

## RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 /13 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. 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 Shri Lalitbhai Mehta, Shrimati Basanti Sarma, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. M. S. Gill and Shri D. B. Chandre Gowda, former Members of this House.

Shri Lalitbhai Mehta passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. He served as a Member of this august House from 1999 to 2005 representing the State of Gujarat. Born on 30<sup>th</sup> of July, 1937 at Wankaner in Gujarat, Shri Mehta, rendered his invaluable service to society in various capacities including as Principal of Arts and Commerce College, Wankaner; President of Wankaner Municipality and as Managing Director of Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited. He was also deeply committed to the development of the deprived sections of society. In the passing away of Shri Lalitbhai Mehta, the country has lost an eminent educationist, a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shrimati Basanti Sarma, a leading voice of women empowerment, from North East, passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. She served as a Member of this august House representing the State of Assam for two consecutive terms -- from 1991 to 2002. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1944, in Tinsukia District of Assam, Shrimati Basanti Sarma took keen interest in educating women and worked tirelessly for abolition of child labour. During her time in this hallowed chamber, she championed as a crusader for development of North Eastern regions of India. In the passing away of Shrimati Basanti Sarma, we have lost a staunch advocate of women upliftment, champion of the rights of children and a model parliamentarian.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, 'Father of Green Revolution' in the country, passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023. He served as a Nominated Member of this House, from April, 2007 to April, 2013. Born on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1925, at Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, Prof. Swaminathan, a plant geneticist by education, laid a firm foundation for agricultural renaissance in India in 1960s. He earned global acclaim for his affirmative stand on sustainable agriculture, mainstreaming gender considerations

in agriculture and rural development. As an able administrator, Prof. Swaminathan led several developmental organizations in the country and abroad.

His enormous contributions helped India to rise from a drought-stricken food importing country to being declared self-sufficient in food production in 1971. His seminal contributions were duly recognized through the first World Food Prize in 1987; *Padma Shri* in 1966, Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971, *Padma Bhushan* in 1972 and *Padma Vibhushan* in 1989 among others.

In the passing away of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the country has lost a true visionary, a ground breaking agricultural scientist and an able parliamentarian.

Dr. M.S. Gill, a distinguished figure in Punjab's bureaucracy and politics, passed away on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023. He served as a Member of this House representing the State of Punjab for two consecutive terms from 2004 to 2016.

Born on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1936, in the State of Punjab, Dr. Gill joined the prestigious Indian Administrative Service in the year 1958 and served in various capacities under Union and Punjab State Government. Dr. Gill, an outstanding administrator, also served as the Chief Election Commissioner from 1996 to 2001 and it was during his tenure that Electronic Voting Machines were successfully introduced in Indian elections. He also served as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers holding portfolios of Youth Affairs and Sports; and, Statistics and Programme Implementation. Dr. Gill received several awards, including the prestigious *Padma Vibhushan*, awarded in the year 2000.

In the passing away of Dr. M.S. Gill, the country has lost a capable administrator, a prolific writer and an illustrious parliamentarian.

Shri D.B. Chandre Gowda passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023. He served as a Member of this distinguished House representing the State of Karnataka, from April, 1986 to December, 1989.

Born on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1936, in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka, Shri Chandre Gowda, had an illustrious political career spanning over four decades. An advocate by profession, he had an illustrious political career which included being a Member of Lok Sabha, for three terms from 1971-1984, Member of Legislative Assembly (three terms) and Legislative Council of Karnataka. He was also a cabinet minister in the Government of Karnataka from 1979 to 1980.

In the passing away of Shri D.B. Chandre Gowda, the country has lost an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Hon. Members, we deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Lalitbhai Mehta, Shrimati Basanti Sarma, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. M.S. Gill and Shri D.B. Chandre Gowda.

I request the hon. 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.

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### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

#### **Bill passed by the House of Parliament during Two Hundred and Sixty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, with your kind permission, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by the House of Parliament during Two Hundred and Sixty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10886/17/23]

#### **Notification of the Ministry of Coal**

**कोयला मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव) :** महोदय, मैं कोयला खान भविष्य निधि तथा प्रकीर्ण उपबंध अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 7क के अधीन कोयला खान पेंशन (द्वितीय संशोधन) योजना, 2023 को प्रकाशित करने वाली कोयला मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना सं. का. आ. 4336 (अ), दिनांक 4 अक्तूबर, 2023 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10118/17/23]

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (2023-24) between the Government of India and HUDCO, New Delhi**

**आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कौशल किशोर) :** महोदय, मैं 2023-24 के वर्ष के लिए भारत सरकार (आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय) तथा हाउसिंग एंड अर्बन