

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Bangaru Laxman, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Shri Khushwant Singh, Shri Scato Swu and Shri Adhik Shirodkar, former Members of this House; Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy, a sitting Member of this House; Shri Gopinathrao Munde, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation and a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha and Shri R.N. Arya, a former Member of this House.

Shri Bangaru Laxman passed away on the 1st of March, 2014, at the age of 74 years.

Born in March, 1939, at Hyderabad, Shri Laxman was educated at the Government High School, Nampally, Hyderabad and the Evening College and the Law College, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

A businessman by profession, Shri Laxman took keen interest in education and literary activities right from his childhood. He served in various Government Departments from 1958 to 1965. He was actively associated with the working class movements and headed several trade unions. He was a Member of the Senate of Osmania University from 1970 to 1976 and served as the President of the Saraswati Vidya Peetham High School from 1997 to 1999. He was also the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2000 to 2001.

Shri Bangaru Laxman started his legislative career as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council. He was a Member of that Council from 1980 to 1985.

Shri Bangaru Laxman represented the State of Gujarat in this House from April, 1996 to April, 2002. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as the Minister of State in the Ministries of Planning and Statistics and Programme Implementation from October to November, 1999 and in the Ministry of Railways from November, 1999 to August, 2000.

He also served as Chairman of the House Committee, from August, 1998 to August, 1999.

In the passing away of Shri Bangaru Laxman, the country has lost a noted parliamentarian and an able administrator.

1.00 P.M.

Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi passed away on the 2nd March, 2014, at the age of 85 years.

Born in May, 1928, in Mainpuri District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Chaturvedi was educated at Herbert College, Kota, Rajasthan.

An advocate and journalist by profession, Shri Chaturvedi was actively involved in the student and youth movements. He served as President of Herbert College Students' Union, Kota, from 1953 to 1954 and as Vice-President of the National Union of the Students of India from 1953 to 1956.

He founded Bal Hitkari Samiti, Kota, an educational society, in 1957. He was representative of the Press Trust of India at Kota from 1957 to 1984.

Shri Chaturvedi started his legislative career as a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and was a Member of that Assembly from 1972 to 1977.

Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi represented the State of Rajasthan in this House for three consecutive terms *i.e.*, from April, 1982 to April, 1988; from April, 1988 to April, 1994; and, from April, 1994 to April, 2000. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office from January, 1993 to May, 1996; in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space from February, 1993 to May, 1996 and in the Ministry of Science and Technology from December, 1993 to May, 1996. He was Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Mental Health Bill, 1981 from 1984 to 1985.

In the passing away of Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Khushwant Singh passed away on 20th March, 2014, at the age of 99 years.

Born in February, 1915, in Punjab, he was educated in Delhi, Lahore and London.

Shri Singh was a multifaceted personality as an advocate, Professor and a Journalist. He practised law at the Lahore High Court from 1939 to 1947. He also served in the Ministry of External Affairs in Ottawa and London from 1947 to 1951 and at UNESCO from 1954 to 1956.

Besides, he was a visiting lecturer at various universities and colleges including Oxford, Rochester, Princeton, Hawaii and Swarthmore. He led many delegations to several literary conferences held at Manila, Edinburgh, Leeds and Hawaii.

As a journalist, Shri Singh served as Editor in some leading dailies and newswEEKlies, such as, the Illustrated WEEKly of India; National Herald, Delhi; Anand Bazar Group and the Hindustan Times. He had also contributed extensively for most national dailies and foreign journals, like the New York Times and the Observer. His column 'With Malice Towards One and All' in the Hindustan Times was widely read.

A prolific writer, Shri Khushwant Singh has several publications in different genre, including Sikh history and religion, fiction—both novels and short stories — and Biography to his credit. His works range from political commentary and contemporary satire to outstanding translations of Sikh religious texts and Urdu poetry.

Shri Khuswant Singh received '*Padma Bhushan*' in 1974 and '*Padma Vibushan*' in 2007. He was also the recipient of several honours and awards including the GROVE Press Award for the best work of fiction for his novel '*Train to Pakistan*', Punjab Government Award and Robe of Honour for contribution to Sikh Literature, and Distinguished Journalist Award.

Shri Khuswant Singh was a Nominated Member of this House from April, 1980 to April, 1986.

In the passing away of Shri Khuswant Singh, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, a veteran journalist and a renowned literary figure.

Shri Scato Swu passed away on the 7th of April, 2014, at the age of 90 years. Born in April, 1924, at Kilomi Village in Nagaland, Shri Swu was educated at the Kohima American Baptist School and St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

A social worker, Shri Swu was actively involved with the welfare of the Naga people and was instrumental in evolving a political settlement in Nagaland. Shri Scato Swu was a Nominated Member of this House for two consecutive terms, from April, 1974 to April, 1980 and again from April, 1980 to April, 1986.

