

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, January 29, 2021 / Magha 09, 1942 (Saka)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 29th January, 2021.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, since we met last on 23rd September, 2020, three of our colleagues, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, Shri Ahmed Patelji and Shri Abhay Bharadwaj and 11 of our former Members, namely, Shri Jaswant Singhji, Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimurji, Shri Rasheed Masoodji, Shri Keshubhai S. Patelji, Shri Bhagirathi Majhiji, Shri Kailash Narain Sarangji, Shri Motilal Voraji, Shri Madhavsinh Solankiji, Shri Kamal Morarkaji, Shri B. S. Gnanadesikanji, Shri Ramji Lalji, and Shri S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, a renowned playback singer, have left us for their heavenly abode. Due to paucity of time, I am not reading out detailed obituary references prepared in this respect, but I will be making a reference about it in a brief manner. The detailed obituary references will be deemed as read

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

and will be formed part of the record of the House and will be incorporated in the records and the debate of the House.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, a sitting Member of this House and Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution passed away on the 8th of October, 2020, at the age of 74 years.

Born in July, 1946 at Shaharbanni Village in Khagaria District of Bihar, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was educated at the Kosi College, Khagaria and the Patna University.

A champion of the oppressed and marginalized, Shri Paswan worked assiduously for the upliftment of poor, downtrodden and dispossessed. Soft-spoken and dignified in his conduct, he was known for his approachability and extending assistance to the needy and vulnerable, irrespective of their affiliations. Shri Paswan served as the Chairman of Vichar Shakti; International Dalit and Minority Forum; and National Dalit and Minority Front. He also served as a Member of AIIMS Advisory Committee, from 1991 to 1996 and that of the Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University, from 1998 to 1999.

Shri Paswan started his legislative career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1969 and went on to serve as a Member of Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth Lok Sabha. He holds a Guinness World Record for winning Sixth Lok Sabha election from Hajipur constituency by highest margin. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan also served as the Leader of the House of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

A versatile man, Shri Paswan had affable relations across party lines. He served as a Union Minister under several Prime Ministers and held wide ranging portfolios of Labour and Welfare; Railways; Parliamentary Affairs; Communications; Coal and Mines; Chemical and Fertilizers; and Steel in the Union Council of Ministers. He held the portfolio of Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution from May, 2014 till his passing away. Shri Paswan has been posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan this year in the field of Public Affairs.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms from July, 2010 to May, 2014 and again from June, 2019 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a champion of the rights of the poor and the marginalised.

Shri Ahmed Patel, a sitting Member of this House passed away on the 25th of November, 2020, at the age of 71 years.

Born in August, 1949, at Ankleshwar in Bharuch District of Gujarat, Shri Ahmed Patel was educated at Shree Jayendra Puri Arts and Science College, Bharuch.

Shri Patel was initiated into public life by way of assisting his father in the cooperative bank movement. He administered Bharuch's dairy cooperative in early 1970s and served as the President of Ankleshwar Taluka Panchayat from 1976 to 1977. Shri Patel was actively involved in drought relief work in Gujarat during late 1980s and played a proactive role in setting up the Narmada Management Authority to monitor the Sardar Sarovar Project. As a Member of Parliament, he was also instrumental in ushering in of the industrial and infrastructural development of Bharuch district.

A leader with mass appeal, Shri Patel garnered a huge following amongst the masses, particularly the younger generations. He was full of ceaseless energy and tremendous dynamism. Known for his fond and deeper connections with the grassroot level political workers, Shri Patel played a key role in strengthening his party through his planning and strategies.

Shri Ahmed Patel represented the State of Gujarat in this House for five consecutive terms – from August, 1993 till his sad demise. He also served as a Member of Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha.

In the passing away of Shri Ahmed Patel, the country has lost a dedicated social worker, an astute politician and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Abhay Bharadwaj, a sitting Member of this House passed away on the 1st of December, 2020, at the age of 66 years.

Born in April, 1954, in Uganda, Shri Abhay Bharadwaj hailed from Rajkot District of Gujarat.

