64 years.

Born in January, 1956 at Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Amar Singh was educated at the St. Xavier's College and the University College of Law, Kolkata.

An industrialist, Shri Amar Singh served as the Director of Indian Airlines, State Bank of India and National Textiles Corporation. He also served as a Member on the Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies and Defence Research and Development Organisation. He also contributed towards the promotion of art, and culture, and was particularly associated with Hindi film industry. In a political career spanning more than three decades, Shri Amar Singh, known for his exuberant personality and friendly demeanour has endeared himself to all across party lines.

Shri Amar Singh represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for four terms, from November, 1996 to November, 2002; from November, 2002 to November, 2008; from November, 2008 to November, 2014 and again from July, 2016 till his sad demise. He also served as the Chairman of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare twice, from August, 2004 to May, 2009 and again from August, 2009 to August, 2010.

In the passing away of Shri Amar Singh, the country has lost an astute politician and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Hiphei passed away on the 8th of April, 2020, at the age of 82 years.

Born in August, 1937, at Chapui Village in Saiha District (*erstwhile Chhimtuipui District*) of Mizoram, Shri Hiphei was

educated at the Lunglei College, Mizoram and the Shillong College, Meghalaya.

A social worker, Shri Hiphei, who was also known as the 'father of the Mara tribe' played a key role in the formation of separate Autonomous District Council for the Lakhers. He also served as a Member of the Court of the North-Eastern Hill University and erstwhile Pawai Lakher Regional Council. He was a Jury Member of the National Citizens Award, from 1991 to 1993.

Shri Hiphei started his legislative career as a Member of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly in 1972 and was a Member of that Assembly for six more terms — in 1977, 1979, 1984, 1987, 1989 and 2013. He served as the Deputy Speaker of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, from 1972 to 1977 and as the Speaker of that Assembly, from January, 1989 to July, 1990 and again from December, 2013 to November, 2018. Shri Hiphei also served as Minister of State in the Mizoram Government holding the portfolios of Public Works Department, Public Health, Engineering, Labour, Veterinary, Animal Husbandry and Printing and Stationery.

Shri Hiphei represented the State of Mizoram in this House for two consecutive terms, from July, 1990 to July, 1996 and from July, 1996 to July, 2002.

In the passing away of Shri Hiphei, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a champion of tribal rights.

Shri M. V. Rajasekharan passed away on the 13th of April, 2020, at the age of 91 years.

Born in September, 1928 at Maralawadi Village in erstwhile Bangalore Rural District of Karnataka, Shri M. V. Rajasekharan was educated at the Mysore University; the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi; the University of Missouri and the Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, U. S. A.

An agriculturist, Shri Rajasekharan actively participated in the Freedom Movement from 1942 to 1947. He served as the Secretary of the Kanakpura Taluk Student Congress, from 1945 to 1948 and was

instrumental in organizing *'Mysore Chalo'* Movement for merger of Mysore State with the Indian Union in 1947. Shri Rajasekharan played a key role in initiating steps for establishment of a separate Ministry for Youth Affairs in the Government of Karnataka and setting up of 'Youth Centre', the first of its kind in the country. He also served as the Chairman of the World Assembly of Youth India Committee, later known as the Indian Assembly of Youth, from 1966 to 1970.

Shri Rajasekharan took a keen interest in rural development and improvement of agriculture. He served several organisations involved in rural development and welfare of poor in various capacities.

He also served as a Member of several national and international development organizations and was the Founder, Executive Trustee and Co-ordinator of the Asian Institute for Rural Development, Bengaluru.

A widely travelled person, Shri Rajasekharan had participated in various international conferences and meetings related to the issues of farmers, youth, agriculture, rural development, land reforms, *etc.* and had served as the Consultant and Advisor to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Agriculture Division) and the Development Innovations and Networks, Geneva, Switzerland.

Shri Rajasekharan has numerous academic papers on topics such as rural development, agrarian reforms, employment generation, role of NGOs in development and poverty reduction, environment and ecology *etc.* to his credit. He served as the Editor of 'AIRD News', an Asian regional monthly magazine, and designed and guided the publication of some booklets on Sericulture and Animal husbandry. He was awarded the 'Vishvasharana' award for outstanding personalities in Social Development by the National NGO Council of Sri Lanka, in July, 2000.

Shri Rajasekharan started his legislative career as a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha in 1967. He also served as a Member of the

Karnataka Legislative Assembly, from 1978 to 1982 and as a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council, from 1997 to 2001.

Shri M. V. Rajasekharan represented the State of Karnataka in this House, from April, 2002 to April, 2008. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, from 2004 to 2008.

In the passing away of Shri M. V. Rajasekharan, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a pioneer in the field of agrarian and rural development, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Sanatan Bisi passed away on the 14th of April, 2020, at the age of 78 years.

Born in November, 1941, at Dalaipada in Sambalpur District of Odisha, Shri Bisi was educated at the G. M. College and the L. R. Law College, Sambalpur.

An advocate by profession, Shri Bisi was actively associated with student movements and several other movements of Western Odisha. He served as the General Secretary of the *Pachima Orissa Sanskritika Parishad,* Sambalpur and as the Honorary General Secretary of the District Athletic Association, Sambalpur. Shri Bisi also served as a Member of the Odisha Olympic Association and Council of Sports.

An athlete, Shri Bisi stood amongst winners in the long distance running events held from 1962 to 1964 in the State Sports Championships and Utkal University Sports Meets.

Shri Sanatan Bisi represented the State of the Odisha in this House, from April, 1994 to April, 2000. He also served on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, from 1998 to 2000.

Later on, Shri Bisi was elected as a Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly for two consecutive terms – from 2000 to 2004 and again from 2004 to 2009. He also held the portfolio of Minister of

State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of Odisha, from 2008 to 2009.

In the passing away of Shri Sanatan Bisi, the country has lost an able administrator and parliamentarian, and an avid sports enthusiast.

Shri Basant Kumar Das passed away on the 22nd of April, 2020, at the age of 80 years.

Born in April, 1940 at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi District of Odisha, Shri Basant Kumar Das joined the Indian Navy in 1956 and participated in the Goa and Pakistan Operations in 1961 and 1965 respectively.

After a brief stint of 10 years in the Indian Navy, Shri Das joined politics. He was actively involved in Municipal affairs and served as the Chairman of Bhawanipatna Municipality, from 1984 to 1990.

Shri Basant Kumar Das represented the State of Odisha in this House from April, 1990 to April, 1996.

In the passing away of Shri Basant Kumar Das, the country has lost a war veteran and an able parliamentarian.

Shri R. T. Gopalan passed away on the 26th of April, 2020, at the age of 76 years.