In the passing away of Shri Scato Swu, the country has lost a distinguished

Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker, who will always be remembered for his contribution to the welfare of the people of Nagaland.

Shri Adhik Shirodkar passed away on the 19th of April, 2014, at the age of 82 years. Born in July, 1931, at Mumbai, Shri Shirodkar was educated at Wilson College and Government Law College, Mumbai.

An advocate, Shri Shirodkar practiced law for 45 years in the Supreme Court and the High Courts at Mumbai and Goa. He was Honorary Legal Advisor and Life Member of the Mumbai Sahitya Sangh and the Akhil Bharatiya Natya Parishad. He was also Honorary Legal Advisor to the Cine Artistes' Association. A multifaceted personality, Shri Shirodkar specialised in nature photography and had won many prizes at All India level photography competitions. He held two shows in the prestigious Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai. He was conferred Honorary Life Membership of the All India Professional and Industrial Photographers' Association for his contribution to photography. He also served as Chairman of the Salim Ali Centenary Celebrations Photographic Competition Committee. He was Life Member of the National Sports Club of India, Mumbai. He was also an avid lover of classical Hindustani music.

Shri Shirodkar was honoured by the Priyadarshini Academy for his sterling contribution to the legal field; by the International Sindhi Panchayat Federation with the Jhulelal Award for service to humanity and by the International Peace and Goodwill Foundation, India with the Outstanding Citizen's Award.

Shri Adhik Shirodkar represented the State of Maharashtra in this House from April, 1996 to April, 2002. He also served as Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen from 1997 to 2002.

In the passing away of Shri Adhik Shirodkar, the country has lost a distinguished Parliamentarian, a legal luminary and an eminent person in the field of art, music and photography.

Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy passed away on the 9th of May, 2014, at the age of 79 years. Born in February, 1935, in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Reddy was educated at different colleges in Nellore and West Godavari districts of the State. An agriculturist, Dr. Reddy worked for the welfare of the weaker and underprivileged sections of the society.

He was the Chairman of the Review Committee for Implementation of the Tribal Land Regulations in Andhra Pradesh during 1980. He led the Farmers' Delegation to the Royal Agricultural Exhibition held at London in 1990. He served as Chairman of the Review Committee on Implementation of National Policy on Education in 1991 and was Leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Human Rights Conference held at Geneva in 1993.

Dr. Reddy was a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from 1978 to 1984 and of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1989 to 1994. He served as Cabinet Minister in the Government of Andhra Pradesh from 1978 to 1983 and from 1989 to 1990. He was also the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh from 1990 to 1992.

Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House for three terms, *i.e.*, from April, 1972 to April, 1978; from April, 2009 to June 2010 and again from June, 2010 till his sad demise. He was also a Member of the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha. He served as Chairman of the Department – related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance from 2002 to 2004 and of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas from 2004 to 2009.

In the passing away of Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy, the country has lost a veteran parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Gopinathrao Munde, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation, and a sitting Member of Lok Sabha, passed away on the 3rd of June, 2014, at the age of 65 years.

Born in December, 1949, in Beed district of Maharashtra, Shri Gopinathrao Munde was educated at Marathwada and Pune Universities.

An agriculturist, Shri Gopinathrao Munde was actively involved in the upliftment of backward classes and downtrodden sections of the society.

Shri Gopinathrao Munde started his legislative career as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1980. He was a member of that Assembly for five terms from 1980 to 1985 and thereafter from 1990 to 2009. He served as Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1992 to 1995 and as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra from 1995 to 1999.

Shri Munde also served as a Member of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Lok

Sabha. During the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, he was Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts and of the Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers. During the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, he had been assigned the portfolios of Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation in the Union Council of Ministers.

In the passing away of Shri Gopinathrao Munde, the country has lost an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri R.N. Arya passed away on the 4th of June, 2014, at the age of 61 years.

Born in December, 1952, in Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Arya had his education in Uttar Pradesh.

A social worker, Shri Arya worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. He was also associated with various social organisations. He authored a book '*Shoshit Kranti*' in 1968.

Shri R.N. Arya represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from November, 1996 to November, 2002.

In the passing away of Shri R.N. Arya, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Bangaru Laxman, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Shri Khushwant Singh, Shri Scato Swu, Shri Adhik Shirodkar, Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy, Shri Gopinathrao Munde and Shri R.N. Arya.

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.

As a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy, a sitting Member, and Shri Gopinathrao Munde, the Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation, the House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Tuesday, the 10th June, 2014.

The House then adjourned at sixteen minutes past one of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 10th June, 2014.