Shri Bharadwaj started his career as a Journalist in Janasatta, a regional newspaper, at a very tender age of seventeen years and went on to serve as the Desk-editor of it at the age of eighteen years, thus becoming the youngest Desk-editor in the country.

An advocate, Shri Bharadwaj had an extensive and wide ranging experience in legal work. He served as a Member of the 21st Law Commission of India and contributed towards drafting of several important legislations.

Shri Abhay Bharadwaj became Member of this House on the 22nd June of 2020, from the State of Gujarat. It is indeed saddening to lose a colleague in such a short span of time.

In the passing away of Shri Abhay Bharadwaj, the country has lost an eminent lawyer and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Jaswant Singh, a former Member of this House passed away on the 27th of September, 2020, at the age of 82 years.

Born in January, 1938, at Jasol Village in Barmer District of Rajasthan, Shri Jaswant Singh was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer; Joint Services Wing, Dehradun; National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

A soldier turned politician, Shri Jaswant Singh had started his career with Indian Army and had always dressed and conducted himself as Army Officer with his military style shirts with epaulette flaps on his shoulders. Shri Jaswant Singh served as a Minister holding important portfolios of Finance, External Affairs, Department of Electronics, Surface Transport, Defence and, Finance and Company Affairs in the Union Council of Ministers, between 1996 to 2004. His tenure as Minister coincided with a time when India was redefining its

economic and foreign policy objectives, which presented with its unique set of challenges.

A social worker, Shri Jaswant Singh was a trustee of various charities engaged in running hospitals, museums and water conservation projects. Through his foundation, Shri Jaswant Singh provided ambulance services in the desert districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer. He also strived to promote and disseminate the literature of 'Dingal', an ancient local language.

A voracious reader and a prolific writer, Shri Jaswant Singh contributed widely to Indian and foreign magazines, newspaper and journals. He also penned several books on wide ranging subjects including national security and international affairs.

Shri Jaswant Singh represented the State of Rajasthan in this House for four terms. He served as the Leader of this House, from 1999 to 2004 and as the Leader of the Opposition, from June, 2004 to May, 2009. He also served as a Member of Lok Sabha for four terms. He was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission from March, 1998 to February, 1999. During his long and illustrious career as a parliamentarian, he also served as the Chairman of Estimates Committee, Committee on Environment and Forests, Committee on Energy and Committee on Public Accounts.

In the passing away of Shri Jaswant Singh, the country has lost an able administrator, an astute diplomat, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur, a former Member of this House passed away on the 28th of September, 2020, at the age of 83 years.

Born in November, 1936, in Jorhat District of Assam, Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur was educated at the J. B. College, Jorhat and the Aligarh Muslim University.

A social worker, Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur worked assiduously for the upliftment of women and their empowerment. She helped set up numerous Mahila Co-operative Stores and societies and

also organized training in dairy and poultry keeping, gardening and reading. Shrimati Taimur was actively involved in organising Civil Defence measures during the Chinese aggression in 1962 and the Pakistani aggression in 1965 and in organizing training camps for women. She also organized relief work in Mampa Refugee Camps in 1962 and Bangladesh Refugee Camps in 1971.

Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur started her career as a Lecturer of Economics in Debicharan Barua Girls College, Jorhat, in 1956. She served as a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly for four terms. She also served as a Minister in the Government of Assam holding portfolios of Education; and Agriculture, Haj and Wakf Property in 1975 and 1991, respectively. Shrimati Taimur also served as the Chief Minister of Assam, from December, 1980 to June, 1981 and has the distinction of being the only woman Chief Minister of Assam till date.

Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur served as a Nominated and elected Member of this House for two terms. She also served as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Rajya Sabha, from 2004 to 2009.

In the passing away of Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur, the country has lost a dedicated social worker, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Rasheed Masood, a former Member of this House passed away on the 5th of October, 2020, at the age of 73 years.

Born in August, 1947, at Gangoh in Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Masood was educated at the Aligarh Muslim University.