Born in August, 1943 at Cumbum in Theni District of Tamil Nadu, Shri Gopalan was educated at the H. K. R. H. College, Uthamapalayam and the Jiwaji University, Gwalior.

An agriculturist, Shri Gopalan worked as Physical Director at the N. S. K. P. High School, Gudalur, from 1970 to 1977.

Shri Gopalan started his legislative career as a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1980 and served as its Member till 1984. He also served as a Member of the Syndicate of the Kamraj University, Madurai, from 1985 to 1988.

Shri R. T. Gopalan represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from June, 1986 to June, 1992.

In the passing away of Shri R. T. Gopalan, the country has lost an able parliamentarian.

Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak passed away on the 14th of May, 2020 at the age of 98 years.

Born in May, 1922 at Nimapara in Puri District of Odisha, Shri Pattanayak actively participated in the Quit India Movement of 1942. He was also associated with several movements among students, youth and peasants and underwent imprisonment, from 1942 to 1946.

A social worker, Shri Pattanayak worked assiduously for the upliftment and empowerment of villagers. He served as the Provincial Secretary of the Student and Youth Camp Committee of Bharat Sevak Samaj and later on as its Provincial Chairman. Shri Pattanayak also served as a Member of different public institutions, hospitals, schools, colleges and other religious institutions.

Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak represented the State of Odisha in this House for three terms — from August, 1961 to April, 1966; from April, 1966 to April, 1972 and again from April, 1978 to April, 1984.

Shri Pattanayak was the recipient of the President's Medal in 1951 for his contribution in Census work and the *Padma Shri* in 2018 for distinguished service in the field of Public Affairs.

In the passing away of Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi passed away on the 29th of May, 2020, at the age of 74 years.

Born in April, 1946 at village Pendra Road in Bilaspur District of Chhattisgarh, Shri Jogi was educated at the Maulana Azad

College of Technology, Bhopal and the Law College, Delhi University.

A civil servant turned politician, Shri Jogi started his career as a Lecturer in the Government Engineering College, Raipur, in 1967. He joined the Indian Police Service in 1968 and later joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1970 wherein he served till his resignation in 1986. Shri Jogi holds the All India record of the longest serving Collector/District Magistrate for over 12 years, from 1974 to 1986, in various districts of Madhya Pradesh. He was instrumental in the formulation and implementation of the radical and highly acclaimed "Tendu Leaf Policy" and the path-breaking "Jogi Report" on welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Jogi worked assiduously for the welfare and upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He also took keen interest in the promotion of tribal and folk art of India, protection of environment, organisation of co-operatives, welfare of youth and improvement of their educational and employment opportunities, and development of drought prone areas and dry farming. Shri Jogi served as the Chairman of the Minor Forest Produce Corporation and the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee of the Government of Madhya Pradesh holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He also served as a Member on the Governing Bodies of various prestigious educational institutions and played a key role in the formation of the new State of Chhattisgarh. Shri Jogi has a few books and several articles to his credit and was a regular columnist for a Hindi Daily. He also took a keen interest in sports and served as the President of various sports associations.

Shri Jogi represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms – from June, 1986 to June, 1992 and again from June, 1992 to March, 1998. He served as the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, and Environment and Forests, from 1995 to 1996. He also served on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Rajya Sabha in 1997.

Shri Jogi also served as a Member of the Twelfth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

Shri Jogi served as a Member of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly thrice – in 2000, 2008 and 2018, till his sad demise. He also served as the First Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, from 2000 to 2003.

In the passing away of Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi, the country has lost an astute administrator, a champion of the rights of tribals, a dedicated social worker and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shrimati Saroj Dubey passed away on the 21st of June, 2020, at the age of 81 years.

Born in September, 1938, at Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, Shrimati Saroj Dubey was educated at the Agra University and the Gorakhpur University, Uttar Pradesh, and the Sagar University, Madhya Pradesh.

A social worker, Shrimati Dubey raised her voice against the evil practice of dowry and all kinds of social and physical exploitation of women and strived to create awareness amongst women about the importance of education, population control and the evil of inebriation. Shrimati Dubey worked assiduously to help dowry victims, dalit women and child labourers and was instrumental in establishing schools for the children of the poor and backward classes. She was a staunch advocate of 33% reservation for women, especially for those belonging to the backward and minority classes, in Parliament and the State Legislatures.

Shrimati Dubey served as a Member of the Anti-dowry Committee and of the Social Welfare Advisory Board of Uttar Pradesh in 1976 and 1983, respectively. She also served as a Member of the National Consumer Protection Council in 1990 and as a Member of the Court of Delhi University in 1997. Shrimati Dubey served as the Chairperson of the National Bal Bhawan and as the President of the Women Welfare Council and the Women and Child Development Committee of Uttar Pradesh.

Shrimati Saroj Dubey was also a Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha. She represented the State of Bihar in this House, from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of Shrimati Saroj Dubey, the country has lost a dedicated social worker, a champion of women's rights, and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away on the 21st of June, 2020, at the age of 92 years.

Born in October, 1927, at Delhi, Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta was educated at the Wilmington College, Ohio, U. S. A.

A journalist, Shri Gupta served as the Managing Editor of 'Daily Tej' and 'Sun Weekly'. He also served as the Secretary-General of the Indian Federation of United Nations Association and as the President of the All India Newspapers Editors' Conference. Shri Gupta was the founder Member of the Press Club of India and also served as the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the Tej Bandhu Group of Publications.

Passionate about flying, Shri Gupta founded the Ballooning Club of India in 1970. He also served as the Vice-President of the Aero Club of India and was Honorary Secretary of the Delhi Gliding Club.

Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta represented the Union Territory of Delhi in this House from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, the country has lost a veteran journalist, a flying enthusiast and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Bishnu Charan Das passed away on the 6th of July, 2020, at the age of 65 years.

Born in October, 1954 in Jagatsinghpur District of Odisha, Shri Bishnu Charan Das was educated at the Swami Vivekananda Memorial College, Jagatsinghpur and the Madhusudan Law College, Cuttack.

An advocate and an ardent social worker, Shri Das strived throughout his life for the upliftment of the poor and down-trodden people and mobilization of youth for the betterment of society. He published Annanya and Smaranika on Biswamber Parida, a great freedom fighter. He served as the President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides (Odisha Region).

Shri Das started his legislative career as a Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1990 and remained its Member for five consecutive terms, till 2014. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly again in 2019 for the sixth time. He also served as the Minister of School and Mass Education in the Government of Odisha, from May, 2006 to August, 2007.

Shri Bishnu Charan Das represented the State of Odisha in this House for a brief period, from July, 2016 to March, 2017.

