

1100 hours

(Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Sarvashri Pradyumna Bal and Sakti Kumar Sarkar, two of our former colleagues.

Shri Pradyumna Bal was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Jagatsinghpur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa.

A journalist and writer by profession, Shri Bal was editor of 'Pragativadi', an Oriya weekly. He was also a member of numerous social, economic and cultural organisation.

An active social and political worker, Shri Bal took active interest in relief and reconstruction work at the time of natural calamities like flood, drought, cyclone etc. He worked relentlessly for improving the lot of the weaker sections of the society especially for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Pradyumna Bal passed away on 21 December, 1999 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa at the age of 65.

Shri Sakti Kumar Sarkar was a Member of Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1979 representing Joynagar Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

Earlier, Shri Sarkar was a Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967. He distinguished himself as a Member of various Committees of the Assembly including Public Accounts Committee.

An agriculturist and pisciculturist by profession, Shri Sarkar was associated with the Kisan Movement in the State of West Bengal.

A man of letters, Shri Sarkar authored books on land problems and land reforms of West Bengal and contributed articles in the local dailies.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Sarkar lost no efforts in raising the matters concerning the welfare and development of the under-privileged classes on the floor of the House.

Shri Sakti Kumar Sarkar passed away on 7 January, 2000 at Calcutta, West Bengal at the age of 70.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

(ends)