

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 3rd February, 2025 /14 Magha, 1946 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, pleased to extend Birthday Greetings to hon. Members of Parliament- Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Shri Naresh Bansal.

Shri Prem Chand Gupta is currently in his fifth term in Rajya Sabha since April, 2020 representing the State of Bihar. He is also the leader of the Rashtriya Janata Dal in the House. Shri Gupta had served as Union Minister of Corporate Affairs under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He is widely travelled and has the distinction of representing India at the United Nations General Assembly thrice- 2000, 2002 and 2011.

He is married to Shrimati Sarla Gupta and is blessed with two sons, Mayur Gupta and Gaurav Gupta, and one daughter, Shalini Aggarwal.

Shri Naresh Bansal is a distinguished Member of Rajya Sabha representing the State of Uttarakhand, since November 2020. Shri Bansal had served in various capacities in Uttarakhand before entering national scene. He was General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party in the State for seven years from 2002 to 2009 and was also Chairman of Housing Development Council, Uttarakhand from 2009 to 2012.

He is married to Shrimati Kshama Bansal and is blessed with two sons, Kunal Bansal and Siddharth Bansal, and one daughter, Megha Bansal.

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam**, a former Member of this House, on the 13th of January, 2025. Shri Rajasekharam served as a Member of this House representing the State of Andhra Pradesh, from April, 1976 to 1982.

Born on 1st of January, 1944, in the district of Srikakulam, in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Rajasekharam dedicated his life to the welfare of farmers, tribal communities and the marginalized sections of our society. His tireless commitment was reflected in his influential roles as Director of Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Central Bank and Chairman of Zila Parishad of Srikakulam. Further, Shri Rajasekharam served with distinction as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, contributing significantly to the State's legislative governance.

In the passing away of Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam, the country has lost a dedicated social worker, a champion of the rights of the marginalized and an able parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Palavalasa Rajasekharam.

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.)

श्री रामजी लाल सुमन (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have not even completed the obituary.

Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the 267th Session ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me have the Opening Remarks ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. Let me have the Opening Remarks.

Hon. Members, the 267th Session of the Rajya Sabha is a milestone in the constitutional journey of Bharat, being the first one convened as we march into the last quarter of the Century of adoption of our Constitution on November 26, 1949.

An occasion of expression of profound gratitude to visionary founding fathers, whose wisdom and foresight endowed us with a Constitution that has remarkably shaped the destiny of our Republic ...*(Interruptions)*...

In this journey of 75 years, we have embraced modernity without forsaking our timeless wisdom and heritage.