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

Shri Ram Awadesh Singh passed away on the 20th of July, 2020, at the age of 83 years.

Born in June, 1937 in Dularpur, in Bhojpur District of Bihar, Shri Ram Awadesh Singh was educated at the B.N. College, Patna; the Bhagalpur University; St. Xavier's Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur and the Ranchi University.

A prolific writer and social worker, Shri Singh strived for the upliftment of Backward Classes and for the emancipation of the neglected, oppressed and harassed workers in various occupations. He served as the President of the Bihar State Home Guards Panchayat in 1971, the Bihar State Backward Association in 1974 and the All India Backwards, Harijans, Tribals and Religious Minority Federation in 1978. Shri Singh has more than a dozen books to his credit, *namely, Kranti ki Chhatpatati Rooh, Kranti ki Teen Dishayain, Jangalon Ko Jagao, Paharon Ko Pukaro, etc.*

Shri Singh started his legislative career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in the year 1969 and remained its Member till 1972. He was also a Member of the 6th Lok Sabha.

Shri Ram Awadesh Singh represented the State of Bihar in this House, from July, 1986 to July, 1992.

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

Shri Shyamal Chakraborty passed away on the 6th of August, 2020, at the age of 76 years.

Born in February, 1944, at Shivpur Village in Khulna District, now in Bangladesh, Shri Chakraborty was educated at the University of Calcutta, Kolkata.

A trade unionist, Shri Chakraborty worked assiduously for the welfare of workers and took a keen interest in energy conservation. He was also actively involved in organizing workers' training programme for the unemployed youth on manufacturing of solar equipments.

Shri Chakraborty started his legislative career as a Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1981 and served as a Member of that Assembly till 1996. He also served as the Chairman of the Kolkata State Transport Corporation, from 1983 to 1985 and as the Minister of Transport and Second Hooghly River Bridge Commission, Government of West Bengal, from 1987 to 1996. A prolific writer, Shri Chakraborty has several publications in Bengali to his credit. He also contributed articles to several newspapers and journals.

Shri Shyamal Chakraborty represented the State of West Bengal in this House, from April, 2008 to April, 2014.

In the passing away of Shri Shyamal Chakraborty, the country has lost a veteran trade unionist, a capable administrator and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Nandi Yellaiah passed away on the 8th of August, 2020, at the age of 78 years.

Shri Nandi Yellaiah was born at Musheerabad in Hyderabad District of Andhra Pradesh in July, 1942.

A social worker and trade unionist, Shri Yellaiah served as the President of the Hyderabad City Charmakar Sangh and the Telangana Tanneries Workers Union, in 1963. He also served as the General Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Arundhati Maha Sabha and as Secretary of the City Depressed Class League, from 1969 to 1972, and was instrumental in the implementation of various slum improvement programmes. He always strived for the welfare and upliftment of the downtrodden.

Shri Nandi Yellaiah started his legislative career in 1964 as a Municipal Councillor from Zamistanpur Double Member Constituency (Reserved) in Hyderabad. As Corporator, Shri Yellaiah served on various important Committees and was the Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee and the Slum Improvement Committee. In 1977, Shri Yellaiah served as a Member of the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. He also served as the Chairman of the Development Council for Leather and Leather Goods Industries, Government of India, and as Director of the National Seeds Corporation and the Indian Road Construction Corporation, New Delhi, in 1984. He also served as a Member of the Senate of the Osmania University, Andhra Pradesh, from 1969 to 1972.

Shri Nandi Yellaiah was a Member of the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Sixteenth Lok Sabha. He represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms — from April, 2002 to April, 2008 and again from April, 2008 to March, 2014. Shri Yellaiah also served as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council for a brief period, from March, 2014 to May, 2014.

In the passing away of Shri Nandi Yellaiah, the country has lost a veteran trade unionist, a champion of the rights of the downtrodden and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Narendra Kumar Swain passed away on the 7th of September, 2020, at the age of 81 years.

Born in June, 1939, at Tandikana Village in Cuttack District of Odisha, Shri Swain was educated at the Christ College and the Madhusudan Law College, Cuttack.

A social worker, Shri Swain was actively associated with several employees', workers' and trade unions and worked assiduously for the welfare of the working community. He served as the Chairman of the Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited, from 2010 to 2013 and of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Limited, from 2013 to 2015.

Shri Narendra Kumar Swain represented the State of Odisha in this House, from December, 2015 to April, 2020.

In the passing away of Shri Narendra Kumar Swain, the country has lost a veteran trade unionist, a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Pandit Jasraj passed away on the 17th of August, 2020, at the age of 90 years.

Born in January, 1930, in a family which had a long-standing association with music going back to four generations, Pandit Jasraj was first initiated into music by his father, Pandit Motiram, at the age of three as a tabla accompanist. However, his real charm and charisma lay in his soulful and sonorous voice, the exploration and training for which started at the age of 14 under the mentorship of his elder brother and Guru, Pandit Maniram.

A doyen of Hindustani classical vocal music, Pandit Jasraj took Indian vocal classical music to ethereal heights by making it more accessible to the world. Belonging to the Mewati Gharana of singing tradition, he, very skilfully introduced and blended ornate

elements and subtle nuances into classical singing, making it more flexible and audience-friendly, thus transporting Indian classical music from the realm of the select few to the masses. Pandit Jasraj also incorporated Indian devotional music such as *haveli sangeet* and *bhajans* into classical singing, the performance of which evoked intense spiritual expression and ethereal emotions in the listeners. He pioneered a form of *jugalbandi* between a male and female singer called *Jasrangi*, based on a shifting of notes or *swaras* to allow for a match of the different pitches of the singers and for different melodic *ragas* to be sung together in harmonious tandem. The numerous renditions delivered by Pandit Jasraj in his career spanning eight decades have continued to mesmerize and resonate with the people across the globe. His concerts were awe inspiring in terms of his dynamic, creative style, unique *gayiki* with his powerful multi-octave range, classical vocal technique and his special ability to deliver the lyrics with the lucidity of poetry. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee honoured Pandit Jasraj with the title 'Rasraj', the King of *rasas*.

As an exceptional mentor and guru, Pandit Jasraj stood true to the age old Guru-Shishya Parampara of our country and nurtured and trained an impressive number of illustrious classical vocalists, who continue to zealously carry the flag of Indian classical music across the planet. Besides establishing music Schools in the country, he also established such Schools in Canada and U. S. A. Mainstreaming Indian Classical music with community participation was his lasting contribution to the music world. He performed and taught music until his sad demise with a remarkably robust and age defying voice.