An agriculturist, Shri Masood served as the General Secretary of the All India Kisan Kamgar Sammelan, from 1980 to 1984 and as a Member of the Court of Aligarh Muslim University, from 1983 to 1984 and again, from 1990 to 2009. He also served as the Editor of Turning Point, a monthly magazine.

Shri Masood started his legislative career as a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha and went on to serve as a Member of Seventh, Ninth, Tenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha. He also served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, from April, 1990 to November, 1990.

Shri Rasheed Masood represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for three terms -- from July, 1986 to November, 1989; from July, 2010 to March, 2012 and again from April, 2012 to September, 2013.

In the passing away of Shri Rasheed Masood, the country has lost a veteran Parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Shri Keshubhai S. Patel, a former Member of this House passed away on the 29th of October, 2020, at the age of 90 years.

Shri Keshubhai S. Patel was born in July, 1930 at Rajkot in Gujarat.

A social worker, Shri Patel actively participated in Navnirman agitation and Goa agitation.

Shri Patel started his legislative career as a Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in 1975 and remained its Member for six consecutive terms, till 2002. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly again in 2012 for the seventh time. Shri Patel served as the Minister in the Government of Gujarat holding various portfolios and as the Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat for two terms. He had the recognition as a Farm Leader and enjoyed the reputation of a popular Chief Minister of Gujarat. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in Gujarat Legislative Assembly, from 1990 to 1995.

Shri Patel has been posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan this year in the field of Public Affairs.

Shri Keshubhai S. Patel represented the State of Gujarat in this House, from April, 2002 to April, 2008.

In the passing away of Shri Keshubhai S. Patel, the country has lost a skilful administrator and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Bhagirathi Majhi, a former Member of this House passed away on the 2nd of November, 2020, at the age of 66 years.

Born in February, 1954 at Murumdihi in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha, Shri Bhagirathi Majhi was educated at the Keonjhar College, Utkal University, Odisha.

A social worker, Shri Majhi strived for the upliftment of the tribal people. He also served as an officer in the State Bank of India for 25 years and was the President of the Baripada Urban Co-operative Bank, from October, 2004 to August, 2005.

Shri Bhagirathi Majhi represented the State of Odisha in this House from March, 2006 to July, 2010.

In the passing away of Shri Bhagirathi Majhi, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a champion of tribal welfare.

Shri Kailash Narain Sarang, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 14th of November, 2020, at the age of 86 years.

Born in June, 1934, at Bareli in Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kailash Narain Sarang took active part in the merger movement of Bhopal State into Union of India at a very young age of 13 years.

An ardent social worker, Shri Sarang worked assiduously for the upliftment of downtrodden, tribals and farmers.

Shri Sarang served as the Secretary of Pandit Deen Dayal Vichar Prakashan and also published three weeklies namely 'Chairaiveti' in Hindi, 'Move On' in English and 'Ayaz' in Urdu for more than two decades.

He also took interest in the revival of Hindu philosophy, culture and tradition for better human society.

Shri Kailash Narain Sarang represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House, from April, 1990 to April, 1996.

In the passing away of Shri Kailash Narain Sarang, the country has lost a noted journalist, an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Motilal Vora, a former Member of this House passed away on the 21st of December, 2020, at the age of 92 years.

Born in December, 1928 at Nagaur District of Rajasthan, Shri Vora was educated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

A Journalist and Social worker, Shri Vora started his political career as a Member of the Municipal Committee of Durg-part of erstwhile Madhya Pradesh, in 1968 and also worked as a correspondent of various leading dailies.

Fondly called 'Babuji', Shri Vora, became a Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1972 and went on to serve the assembly for six terms between 1972 to 1992. He served as State and Cabinet Minister in the Government of Madhya Pradesh, from 1981 to 1984 and later adorned the office of the Chief Minister of the State twice, from 1985 to 1988, and, from January, 1989 to November, 1989. He also served as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from May, 1993 to May, 1996, before being elected as a Member of Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Shri Motilal Vora represented the State of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in this House for four terms -- from April, 1988 to March, 1989; from April, 2002 to April, 2008; from April, 2008 to April, 2014 and again from April, 2014 to April, 2020. He served as Union Cabinet Minister of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from February, 1988 to January, 1989 and also held charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for a brief period. You are all aware that Shri Motilal Vora was active in the House even at that age. He regularly used to not only attend the Session but also take part in the proceedings of the House.

