

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 16th November, 2016/25th Kartika, 1938 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

(The National Anthem, “*Jana Gana Mana*” was played.)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Mr. Shimon Peres**, former President of Israel, and **King Bhumibol Adulyadej** of Thailand.

Mr. Shimon Peres passed away on the 28th of September, 2016, at the age of 93. A statesman, who made bold efforts to achieve peace for his country and in the region, **Mr. Peres** earned widespread respect and many accolades, including the Nobel Peace Prize, for the values he stood for in public life. He was a visionary, who strongly believed in the power of knowledge, innovation and technology. **Mr. Peres** will be remembered for his lasting contribution to the promotion of bilateral ties with India. His death is an irreversible loss to Israel and its people, and also to the world at large.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand passed away on the 13th of October, 2016, at the age of 89 years. Throughout his seventy-year reign, **King Bhumibol** was a unifying figure, deeply revered by the people of Thailand for his grace and compassion. A sagacious and charismatic leader, he played a pivotal role in shaping modern Thailand and in consolidating relations with friendly nations around the world, including India. His death is an irreparable loss to Thailand and its people.

This House joins the bereaved families, the Governments and the people of Israel and Thailand in mourning the passing away of **Mr. Shimon Peres** and **King Bhumibol Adulyadej** and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in their hour of grief.

Hon. Members, I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Dr. A. R. Kidwai**, **Shri M. Shafi Qureshi**, **Shri Govindrao Ramchandra Mhaisekar** and **Shri Salil Kumar Ganguli**, former Members of this House.

Dr. A. R. Kidwai passed away on the 24th of August, 2016, at the age of 96 years.