Pandit Jasraj was the recipient of several prestigious awards, notable being *Padma Vibhushan* in 2000, *Padma Bhushan* in 1990, *Padma Shree* in 1975, the Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1987 and Sangeet Martand in 1977. A minor planet between Mars and Jupiter was also named after him in 2019 by the International Astronomical Union.

In the passing away of Pandit Jasraj, the country has lost an outstanding Hindustani classical music vocalist, an exceptional

mentor, and a pole star in the world of music. His passing away has left an irreplaceable void in the Indian cultural ethos.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar, Shri Amar Singh, Shri Hiphei, Shri M. V. Rajasekharan, Shri Sanatan Bisi, Shri Basant Kumar Das, Shri R. T. Gopalan, Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak, Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi, Shrimati Saroj Dubey, Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, Shri Bishnu Charan Das, Shri Ram Awadesh Singh Shri Shyamal Chakraborty, Shri Nandi Yellaiah, Shri Narendra Kumar Swain and Pandit Jasraj.

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

Reference to the Victims of Natural Calamities in Different Parts of the Country

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, more than 1,000 persons have lost their lives and over 1.5 crore people have been adversely affected besides heavy damage to crops and property by heavy rains, floods and associated disasters such as lightning strikes and landslides in various parts of the country, particularly in the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Earlier even Mumbai city also. A massive landslide due to heavy downpour in Idukki district of Kerala itself claimed the lives of 65 people and inflicted injury to 12 others. Incessant rains, floods and other associated disasters have also caused extensive damage to houses, property, crops and infrastructure. The flora and fauna of these regions have also been severely affected. The loss of precious lives and injury to people is indeed painful and unfortunate. The House joins me in expressing heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the injured and affected. I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of

respect to the memory of those, who lost their lives in these natural calamities.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we are meeting amidst challenging times when our nation has been going through along with other countries of the world due to COVID-19 pandemic. I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning today. We are meeting after a gap of 175 days since we met last when the House was adjourned sine die on March 23rd on the request of hon. Members for cutting short the scheduled Session so as to be with the people in the hour of crisis brought on us by an invisible microorganism named Coronavirus. I am very happy to see all of you today after a long period. I am relieved to see the hon. members hale and hearty in the time of this pandemic. I am also happy about the mijaz of majority of the Members. They were all involved in helping the people and in taking care of the people in their respective areas in their own ways. Through whatever methods, which were possible, they were among the people in this hour of crisis. I am happy about that.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the biggest disaster to strike the mankind since the Spanish Flu about a hundred years ago. The Governments across the globe, the medical and scientific community and the civil society were caught unaware. The experts are still to claim to have mastered all aspects of this virus which is said to be the most virulent of the family of corona viruses. Despite being the second most populous country in the world with high population density, we have been able to contain the damage due to the pandemic to the minimum, both in terms of scale of infections and case fatality ratio. I am happy to note that the nation rose as 'Team India' to handle this crisis. The Central Government, the State Governments and local bodies and organisations joined together in this hour of crisis.

The role played by the frontline COVID warriors, including doctors, nurses, other medical staff, police, paramilitary forces, sanitary workers, media, essential service providers etc. during this period has been exceptionally remarkable. These warriors have worked day in and day out with utmost dedication, courage and selflessness to ensure that the impact of COVID-19 is minimal, for which they deserve our appreciation. Special compliments are due also to our farmers for their painstaking efforts in achieving record sowing of crops and production of foodgrains in higher quantities despite COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions. They stood firm against all the challenges when the pandemic severely affected livelihood and economy. The untiring efforts being made by our scientists in developing a vaccine for COVID-19 also needs to be acknowledged and we hope that their efforts come to fruition in the near future.

Hon. Members, it has become quite evident by now that COVID-19 has defined a new normal and we have to learn to live with social distancing norms and other precautions for some more time. As Members of Parliament, it is our bounden duty to help the fight against COVID-19 in the best possible way. As you know, in normal course, the House would have met in the month of July-end or in August for the Monsoon Session. However, due to travel and other restrictions put in place to check the spread of COVID-19, the House could not meet. I would like to inform you that I held several rounds of discussions with the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha and also with the Government. Secretariats of both the Houses had several rounds of intense discussions and then we tried to find out the best possible way for safe environment. That is how we are here today.

The Session is scheduled to have a total of 18 sittings. This has provided all of us with an opportunity to discharge our duties as legislators, that is, deliberating on important issues and arriving at meaningful solutions, and pass legislations to spur the nation on the path of progress. Our primary focus, therefore, in this brief Session would be to ensure that meaningful discussions take place on important and urgent legislations, and issues concerning the nation

including COVID-19 pandemic are also discussed and debated. Keeping in view the paucity of functional time and the volume of work before us, I would request all the Members to make the most of the available time at our disposal by deliberating meaningfully, legislating through consensus-building and successfully disposing of the business before the House on a daily basis.

To ensure that this Session is held in compliance with the physical distancing norms and with all necessary precautions, various arrangements have been made by the Secretariat in cooperation with agencies like ICMR. I have held an exhaustive meeting with Health Secretary, Home Secretary and others regarding the measures to be followed for creating a safe environment for conducting the Session. Accordingly, arrangements have been made including arrangement for COVID testing for the Members and the employees of the Secretariats of both the Houses. The normal seating arrangement with fixed Seat/Division Nos. has been dispensed with in this Session. The number of seats for each party at different places, that is, Rajya Sabha Chamber, Rajya Sabha Galleries and Lok Sabha Chamber, have been fixed as per their numerical strength for allocation amongst their Members by the respective parties. Members are requested to raise their hands and introduce themselves by announcing their names clearly before taking part in a discussion so that they can be easily identified. For the sake of reaching out to people through proper voice arrangement and all, we have permitted Members to speak while sitting. This is not done normally but this is an arrangement for this Session.

Members, rigorous efforts have been made through repeated testing and rehearsals to ensure that the technological and logistical arrangements made for this Session work smoothly. As this is the first time in the history of our Parliament that such arrangements are in place, Members are requested to bear with any teething problem, if it arises.

Hon. Members, I would like to inform you that on behalf of the Parliament, the Department-Related Standing Committees have started functioning since July despite adverse conditions due to

pandemic, soon after the restrictions on air and train travel were eased to some extent and have taken up examination of various aspects of the pandemic and its impact during the inter-session period. Seven such Committees of Rajya Sabha have held 26 meetings since July this year and spent a total time of 56 hours and 40 minutes deliberating on various aspects of the pandemic, its impact and management.