In the passing away of Shri Motilal Vora, the country has lost an astute administrator, a dedicated social worker and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 9th of January, 2021, at the age of 93 years.

Born in July, 1927 at Bharuch District of Gujarat, Shri Solanki was educated at the Bombay University and the Gujarat University.

An advocate by profession, Shri Solanki practised law in the High Court of Gujarat and also served as a Lecturer in the Motilal Nehru Law College, Ahmedabad. Shri Solanki was sub-editor of a Gujarati daily from 1950 to 1956 and worked assiduously for the welfare of the poor and upliftment of backward people of Gujarat throughout his life.

Shri Solanki started his legislative career as a Member of Legislative Assembly of the erstwhile Bombay State and the State of Gujarat and served there for 31 years from 1957 to 1988. He was Cabinet Minister in the Government of Gujarat and later on adorned the office of Chief Minister of Gujarat four times in 1976, 1980, 1985 and 1989. An avid reader, Shri Solanki took keen interest in fine arts, wild life and natural history. He was Vice-President of Gujarat Natural History Society for 17 years.

Shri Solanki represented the State of Gujarat in this House for two consecutive terms – from April, 1988 to April, 1994 and again from April, 1994 to April, 2000 and served as Union Minister of Planning from June, 1988 to November, 1989 and External Affairs in 1991. He also served as Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs from April, 1994 to December, 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, the country has lost an adept administrator, a dedicated social worker and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Kamal Morarka, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 15th January, 2021, at the age of 74 years.

Born in June, 1946, in Mumbai, Shri Morarka was educated at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

An industrialist, Shri Morarka took keen interest in the economic development of the country. He served as the President of National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs, from 1977 to 1980; of All India Manufacturers' Organisation from 1989 to 1990; and, the Indian Council of Foreign Trade, from 1990 to 1991. He was also Vice-President of All India Association of Industries, Bombay, from 1990 to 1991. Shri Morarka also served as the Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Shri Morarka set up M. R. Morarka – GDC Rural Research Foundation in Nawalgarh, Rajasthan, in the early 1990s which works towards helping farmers through traditional as well as modern methods with special focus on organic farming and promotion of vermiculture technology.

Shri Kamal Morarka represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from April, 1988 to April, 1994. He also served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, from November, 1990 to June, 1991.

In the passing away of Shri Kamal Morarka, the country has lost a compassionate industrialist and an able parliamentarian.

Shri B. S. Gnanadesikan, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 15th January, 2021, at the age of 71 years.

Born in January, 1949 at Srivilluputtur in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu, Shri Gnanadesikan was educated at the Loyola College and Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Chennai.

An advocate by profession, Shri Gnanadesikan was actively involved in social work and took keen interest in conducting legal-aid camps in the State of Tamil Nadu for raising legal awareness among the masses. He also served as a Member of Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry.

Shri B. S. Gnanadesikan represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House for two terms -- from July, 2001 to July, 2007 and again from July, 2007 to July, 2013.

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

Shri Ramji Lal, a former Member of this House, passed away on the 15th of January, 2021, at the age of 88 years.

Born in March, 1932, at Arya Nagar village in Hisar District of Haryana, Shri Ramji Lal was educated at the D.N. College, Hissar and Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

An agriculturalist, Shri Lal worked assiduously for the upliftment of downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. He was instrumental in setting up several primary schools and high schools, Primary Health Centres, veterinary hospitals, district community centres and banks in villages. He was also actively associated with the construction of Panchayat bhawans, dharamshalas and drinking water wells particularly in areas inhabited by the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society. Shri Lal also served as the Chairman of the Backward Classes Commission of Haryana.

Shri Ramji Lal represented the State of Haryana in this House for two terms – from August, 1992 to May, 1993 and from April, 1994 to April, 2000.

