

[30 January, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 30th January, 2004/10 Magna, 1925 (Saka)

The House met at two of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

OBSERVANCE OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE FATHER OF THE NATION AND OTHERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today is 30th January, the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. Before we take up today's agenda, I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence for two minutes in his memory and all those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shrimati Pratibha Singh and Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, former Members of this House.

Shrimati Pratibha Singh passed away on 8th January, 2004 at the age of 75 years.

Born at Salempur, District Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, in July, 1929, Shrimati Singh had her education at Women's College, Patna.

An active social and political worker, Shrimati Singh took keen interest in the uplift of Harijans and welfare of women and children. She was also associated with various social and welfare organisations and was instrumental in the establishment of "Saket Home for Handicapped" in Chandigarh. She started the scheme for Indian Holiday Home at Taradevi near Shimla. She was President of the Child Welfare Council, Punjab and