These Committees of Rajya Sabha have so far undertaken extensive examination of overall management of the situation piloted chiefly by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with other stakeholders; Preparedness to deal with Covid-19 pandemic and other such outbreaks in future from the scientific, research and medical perspectives; Outbreak of the pandemic and related contingent and mitigation plans; Preparedness of educational institutions during the pandemic; Impact of the pandemic on tourism and civil aviation sectors; Functioning of Virtual Courts during the pandemic and Attracting investments in post-Covid economy, etc. These are some of the subjects taken up by the Committees.

The time spent by these 7 Committees of Rajya Sabha accounts for about 90 per cent of the total time spent on deliberating various issues during the inter-session period. This goes to suggest that the Parliament has already been seized of various issues relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and its management and impacts and the way forward. I hope the reports to be submitted by these Committees soon would enable the country for better preparedness for the future.

Hon. Members, I have completed three years in office as Chairman of this august House last month having assumed the office on August 11, 2017. I have directed the Secretariat to undertake a detailed research on various aspects of the functioning of this House since inception. Accordingly, a detailed research and analysis was undertaken during the last eight months.

Broadly, the findings of this research are that since 1978, the period for which the required data is available with our Parliament, the productivity of the House has been steadily declining over the last 25

years. From 1978 till the middle of 90s, the productivity of this House was over 100 per cent. It fell to 89 per cent and then further down to 78 per cent. Since the general elections in 2014, the overall productivity of the 20 sessions has been 74 per cent. This shows a declining curve of productivity of the House. However, there is a certain silver lining. The overall productivity of the last three sessions of the House has been 94.60 per cent, the best for three consecutive sessions in the last five years. I sincerely hope that this 'new normal' would stay.

Regarding Department-Related Standing Committees, the attendance in the eight Committees of Rajya Sabha has crossed for the first time 50 per cent clocking 50.73 per cent during 2019-20. It was 44.87 per cent during 2017-18.

Hon. Members, there is a substantial Business Agenda before the House for these 18 sittings. The Government has proposed a list of number of Bills including 11 Ordinances to be replaced by the Acts of Parliament. The Opposition and other parties too have important issues to be taken up. I appeal to all of you to enable the proceedings of the House in a smooth manner so that all sections of the House get due share of the time of the House. I sincerely urge all of you to sustain and try to enhance the high productivity recorded by this august House during the last three Sessions. If the House is in order, everyone gets to be heard and replied to. People of the country have a lot of expectations from all of you in respect of providing valuable guidance on management of the pandemic, revival of the economy, return of normal social life. In short, they are keen to breathe normally and reclaim their social and economic space. It is for you to decide as to how each one of you would like to respond to such expectations of the anguished people of the country. A few hon. Members have sought leave of absence for the entire 252nd Session citing the Guidelines for Phased Re-opening (Unlock 4). But, if any particular Member, because of health reasons, desires to be absent, and they have written to me, I am getting all of them positively approved because it is a human problem. Honorable Members, I have read the advisory of Home Ministry and Health Ministry. It would be

appropriate to follow this advisory in normal time. Parliament Session is an essential responsibility of all of us, and, health is also paramount. Keep that in mind and then try to follow rules and guidelines.

Honorable Members, today is "Hindi Day". On this day in the year 1949, the Constituent Assembly accepted Hindi as the official language. Many people understand and speak Hindi in the country. Other Indian languages have also been given an honored place in the Constitution. All Indian languages are respected for us and it should be our endeavor that we learn and use more and more Indian languages along with Hindi. I appeal to all the people while encouraging Hindi, at the same time, promote mother tongue in your respective areas. That is the need of the hour. No language is superior and no language is inferior. That is why, my suggestion will be this. I told some of my friends who have apprehensions and I have given simple formula: No imposition, no opposition. That should be the position of any language. All are Indian languages. The country has accepted it. Everybody has got a right to agree, to disagree also. That is the beauty of Indian democracy. At the end of the day, the democracy, you know, how it runs. It goes by the will of the people and the majority of the Members. In their collective wisdom, the Constitution-framers, they had, at that time, declared it. And, we feel, out of our personal experience also, a large number of people, No one should have any objection to learning the languages spoken in the country. I want to tell you guys at a little personal level. I am interacting with a lot of friends and also looking at Facebook. I am advising families and children to try to learn a language other than their own. You can learn Hindi, learn Tamil, learn Telugu, learn Malayalam, learn Marathi, learn Assamese, learn Punjabi or any other Indian language. This is a good opportunity to learn another Indian language. I am happy that many of the children are trying to learn one more language. My request to those who are living in North India, especially to tell your children that if they also learn a South Indian language, there will be a harmonious atmosphere in the country and together we can take the country forward.

Hon. Members, extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures; this adage cannot be more true in any other time than in the present context. By taking all necessary precautions and measures, we shall be able to do our duty effectively and efficiently. With forbearance, discipline, determination and alertness, we will be able to overcome this testing time as well. I am sure about it.

I can assure you that I am always willing to do the needful to draw the best out of you. Let us make this Session happening in the troubled times, a really memorable one. This is my appeal to all of you on the beginning of this Session.

You are all aware that the sitting of the House from tomorrow, 15th September, 2020 to 1st October, 2020 will be from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Rule 180 (5) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha provides that the admitted Calling Attention shall be raised at 2.00 p.m. and at no other time during the sitting of the House of Council. In view of the change in time and sittings of the House, it is not possible to take up the Calling Attention at 2.00 p.m. Accordingly, the Calling Attention will be raised in the House at such a time as may be decided. Similarly, Rule 180(C) provides that the time for submitting notices for Special Mentions shall be up to 5.00 p.m. on the day for raising the matter next day of the sitting. Again, in view of the change in timing, it has been decided that the time for submitting notices for Special Mention shall be up to 12 noon on a day because we are meeting on the next day of the sitting at 9.00 a.m. Further, as the time of sitting is restricted to four hours, the Members whose notices of Special Mentions have been admitted should lay the approved text as called by the Chair. With regard to Zero Hour Submissions also, I have gone through the possibilities. Around ten persons will get the opportunity and they should also confine themselves to submitting the Zero Hour Mentions within the prescribed time of three minutes because there is no system of monitoring, but the Chair will be monitoring. Members are also requested to see to it that they follow time so that no need arises for the Chair to intervene in between.

Felicitations to Indian Chess Team for Winning First Ever Gold Medal at Fide Chess Olympiad 2020

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, on behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the Indian Chess team led by Vidit Santosh Gujrathi comprising Vishwanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, Arvindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, Praggnanandha R., Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni, Vaishali R., Vantika Agrawal and Divya Deshmukh for winning the first ever Gold Medal and being declared Champions along with Russia at the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2020, which was held online from 24th July to 30th of August, 2020. It is indeed a matter of great pride that our Chess players, many of whom are teenagers, continue to further the rich legacy of Indian Chess and make it to newer heights. Their example should inspire our young Chess players and other young sportspersons to emulate and improve upon their achievements. I wish all the Chess players success in their future endeavours and hope, they continue to bring many more laurels to the country.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 2020-21

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2020-21.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA moved the following motion:

"That Shri Harivansh be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha".