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

Shri S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, known and affectionately called Balu, a renowned playback singer and music director, passed away on the 25th September, 2020, at the age of 74 years.

Born in June, 1946, at Konetampet village in Tiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu, Shri S. P. Balasubrahmanyam took to singing at a very young age. Shri Balasubrahmanyam rose to fame with his singing performance in the Tamil movie Adimaipen in 1969, and since then there was no looking back for him.

Fondly known as Balu, Shri Balasubrahmanyam acquired the status of a legend in the music industry. In a career spanning more than five decades, he sang more than 40,000 songs for which he also

holds a Guinness World Record in 16 different languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Assamese, Marathi, Punjabi and Hindi. His rich melodious voice, fine range and timbre along with an uncanny ability to blend any emotion in a song never ceased to mesmerize people across the globe. The wide range and expanse of innumerable songs sung by Shri Balasubrahmanyam is such that there is a number for every occasion, happy or sad. He also acted with roaring success in more than 45 films in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. A multi-talented and versatile artist, Balu was an excellent voice over and dubbing artist, a music composer, an actor and television anchor.

Shri Balasubrahmanyam was an institution by himself. He was a mentor par excellence and a genteel guide for the younger generation. The Telugu people in particular and the world of music in general will be indebted to him for unearthing fresh and latent singing talent through the popular programme of 'Padutha Theeyaga' telecast on ETV for many years. The soft-spoken, Shri Balasubrahmanyam, always used to encourage the budding performers by subtly correcting them in a friendly manner. It was a great quality of this iconic personality.

Shri S. P. Balasubrahmanyam was the recipient of several State and national awards and recognitions. He was a six time recipient of the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer and was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. Shri Balasubrahmanyam has also been posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan this year.

I had a special affinity towards Shri Balasubrahmanyam, because I knew him since his childhood for his humility, dedication and hard work. With his friendly disposition, Balu was equally affectionate towards me whenever we interacted.

In the passing away of Shri S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, the country has lost a legendary playback singer and one of the towering personalities in the world of Indian music and film industry.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Ahmed Patel, Shri Abhay Bharadwaj, Shri Jaswant Singh, Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur, Shri Rasheed Masood, Shri Keshubhai S. Patel, Shri Bhagirathi Majhi, Shri Kailash Narain Sarang, Shri Motilal Vora, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, Shri Kamal Morarka, Shri B. S. Gnanadesikan, Shri Ramji Lal and Shri S.P. Balasubrahmanyam.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah passed away on the 28th of September, 2020. He was highly respected internationally as a peacemaker and humanitarian leader. He played a leading role in strengthening our bilateral relations and took special care of the Indian community in Kuwait.

Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passed away on the 11th of November, 2020. As a friend and well wisher of India, he guided our bilateral engagements to greater heights. He will also be remembered for his warmth and affection for the Indian community in Bahrain.

The House joins the bereaved families, the Governments and the people of Kuwait and Bahrain in mourning the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al- Jaber Al-Sabah and His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in their hour of grief.

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

Reference to Victims of Sriwijaya Air Flight Crash at Jakarta, Indonesia

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, 62 persons lost their lives when a Sriwijaya Air Flight SJ182 crashed into the Java Sea on the 9th of January, 2021 shortly after take off from Jakarta Airport.

The loss of precious lives and injury to people in this tragic incident 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 people of Indonesia 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.)

OBSERVATION BY CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: “Members may kindly note that the normal seating arrangement with fixed Seat/Division Nos. has been dispensed with in this Session as was done in the previous 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 therefore requested to raise their hands, introduce themselves and also announce the place i.e. Gallery Number/ Lok Sabha Chamber clearly from where they are speaking before taking part in a discussion so that they can be identified easily. For the sake of reaching out to people through proper voice, Members are permitted to speak while sitting. This is not done normally but this is an arrangement made since the last Session.

I may also inform the Members that the Economic Survey 2020-2021 which will be laid today on the table of the House would be made available to members on Members' Login Portal soon after its laying.”

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in