

## **RAJYA SABHA**

*Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2024/16 Magha, 1945 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

*MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am pleased to extend greetings to hon. Members of Parliament, Shri K. C. Venugopal, Shrimati Kanta Kardam, Shri Neeraj Dangi and Shri Samir Oraon whose birthdays were yesterday, on 4<sup>th</sup> February, and also to Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak on her birthday today.

Shri K. C. Venugopal, whose birthday was on 4<sup>th</sup> February, has been a Member of this august House since June, 2020 and serving his first term. Shri K. C. Venugopal had been a Member of Kerala Legislative Assembly for three terms, namely, 1996-2001, 2001-2006 and 2006-2009, and also had been the Cabinet Minister in the Government of Kerala for one term. He has served as Member, Lok Sabha for two terms and has been a Union Minister of State, Government of India for two terms. Hon. Member had also served as Deputy Chief in Lok Sabha.

Shri K. C. Venugopal is a political and social worker by profession and is married to Dr. Asha K. and blessed with son Gokul and daughter Parvathy. He has chosen the names very carefully - Gokul and Parvathy.

Shrimati Kanta Kardam has been a Member of this august House since April, 2018 and serving her first term. She has played an important role in various social, cultural activities and several issues concerning awareness of human rights of downtrodden, deprived sections of the society and has been vocal for their upliftment and rights.

Shrimati Kanta Kardam is an agriculturist, social worker by profession and is married to Shri Veer Singh Kardam. She is blessed with sons Neeraj and Ashish, and daughters Upasna and Swati.

Shri Neeraj Dangi has been a Member of this august House since June, 2020 and serving his first term. It is noteworthy that hon. Shri Neeraj Dangi had made remarkable efforts in supporting the Tsunami victims' families and post-Tsunami relief work at Andaman and Nicobar Islands in February, 2005, which was monitored by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He is a Member of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Hon. Member is the son of late Shri Dinesh Dangi, a popular leader of Rajasthan who had served as Minister in the Government of Rajasthan. Shri Neeraj Dangi is an engineer, political and social worker by profession and is married to Dr. Preeti Soni. He is blessed with one son Yuvan and daughter Katyayani. I had the good fortune to be in the Assembly along with his father.

Shri Samir Oraon has been a Member of this august House since May, 2018 and serving his first term. He was a Member of Legislative Assembly of Jharkhand for one term. As a Member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he is enlightening the Committee through his vast experience in the field of upliftment of SCs and STs.

Shri Samir Oraon is an agriculturist and farmer by profession and is married to Shrimati Sushila Oraon.

Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak has been a Member of this august House since April, 2022 and serving her first term. Hon. Members, I would like to share that through her untiring efforts, she has been instrumental in admitting a large number of children aged between 6 and 14 years who were dropouts or never enrolled to school into formal schooling in Mon Educational Block Resource Centre, EBRC and Aboi EBRC which covers 37 villages. Her active role in the implementation of 'Targeted Intervention Project' at Aboi for injecting drug users, other vulnerable population and being a part of implementation of 'Link Workers Scheme' in Mon district for the prevention of HIV/AIDS is truly commendable.

She also played an important role in initiation of the process of documenting Konyak Cultural heritage.

Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak is a Social Worker by profession.

Hon. Members, on your and my behalf, I wish them a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to their family members.

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### OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage G Geingob. He was a freedom fighter, statesman, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly that formulated the Namibian Constitution, the first Prime Minister of independent Namibia and the third President of the country. He dedicated his entire life to the welfare of his people and development of his country. President Geingob was a friend of India. President