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT) seconded the motion.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD), SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA, SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN moved the following motion:

"That Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI ANAND SHARMA, SHRI AHMED PATEL, SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare that Shri Harivansh has been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

FELICITATION TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): On my behalf and on behalf of my party, I congratulate Shri Harivansh ji on becoming the Deputy Chairman. He has become the Deputy Chairman of this House for the second time and has tried his best to do justice to the representatives of all the parties. This is a House where we all work together in the interest of the country and whether be Honourable Chairman or Honourable Deputy Chairman or any Chairperson, it is always his endeavour that all members get an opportunity to speak because we are all equal here and all Members of Parliament are equal. Today, I giving congratulation on behalf of me and my party, I hope that the Honourable Deputy Chairman is fully capable for running the proceedings of this House and he will do equal justice with all. I once again congratulate you very much.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Shri Harivansh ji has two very prominent qualities. One, he is a scholar and other is very humble. When a person is humble, he naturally becomes the ideal for people. I hope that in view of his humility and the manner in which he has run the House in the past, he will get full support from all the sides of the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Respected Chairman, first of all, I congratulate you and your team, whatever efforts have been made for this arrangement. I congratulate Shri Harivansh ji on behalf of the entire House and all the people of the country for being elected the Deputy Chairman of this House for the second time. The way, Shri Harivansh ji has made his honest identity in the world of social work and journalism, this is the reason, I have always had a lot of respect for him and the same feeling and respect is also in the mind of every member of the House today. His style of working, the way he conducts the proceedings of the House and his fair role in the House strengthens democracy.

Mr. Chairman, this time, this house is functioning under the most different and contrasting circumstances in its history. In circumstances like the corona epidemic, it is the duty of all of us that this House should work and fulfill the necessary responsibilities for the country. I am confident that all of us will discharge our duties, taking all the precautions and following all the guidelines.

Mr. Chairman, as much as the members of the Rajya Sabha will now cooperate the Deputy Chairman in running the proceedings of the House smoothly, the more time will be properly utilized and all will also be safe.

Mr. Chairman, the responsibility of the Upper House of Parliament for which we all trusted Harivansh ji, has fulfilled at all levels.

Mr. Chairman, Harivansh ji has fulfilled his duty with such success that these two years are witness to this. Harivansh ji completed full discussion on the major Bills in the House and he sat continuously for many hours to get the Bill passed and run the House efficiently. During that period many historical Bills, changing the future of the country, the direction of the country, were passed in this House. Last year itself, this House set the record of highest productivity in 10 years**.** This has also increased the dignity of the House. The Constitution makers had expected this from the Upper House of the Parliament. From the land of democracy, Bihar, JP And

from the land of Karpoori Thakur, from the land of Bapu's Champaran, when a seeker of democracy comes forward and takes over the responsibilities, this happen what Harivansh ji has shown.

His village had a school under a neem tree, where he had got his early education. Understanding the ground, sitting on the ground, he had got education to connect with the ground from there. Harivansh ji comes from Jai Prakash ji's village, Sitabdiyara. This village is also the birthplace of Jai Prakash ji. After coming to high school, there was talk of making shoes for Harivansh ji for the first time. He had neither wore nor purchased shoes before that.

The influence of J.P.was very much on him. At the same time, his attachment to books also increased. I have also come to know an anecdote connected with that. When Harivansh ji got the government scholarship for the first time, he bought the books instead of taking the scholarship money home. The entry of books in Harivansh's life at that time is still intact in the same way.

Mr. Chairman, Harivansh ji entered in parliamentary life in 2014 after doing social journalism for nearly four decades. The manner in which Harivanshji took care of the dignities as the Deputy Chairman of the House, his tenure as a Member of Parliament has been equally dignified. As a member, Harivansh ji had effectively expressed his point on the subjects, be it economic or strategic security. We all know that it is his identity to talk in a polite manner. As a member of the House, he has tried his best to serve the country with his knowledge and that experience. Harivansh ji has increased dignity of India and Indian Parliament on all international platforms.

Mr. Chairman, Apart from the role of the Deputy Chairman of the House, Harivansh ji has also been the Chairman of several committees of Rajya Sabha. As the Chairman of all such committees, Harivansh ji has improved the functioning of the committees and underlined their role effectively. After becoming an MP, he tried hard to ensure that all MPs became duty-bound by their conduct and behaviour.

Mr. Chairman, Harivansh ji is equally active as an intellectual and thinker even in the parliamentary work and responsibilities. The journalist and writer inside them remains the same. His book closely captures the life of our former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekharji, and it also shows the writing ability of Harivansh ji. It is a privilege of this house and all the members that we will also get further guidance of Harivansh ji as Deputy Chairman.

Honorable Chairman, this Upper House of Parliament has completed the journey of more than 250 sessions. This journey is a testimony of our maturity as a democracy.

Once again, Harivansh ji, best wishes to you for this important and big responsibility. Stay healthy and keep the expectations of this Upper House by keeping a healthy atmosphere in the house. My best wishes to Manoj Jha ji who contested against Harivansh ji. This process of election is equally important for the dignity of democracy. Our Bihar has been the land of India's democratic tradition. I believe that Harivansh ji will further refined the tradition of Vaishali, the pride of Bihar and that ideal, through this House.

I thank all the honourable Members of the House for their involvement in this election process. Once again I congratulate Harivansh ji and all the members. Thank you.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: We are impressed with Harivansh ji's ability and knowledge about parliamentary procedures. He spent his entire life in journalism and journalists look upon things from different angles. We hope that when he will be conducting the House he will take care of everyone. Manoj Jha ji has also filed his nomination. Both of them are very old and great friends. They have worked together in political field for a pretty long time. I also compliment Manoj Jhaji for keeping this democratic tradition high and I congratulate our Deputy Chairman also.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: I congratulate Harivansh ji. He has won the hearts of the House. Shri Manoj Jha is a very valued rival. Both are good friends. This is a Hindi Day. We want Hindi to be

