

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 5th August, 2013/14th Sravana, 1935 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

(The National Anthem, "Jana Gana Mana", was played.)

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Kanimozhi (Tamil Nadu)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, Shri Madan Bhatia, Shri Kota Punnaiah, Shri Samar Mukherjee and Shri Khurshed Alam Khan, former Members of this House.

Shri Gandhi Azad passed away on the 5th of June, 2013, at the age of 66 years.

Born in July, 1946 at Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Azad was educated at D.A.V. Degree College, Azamgarh; D.N. College and Meerut College. A social worker, Shri Azad started his career as a teacher in a primary school and also served in various Government Departments including the Sales Tax Department. He was also associated with various social welfare organisations.

Shri Gandhi Azad represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two terms from November, 1996 to November, 2002, and again from November, 2002 to November, 2008. He was the Leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party in the Rajya Sabha from December, 1996 to July, 1998.

In the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Madan Bhatia passed away on the 27th of June, 2013, at the age of 83 years.

Born in August, 1929 in Jhelum, Shri Bhatia was educated at Government Colleges in Lahore and Ludhiana and at Lincoln's Inn, Cambridge University.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Bhatia served as Chairman of the All India Conference of Lawyers in October, 1980. He was actively involved in the uplift of the downtrodden sections of society and established '*Janata Vikas Kendra*' in slum areas of Delhi. He also authored the book '*Public Service Law Through Cases*'.

Shri Bhatia was a Nominated Member of this House for two terms, from September, 1982 to September, 1988 and again from November, 1988 to November, 1994.

In the passing away of Shri Madan Bhatia, the country has lost a distinguished Parliamentarian, a legal luminary and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Kota Punnaiah passed away on the 29th of June, 2013, at the age of 87 years. Born in May, 1926 in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Punnaiah was educated at Municipal High School and S.R.R. and C.V.R. Colleges, Vijayawada. A social worker, Shri Punnaiah worked tirelessly for the uplift of the Backward Classes and weaker sections of society. He was President of the District Depressed Classes League, Khammameth. He was a Member of several bodies and institutions like the Journalists' Association of Khammameth, the All India Leather Advisory Committee and the Film Censor Board (Southern Region), Tamil Nadu. He was also Secretary of the State Social Welfare Committee, Government of Andhra Pradesh. An avid sports and music lover, he also had a Telugu play '*Mnade Kondalu*' and a Telugu publication to his credit. Shri Punnaiah represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from April, 1960 to April, 1966; from April, 1966 to April, 1972 and again from April, 1972 to April, 1978.

In the passing away of Shri Kota Punnaiah, the country has lost an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Samar Mukherjee passed away on the 18th of July, 2013, at the age of 99 years. Born in November, 1913 in Puras Village of Howrah district in West Bengal, Shri Mukherjee was educated at Calcutta University. A freedom fighter and social worker, Shri Mukherjee underwent imprisonment several times during the freedom struggle. He was an active trade union leader. He served as the General Secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Union from 1983 to 1991 and thereafter as its Vice-President. He also served as General Secretary of the United Central Refugee Council. He was also the President of the All India Estate Insurance Employees

Federation and the Federation of Printing Press and Allied Firms Employees Union. Shri Mukherjee started his legislative career as a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1957 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1957 to 1962. He was also a Member of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1984. Shri Samar Mukherjee represented the State of West Bengal in this House for two terms, from December, 1986 to July, 1987 and from July, 1987 to July, 1993. He was the Leader of CPI(M) in both the Houses.

In the passing away of Shri Samar Mukherjee, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter, a noted trade unionist, an able Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Khurshed Alam Khan passed away on the 20th of July, 2013, at the age of 94 years. An educationist and social worker, Shri Khan was associated with several educational and social welfare institutions. He served as Chairman of the Delhi State Haj Committee, and the Urdu Advisory Committee, Delhi Administration. He was also the Chairman of the World Tourism Organisation.

Shri Khan was Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial College, Delhi. He was Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi, from 1985 to 1990 and again from 1995 to 2001. He was a founder-member of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Trust which helps needy students with financial assistance for their studies.

Shri Khurshed Alam Khan represented the NCT of Delhi and the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1974 to April, 1980 and again from July, 1980 to December, 1984. Shri Khan was also a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State and as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in varying spells from October, 1980 to October 1986.

Shri Khan served as Governor of Goa from July, 1989 to March, 1991 and as Governor of Karnataka from January, 1991 to December, 1999. During this period, he also held additional charge as Governor of Maharashtra and Kerala.

In the passing away of Shri Khurshed Alam Khan, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Gandhi Azad, Shri Madan Bhatia, Shri Kota Punnaiah, Shri Samar Mukherjee and Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.

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

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

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

REFERENCES BY THE CHAIR

- (i) **Victims of the flash floods, cloud burst and landslides in Uttarakhand**
- (ii) **Victims of floods due to heavy monsoon rains in several parts of the country**
- (iii) **Loss of lives caused by Maoist and terrorist attacks in different areas**
- (iv) **Death of school children after consuming mid-day meal in Saran district of Bihar**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, 580 persons lost their lives, while 4,473 others were reportedly injured and approximately 5,526 persons are still reportedly missing in flash floods, landslides and cloudbursts that took place in Uttarakhand on June 9, 2013. Also, twenty security personnel belonging to the Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force and ITBP involved in rescue and relief operations lost their lives in a MI-17 Helicopter crash on the 25th June, 2013. There has also been a severe damage to infrastructure and property in the State. The holy shrine of Kedarnath and certain pilgrim spots bore the brunt of nature's fury.

Hon. Members, heavy monsoon rains, and floods have also severely affected several other parts of the country leading to loss of lives and destruction of crops, infrastructure and property, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The loss of so many precious lives in these natural calamities is unfortunate and indeed sad.

I request the whole House to join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy for the families of those who lost their near and dear ones and pray for the speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the injured and displaced.