

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 3rd July, 2024/12 Ashadha, 1946 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (राजस्थान): सभापति जी, मैं आपके सामने हाथरस के बारे में बात रखना चाहता हूँ ..(व्यवधान) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pramodji, this is engaging my attention. I will be talking about it. I have taken note of it.

Hon. Members, I extend Birthday Greetings to hon. Members of Parliament, Dr. K. Laxman and Shri Harbhajan Singh.

Dr. K. Laxman is Member of this august House since July, 2022. He has rich and varied experience in public life. Having represented Musheerabad twice — first in the Eleventh Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1999 to 2004 and later in the First Telangana Legislative Assembly from 2014 to 2018, he was the Floor Leader of the BJP from 2014 to 2016 in Telangana Assembly. He is currently the National President of his party's OBC Morcha. A doctorate in Geology from Osmania University, Dr. Laxman has always advocated and championed the welfare of marginalized.

He has a deep passion for sports, was a league-level cricketer and volleyball player. He is actively involved in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Olympic Associations. Married to Smt. Kova Uma, the couple is blessed with daughters, Shweta and Shruti and son Rahul.

I join this House to wish Dr. K. Laxman the best of health and happiness and extend greetings to his family members.

Shri Harbhajan Singh, known for his off-spin in cricket, is a Member of this House since 2022. He is amongst the top three off-spinners and regarded as one of the best bowlers in his area.

Shri Harbhajan Singh, the Turbanator, played a pivotal role in India's victory in T20 World Cup in 2007 and ODI World Cup in 2011. Just within three years of his debut, he claimed the historic test hat-trick against Australia in 2001. With his 103 Test Matches, 236 One Day Internationals and several T20 matches, Shri Harbhajan Singh has left a truly inspirational legacy. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in

2003 and conferred the Civilian Award, Padma Shri, in 2009 by the Government of India. Married to Smt. Geeta Basra, the couple is blessed with daughter, Hinaya, and son Jovan. I join this House to wish Shri Harbhajan Singh and his family the best of health and happiness and extend greetings to his family members.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of a former Member of this House, **Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas**, on 29th June, 2024.

Shri D. Srinivas, a three-term Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, a Cabinet Minister in the State, as also the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, served in this House, representing the State of Telangana, from 2016 to 2022. Born on 27th September, 1948, at Velpur in Nizamabad district of Telangana, Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas dedicated his life to the upliftment of backward and deprived sections of the society. In the passing away of Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas, the country has lost a veteran legislator, a champion of the backward classes and an able administrator. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Dharmapuri Srinivas. I request the 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 family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Stampede at a religious event at Hathras, Uttar Pradesh

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, several devotees lost lives in a stampede that broke out at a religious event at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. The loss of precious lives and injury to hapless persons in this tragic incident is indeed painful and unfortunate. All necessary steps are being taken to provide medical aid to the injured and authorities have set up a committee to investigate the matter. This House joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolences as well as deep sympathy and sorrow to