

Title: Reference made regarding passing of Shri Jagadish Bhattacharya (member of Fifth Lok Sabha) on 9th March, 2001 and Shri Devi Lal (member of Seventh & Ninth Lok Sabha and sitting member of Rajya Sabha) on 6th April, 2001 respectively.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our esteemed former colleagues, Sarvashri Jagadish Bhattacharyya and Devi Lal.

Shri Jagadish Bhattacharyya was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing Ghatal Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Bhattacharyya took keen interest in ventilating the grievances of the poor in the House. He was a Member of the Railway Convention Committee from 1973 to 1977 and a Member of the Committee on Government Assurances during 1974-75 and 1975-76.

A teacher by profession, Shri Bhattacharyya was associated with various educational organisations. An active social worker, Shri Bhattacharyya worked relentlessly for the development of rural areas.

Shri Jagadish Bhattacharyya passed away on 9th March, 2001 at Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 87.

Shri Devi Lal was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1982 representing Sonapat Parliamentary Constituency of Haryana and the Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991 representing Sikar Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. He was a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha.

Shri Devi Lal served as Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister of Agriculture and Tourism from 1989 to 1991. An active parliamentarian, Shri Devi Lal was a Member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Earlier, Shri Devi Lal was a member of the undivided Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1967 and was also its Leader of Opposition in 1963. After the creation of Haryana State, he was a member of the Haryana State Legislative Assembly from 1974 to 1980 and from 1987 to 1989. He also adorned the office of Chief Minister of Haryana twice from 1977 to 1979 and from 1987 to 1989.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Devi Lal joined the freedom struggle at an early age of 15 years responding to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement.

Hailing from an agriculturist family, Shri Devi Lal was a firm believer in the Gandhian philosophy of uplifting rural masses. He was a champion of the cause of farmers and actively participated in Mujara agitation of landless farmers in 1946-48; Kisan Movement in 1972; and Haryana Bachao agitation in 1985.

In the sad demise of Shri Devi Lal, the nation has not only lost a popular political leader but also a true son of the soil. Shri Devi Lal passed away on 6th April, 2001 at New Delhi at the age of 87 after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would 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 memory of the departed souls.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th of April, 2001, at 11 A.M.

11.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

On Tuesday, April 17, 2001/Chaitra 27, 1923.(Saka).