spoken here. We love Hindi more than you do. You have yourself said, use simple Hindi. Once again I congratulate Shri Harivansh ji.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I congratulate the Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh ji. As the hon. Prime Minister has said, he is a renowned journalist. The success and performance of the Deputy Chairman or Chairman depends upon the fair balance that they are able to maintain between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches and the fair decisions that they take while conducting the House. He brings the same qualities of leadership when he occupies the position of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. I congratulate him once again and I am very confident that he would do justice to this August House as the Deputy Chairman of this House.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I on behalf of my Party, the DMK, congratulate Shri Harivansh, who has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of this august House consecutively for the second term. He is a reputed journalist. He has the credit of having a very close association with the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandrashekhar. He is a very knowledgeable person. His responsibility is to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House as well as to protect the rights of the Members. We expect him as friendly in the Chair as he is in the Chamber. It is a House of deliberation and the opportunities have to be distributed both to the ruling party and the opposition parties. I very much expect him in the coming days to uphold the dignity of the House and further up his performance.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: I, on behalf of the Nationalist Congress Party, congratulate Harivanshji, once again, on being elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Harivanshji has been a prolific writer. He was a journalist who turned round the newspaper Prabhat Khabar. Harivanshji has had the great fortune to have worked with very prominent leaders like former Prime Minister, Chandra Shekharji. He has been extremely kind and courteous in his two years as Deputy Chairman. I once again congratulate Harivanshji on his donning Deputy Chairman's position.

SHRI RAM CHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: I congratulate Harivansh ji on being re-elected to the post of Deputy Chairman. Our both candidates were from our Bihar, one was from Janata Dal (U) and the other was from Rashtriya Janata Dal. I hope that Harivansh ji will conduct the House accommodating all the Members.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I once again thank all my colleagues, the opposition and the ruling party.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: I, on behalf of my party Shiv Sena and on my own behalf, congratulate Harivansh ji for being elected the Deputy Chairman of this House. Today is "Hindi Day" and today Harivansh ji's selection for the post of Deputy Chairman is also an honor for "Hindi Day". Harivansh ji has done journalism very decently. I have never seen Harivansh ji frustrated by the ruckus in the House. I congratulate him again on being elected Deputy Chairman.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: On behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party, I congratulate Shri Harivanshji for once again holding this post. He has full knowledge of the rules and regulations for the conduct of the business of the Rajya Sabha. He takes special care of small parties while being strict in the conduct of the House. Even after the time of speech ended, he always gave encouragement and opportunity to people like us to conclude their speeches soon. Besides being a journalist and statesman, he is very decent. We sincerely hope that he will work to further enhance the dignity of this House.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: On behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), I congratulate Shri Harivanshji for having been elected as the Deputy Chairman of this House. As an experienced politician and parliamentarian, he can uphold the legacy and dignity of this House. In democracy, there may be dissent. All Members have different views on each and every issue. I hope, with the experience that he gained as the Deputy Chairman earlier, he will uphold and protect the democratic right of all the Members. Finally, I take this opportunity to compliment Professor Manoj Jha also.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: After a dignified contest, Shri Harivanshji has become the Deputy Chairman of this House once again, and, I am very sure that with his experience, wisdom and his emergence from the socialist school of Chandrasekhar will help him run this House in a proper way. Finally, I would like to congratulate our friend Manoj Kumar Jha also for the way in which he contested this election.

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: On behalf of the Aam Aadmi Party I heartily congratulate Shri Harivanshji on being selected as the Deputy Chairman and also congratulate Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha Ji for having shown his decency and simplicity as the election could be avoided today. This is the beauty of democracy. Harivanshji always gave us the opportunity to speak in the House. I hope that he will continue to highlight the ideas of Gandhiji, Lohiaji and Jai Prakashji in this temple of democracy.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: On behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I would congratulate Mr. Deputy Chairman. We all know his functioning in the first leg. He treated everybody equally. He gave equal rights to everybody. I congratulate him on behalf of the Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): This day strengthens our democracy. This House has given Harivansh Babuji an opportunity to be selected as the Deputy Chairman for the second time today. He was selected after Manoj Jha withdrew his candidature. I congratulate him on behalf of the Republican Party of India. I hope that he will conduct the proceedings of the House in an appropriate manner. I wish them all the best.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: I welcome and congratulate Mr. Harivansh. He is mild mannered and soft spoken. As a person, he is one of my best friends. He is a fit person to be the Deputy Chairman. He will definitely follow the rules. I expect him to

be fair to all the parties. I think he will perform his duty perfectly. On behalf of my party, I assure him our complete support.

SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Bhundar: On behalf of the Shiromani Akali Dal, I congratulate Shri Harivanshji on being selected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the second time. He is mild mannered and a big scholar and very down-to-earth. For this reason, with the cooperation of every one, the ruling party has nominated him for the second time today. I hope he will take everyone along in this system of democracy.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): I heartily congratulate Hon'ble Harivanshji on his selection as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha second time. He is a sharp intellectual and hard-working political activist. He has performed various responsibilities from time to time. His behaviour has been highly cooperative towards the members. Both the persona and work of Shri Harivansh ji are exemplary and his dignified personality will enhance the prestige and fame of the Upper House of Parliament. It is expected that he will continue to conduct the proceedings of the House in an excellent manner with honesty and hard work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I extend my heartiest congratulations to Harivanshji on his re-election as the Deputy Chairman. His re-election stands testimony to his wide acceptability across the parties and his competence in conducting the House. I would also like to compliment Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha for the sporting spirit he has shown. We, the House together, have clearly exhibited such camaraderie. But in a democracy, there would be contest, there would be proposition and opposition but at the end of the day, we are all together. Under such a spirit, the House has elected you. I do not want to speak at length because as today is the first day, I want the other Business also to be completed. Hon. Prime Minister has elaborately introduced you to the new Members also. There are more than forty two new Members, who have been elected. It would be very useful for them also to know you better. Of course, the old Members have the experience also.

I rarely see Harivanshji, without a smile on his face. That is a great quality in conducting the proceedings of the House in spite of even the grave provocations at times. I once again extend my best wishes to Harivanshji. I am sure he continues to serve this august House with the same zeal, tenacity and vigour that is worthy of stature and dignity of this House. I wish him all the success for the Office he is going to adorn and for the second time in a row.

The Deputy Chairman may thank the Members for their feelings.

