

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
IN THE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA
Commencing on the 4th November, 1986/13 Kartika, 1908 (Saka)

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 4th November, 1986/13
Kartika, 1908 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Mufti Mohamad Sayeed (Jammu and Kashmir).

2. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami (West Bengal).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I extend to you a very warm and cordial welcome to the 140th Session of the House. I am sure you will have a very fruitful session of service to the nation.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to mention to the House the grievous loss suffered by the people of the friendly country of Mozambique in the sudden and tragic death of their President, Mr. Samora Machel, in an aircrash.

Mr. Samora Machel had been President of Mozambique since 1975 when he led the country to independence after a decade of struggle against the Portuguese regime. Ever since then he was deeply engaged in the task of reconstruction of the ravaged economy of his country amidst several internal problems. He was also a leading member of the Group of Frontline States, which has spearheaded a campaign for majority rule and end of apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. Machel was a very popular figure at the Non-aligned Meeting held in Harare in September and played a leading role in shaping the crucial decisions there.

Mr. Samora Machel adhered to the principles of non-alignment. He visited India in 1982 at the invitation of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He came again to attend the Seventh Meeting of the Non-aligned Heads of State/Government. He was here once more to attend the funeral of Smt. Indira Gandhi. I had the privilege of meeting and discussing with him the problems of frontline States at Gaborone when we both attended the 20th Anniversary of the Independence of Botswana. In the sudden death of President Samora Machel at a comparatively young age, the developing world has lost a dynamic leader with a charismatic personality who was fighting for equality and justice for the peoples of Africa.

Tempered in long years of struggle, Mr. Samora Machel's personality was cast in a heroic mould. He belonged to a generation of valiant fighters against colonialism and oppression. He belonged to the entire humanity and his death is mourned by freedom loving people all over the world.

As we mourn the death of Mr. Samora Machel, we assure the people of Mozambique that the struggle and sacrifice of Mr. Machel will not go in vain. Apartheid will end and justice will triumph.

I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Maganlal Bhagwanji Joshi, Shri T. Anjaiah and Dr. Salig Ram, former Members of this House and Shri Shantimoy Ghosh, a sitting Member of the House from the State of West Bengal. Shri Maganlal Bhagwanji Joshi was born

at village Jam-Jodhpur in Saurashtra region of Gujarat in April 1899 and had his education at Jamnagar and Bombay from where he passed High Court Vakil Examination. Apart from practising law in his home State Jamnagar, Shri Joshi participated in people's movement to end the princely regime of that State. A well-known Sanskrit scholar, Shri Joshi had translated the *Sama Veda* into Gujarati. Shri Joshi was a Member of the erstwhile Saurashtra State Assembly from 1948 to 1956 and served as its Speaker from 1952 to 1956. Shri Joshi was a Member of this House from May 1957 to April 1958, and made valuable contribution in the proceedings.

In the sudden passing away of Shri T. Anjaiah the country has lost a front rank trade union leader, a champion of the cause of the weaker sections of the society, whose personal life was a saga of struggle, suffering, simplicity and sacrifice. His was a rare case of a person who by his dedication and devotion rose from the position of a daily wage-earner to be the Chief Minister of a State and a member of the Union Council of Ministers.

Shri Anjaiah was born at village Bhanur in District Medak of Andhra Pradesh in 1929 and got his education in Hyderabad. He cut short his studies to offer satyagraha and to participate in the Quit India Movement in 1942. His career as a trade union leader started when he was working on daily wages in a private factory in Hyderabad and thereafter became the founder-member of the trade union movement in the erstwhile Hyderabad State and Andhra Pradesh. He served as a President of the Andhra Pradesh Branch of the Indian National Trade Union Congress from 1952 to 1958.

A person of simple habits and great humility, Shri Anjaiah served as a Minister of Labour in Andhra Pradesh and Chief Minister of that State and Minister of Labour in the Union Council of Ministers during his long

parliamentary career of 30 years from 1957 to 1986. He was a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1978 and again from 1981 to 1984, Member of this House from 1978 to 1980 and was a Member of the Lok Sabha till death.

In the demise of Shri Anjaiah, the country has lost a sincere and devoted social worker.

Dr. Salig Ram was born at village Ustehr in District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh in August 1909 and got his initial education at Kangra and Lahore and thereafter at King Edward Hospital Medical School, Indore. A medical practitioner by vocation, Dr. Salig Ram could not keep himself away from the social and political activities of his younger days. The Freedom struggle attracted him and he took an active part in the non-cooperation movement and offered satyagraha. Dr. Salig Ram was associated with several social welfare and educational organisations and worked steadfastly for the development of the Hill State.

Dr. Salig Ram was a member of this House from 1966 to 1972 and took active part in the debates. He also served as a Member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Minister in the Himachal Pradesh Government.

Shri Shantimoy Ghosh, who had been a Member of this House since September 1984, passed away suddenly at Calcutta on 31st October, 1986 following a heart attack. News of his passing away has caused us much grief. During his short term in this House he evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Shantimoy Ghosh was born in Jessore, now in Bangladesh, in March 1914 and had his education at Jessore and Calcutta. Since his school days he had started taking active part in political activities and later fought for the cause of the workers, peasants and the weaker sections of society. He had suffered imprisonment for long periods before and after

independence. A prominent member of the CPI(M) party Shri Ghosh worked for the welfare of the poor masses with great devotion and dedication.

We deeply mourn the passing away of President Samora Machel of Mozambique, Shri Maganlal Bhagwanji Joshi, Shri T. Anjaiah, Dr. Salig Ram and Shri Shantimoy Ghosh.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe two minutes' silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for two minutes]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Condition of workers engaged in stone crushing in Pakurh (Bihar)

*1. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:†

SHRI KAILASH PATI
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Times of India of the 14th September, 1986 to the effect that about 20,000 workers engaged in stone crushing in Pakurh, Bihar face certain death due to silicosis which they contract from the dust generated in the process;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number out of them are women and children who earn scanty wages and get no relief in any form; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In Pakurh area, there are over 150 working open-cast stone mines. Several stone-crushers are installed in the area, many of which come within the purview of the Mines Act, 1952, being located in or adjacent to and belonging to the mine.

The number of workers is not known. Under Section 25(1) of the Mines Act, Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis have been gazetted as notifiable occupational diseases and the owner, agent or manager of any mine where any work person contracts any notified disease is required to send notice thereof to the Chief Inspector of Mines. No such notice has been received by the Director General of Mines Safety in respect of any person employed in the Pakurh area. Further, under Section 25(2) of the Mines Act, 1952, if any Medical practitioner attending on any mine worker detects that such a person is suffering from any notifiable disease, he is required to report the same to the Chief Inspector of Mines in writing. No such report has been received by the DG, Mines Safety.

The Central Govt. has fixed minimum rates of wages in respect of scheduled employment of stone breaking and stone crushing and scheduled employment in stone-mines. These minimum wages are as per the attachee annexure.

During 1985, 14 stone mines in Pakurh area were inspected by the Officers of the DG, Mines Safety. During the current year, so far, 67 mines have been inspected. In some mines, dust respirators were provided, while in some others these were not provided. This has been brought to the notice of the mines management. Presently, initial and periodical medical examination of persons employed in open-cast mines is not mandatory. The proposal to issue a notification under the Mines Rules, 1955, for such initial/periodical examination to cover all persons engaged in crushing of minerals is under the consideration of Government.