SHRI HARIVANSH: Hon'ble Chairman, I express my gratitude to you and express my gratitude and thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like to remember the Chief Minister of Bihar on this occasion. I express my gratitude to the leader of the House, BJP National President Jagat Prakash Naddaji and the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, leaders of all parties and every Hon'ble parlimentarian. Mr. Chairman, there are moments in life when one gets speechless. There are many such episodes in the Ramayana, when *Samarth Mahakavi* like Tulsidas said that the senses are incapable, then he prays to Lord Shiva to give him competence and strength to say whatever he wants to say. My situation is similar to this. How to express my gratitude and thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji. I did not know you before my entering parliamentary life. I come from a village and background, about which the Hon'ble Chandrashekharji wrote that in 1951-52, when he visited that village to meet J.P.ji for the fist time as a student, there was no road to visit that village. When he got close to the village, he asked an elderly man cutting grass how far is J.P.'s house from here? The man replied that I kept cutting grass around my hamlet for a lifetime, but I never went east. From that village the J.P.'s house was hardly three kilometers away. It is my privilege that I am a resident of Sitabadiyara, the village of Jai Prakashji. Generations were born and passed there and could not get out of there. All of you considered me worthy of the important responsibility of this great institution, for that I am grateful to you all. When I came to this House for the first time in the year 2014, I learnt the political dignity, etiquette, not to go into

the well of the House, behave moderately, humility etc. from Hon'ble Nitish ji. I express my thankfulness and gratitude to the parties and their leaders whose affection was shown in making me a candidate again. When I was new in this House, as a Member, I used to sit back. At that time I said in the House that whenever I listen to the Leader and Opposition Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Ji, I learn a lot. I was new to this House, I was not known to anyone, but the speeches of some people attracted me a lot. One of them was Shri Arun Ji. I am also thankful to the Hon'ble Chairman, the Leader of the House, the Opposition and the leaders of all the opposition parties for their guidance, affection and support during my previous tenure. I learnt the high dignity of this august House, execution of work and self-discipline from the Hon'ble Chairman. I always learn from him. His standing instruction has been to have the best debate here under parliamentary decorum, rules and laws. Today the whole world is going through an unprecedented crisis. We all are meeting amidst a serious challenge, but every crisis gives us an opportunity. We have come to realize the inner strength and amazing potential of India during this corona period. Now there are testing laboratories in every district of the country. Production of test kits has increased despite the lockdown. Approval of the investment proposals at a fast pace brought momentum in the system. All this happened in very adverse conditions. This is India's capability. However, Parliament and this House have a big role in deciding how to fully utilize this capacity and how to use it better. Unfortunately the atmosphere in the House sometimes gets disturbed. We should find a way out of these disruptions as much as possible. Because in a rapidly changing world, time and opportunities wait for no one. We have to walk according to the intention of the framers of constitution of our House and the demand of today's time. No legislation should be made in a hurry, so the role of this House is important. We have to balance coming together. This House of Elders will succeed in handling the most serious challenges of the country, this capability is there in it.

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GOVERNMENT MOTION

Suspension of Rules Relating to Starred Questions and Private Members' Business

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): I move the following motion:

"Keeping in view that the current Session of Rajya Sabha is being held in extraordinary circumstances prevailing due to COVID-19 pandemic requiring maintenance of social distancing and keeping the movement of Government officials and others within the Parliament precincts to the bare minimum, this House resolves that Starred Questions and Private Members' Business may not be brought before the House for transaction during the Session, and all relevant Rules on these subjects in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha may stand suspended to that extent".

The motion was adopted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Abolish the Holding of Uniform Entrance Examination of All Medical Educational Institutions

SHRI P. WILSON: I would like to bring to the attention of the Central Government the untold hardships faced by the students aspiring to seek admission into the medical and dental courses because of the NEET examinations. Three aspirants between the ages of 19 and 21 ended their own lives in Tamil Nadu apprehending that they will not succeed in NEET examinations. Fourteen young students from Tamil Nadu took their lives fearing that they would not succeed in NEET. It is being felt across the country that NEET not only gives students studying in CBSE schools an upper hand but is also greatly disadvantageous to economically weaker sections of the society.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Need to Include Chattisgarhi Language in Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: My point is regarding inclusion of Chhattisgarhi language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Chhattisgarhi language has had a glorious history. The words of Chhattisgarhi language can be found even in the Ramcharitmanas. Besides, our writers have also made efforts to promote this language by writing poems, plays, essays and research papers in this language. But it is imperative that Chhattisgarhi language is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution for its comprehensive development.

(*Shri Tiruchi Siva associated*.)

3. Need to Revoke Changes Made in Labour Laws by States to Stop Exploitation of Labourers

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Covid has brought all the economic activities across the country to a grinding halt. This has caused deep crisis of employment for the labourers. Surprisingly, the state governments have brought about changes in the Labour Laws even amidst this adverse time in favour of the industrialists, instead of providing help to these hapless workers. Similar is the case with Madhya Pradesh. The legal protection that had been put in place by Baba Saheb Ambedkar through the Constitution, is being taken away. The workers are not feeling secure. I request that the exploitation of workers is put to an end and Labour Laws revoked by the states are restored immediately.

(Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Shri M. Shanmugam and Shri Rajeev Satav associated.)

4. Need for Special Census for Backward Classes and Establishment of a Separate Ministry to Provide Reservation for Backward Classes in Parliament and Legislature

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: Census process in our country is likely to commence within a few days. But both the Centre and the State governments are not undertaking census

of the backward classes, nor are they relegating sufficient funds to meet the needs of the backward classes. Several individuals and institutions as well as eminent social scientists expressed the need of census for meaningful planning and development.

5. Need to Withdraw the Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: My submission is about withdrawing draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020 which has raised a lot of public concerns and protests. During the lockdown period there was a concerted attempt to issue this notification, but it has been held back because of these public protests and concerns. The draft EIA notification is dangerous because it reduces the role of the public and does away with any assessment by local impacted communities. Simultaneously, it is anti-public health and anti-federalism because it is taking away the powers of States and centralising everything in the Centre. It is anti-jurisprudence as well because the notification exceeds the mother Act, the Environment Protection Act of 2020. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to put the draft EIA notification, which is dangerous, into a complete cold storage.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR), responding to the matter, said: This issue is not as simple. It is just collecting all the facts and adhering to the High Court decision and decisions. So, I deny the charges.

6. Need for a Law to Control Rising Population

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Drawing the attention of the Government and the House to the alarming situation arising due to the rising population in the country, I want to submit that the country is getting into deep trouble as a result of the explosive

situation of population which is becoming an obstacle with regard to the resources and all-round development of the country. Today we are facing numerous problems like unemployment, food crisis, malnutrition, housing, poverty, drinking water and many others. Due to unprecedented population growth, there is an imminent threat of fatal diseases and several other problems. Therefore, I urge the Government to come up with a tough law regarding this unprecedented growth of population which will definitely bring positive change in all walks of life.

7. Situation Arising Out of Making English as Compulsory Medium of Instruction in the Schools of Andhra Pradesh

***SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: (Spoke in Telugu.)**

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Following Bills were introduced:

1. The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020

*** Synopsis of speech delivered by hon'ble Member in Telugu will be published separately as supplement.**

The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): I move that the Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Discussion not commenced.

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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