

**11.03 hrs.**

**Title:** References made to the passing away of Shri Samar Guha, Member of Fourth to Sixth Lok Sabha on 17 June, 2002; Shri Chitturi Subbarao Chowdary, Member Seventh Lok Sabha on 7 August, 2002; Prof. Susanta Chakraborty, Member Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha on 9 September, 2002; Shri Nandkishore Sharma, Member, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha on 21 September, 2002; and Shri K. Ramamurthy, Member, Sixth to Tenth and Twelfth Lok Sabha on 27 October, 2002 respectively; references also made by the Speaker to the loss of lives due to the accident of Rajdhani Express in Bihar on 9 September, 2002, terrorist attack on Akshardham temple in Gujarat on 24 September, 2002 and during the siege of a theatre in Moscow on 23 October, 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we meet today after an interval of about three months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of five of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Samar Guha, Shri Chitturi Subbarao Chowdary, Prof. Susanta Chakraborty, Shri Nandkishore Sharma and Shri K. Ramamurthy.

Shri Samar Guha was a Member of Fourth to Sixth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1979 representing Contai parliamentary constituency of West Bengal.

Shri Guha was also a member of Business Advisory Committee during 1967-68 and 1977-78; Committee on Subordinate Legislation from 1971 to 1974; General Purposes Committee from 1977 to 1979 and Chairman, Committee of Privileges from 1977 to 1979.

He was also a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education from 1967 to 1969; Consultative Committee constituted under the West Bengal State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1970 from 1970 to 1972; Consultative Committee constituted under the Orissa State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1973 during 1973-74 and Samsad (Court) of the Visva Bharati from 1977 to 1979.

Shri Guha was a veteran freedom fighter and a close associate of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He suffered imprisonment for several years on various occasions for his participation in the freedom struggle against the British rule. Shri Guha was one of the leading socialists of our country drawing inspiration from the ideologies of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Shri Guha also actively participated in the Bangladesh liberation struggle.

Shri Guha struggled hard for award of due honours to the soldiers of Azad Hind Fauj and for award of pension and other benefits to them. He was also actively involved with many social organisations; refugee relief organisations and cultural, literary and youth organisations.

Shri Guha, who was associated with various educational organisations, taught at Bejoygarh Jyotish College and also at Jadavpur University. He also conducted research on coal distillation.

Shri Guha evinced special interest in atomic science, Indian philosophy, religion and culture, socialist theories, defence problems of India and problems of Bangladesh also.

He had a number of publications to his credit including many books in Bengali and English. He also authored books on General Chemistry for schools and colleges.

Shri Samar Guha passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2002 at Kolkata, West Bengal at the age of 85 after a prolonged illness.

Shri Chitturi Subbarao Chowdary was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984 representing Eluru Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

He was earlier a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from 1960 to 1972. He served as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee from 1970 to 1972; Select Committees on Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill, and Andhra Pradesh Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samitis Bill.

He actively participated in Quit India Movement in 1942 as a student leader.

Shri Chowdary played an active role in various developmental activities in Tanuku, Andhra Pradesh. He was also instrumental in the establishment of several educational institutions.

Shri Chowdary who hailed from an agriculturist family, was also a sports enthusiast. He served as Vice-President of Andhra Pradesh Badminton Association.

He was a delegate to the First World Peace Conference held at Moscow in 1962. He was elected as a member of the Subject Committee on International Peace in 1962.

Shri Chitturi Subbarao Chowdary passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2002 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of

81.

Prof. Susanta Chakraborty was a Member of the Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1996 representing Howrah Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

Prof. Chakraborty was a Member of the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Industry during 1990; Joint Committee on Offices of Profit from 1991 to 1996; Committee on Finance from 1993 to 1996 and Committee on Public Undertakings during 1995-96.

Prof. Chakraborty was a teacher and educationist by profession. He was instrumental in organising night schools for illiterate peasants and setting up schools and colleges especially in backward areas. He was a member of Senate, Kolkata University. He also served several other educational institutions in various capacities.

An active political and social worker, he played a key role in village reconstruction movement. He actively participated in flood relief work in West Bengal in 1978.

Prof. Chakraborty evinced keen interest in sports. He was a member of various sports clubs.

Prof. Susanta Chakraborty passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 in a tragic accident of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express at Rafiganj, Bihar at the age of 62.

Shri Nand Kishore Sharma was a Member of the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989 representing Balaghat Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

He was a Member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House during 1984-85 and the Business Advisory Committee during 1987-88 and 1989-90.

Earlier, Shri Sharma was a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1956 to 1980. He ably served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the State Government during 1969-70.

Shri Sharma, who was an active social worker, dedicated his entire life to the promotion of Gandhian ideals.

Shri Sharma was also a sports enthusiast. He served as the President, Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association and Madhya Pradesh Kabaddi Association.

Shri Nandkishore Sharma passed away on 21 September, 2002 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 78.

Shri K.Ramamurthy was a Member of Sixth to Tenth and Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1996 and during 1998-99 representing Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Salem Parliamentary constituencies of Tamil Nadu.

Shri K.Ramamurthy held the offices of Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Labour during 1991 and Cabinet Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas during 1998-99 in the Union Cabinet.

He served as Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1985 to 1987.

He was a member of Committee on Papers laid on the Table of the House from 1977 to 1979; Business Advisory Committee from 1977 to 1979; Committee on Public Undertakings during 1980-81; General Purposes Committee during 1985-86; Committee on Public Accounts during 1987-88; Committee of Privileges from 1990-92; Employees' State Insurance Corporation from 1990 to 1994 and Committee on Industry during 1995-96.

He was also a member of Consultative Committee, Ministry of Labour from 1977 to 1979; 1980-81; 1984 to 1986; Consultative Committee constituted under the Tamil Nadu State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1988 during 1988-89; Consultative Committee Ministry of Labour and Welfare during 1990-91.

Shri Ramamurthy was an active social and political worker. He was associated with various trade unions and workers' organisations. He was the honorary President, INTUC, Tamil Nadu. He was founder President of Indian National Rural Labour Federation from 1983 to 1988 and Delhi Tamil Education Association from 1978 to 1982 and 1988 to 1999 again. He also served as the Vice President of INTUC, Tamil Nadu since 1974, International Federation of Plantation, Agriculture and Allied Workers, Geneva 1987 to 1994 and Agricultural Workers Trade Group of International Federation of Union for Food and Agriculture. He was also a member of Newsprint Advisory Corporation.

Shri Ramamurthy has to his credit two books, namely, "Indira Gandhi and NAM", and "Indo-Soviet Phenomenon: Contribution of Rajiv Gandhi".

Shri Ramamurthy was a widely travelled person. He was a member of Indian National Trade Union Congress

(INTUC) Delegation to Edinburgh Conference, Edinburgh, 1974 and ILO Conference, Geneva, 1980, 1981 and 1987; Indian Delegation to ILO Regional Conference, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1982. He attended NAM Conference on behalf of the International Institute of Non-aligned Studies, Jakarta in Indonesia and Karthakina in Columbia. He was also a special invitee to the Golden Jubilee celebration of United Nations at New York.

Shri Ramamurthy was a keen votary of rights of downtrodden. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor, especially the rural poor and the downtrodden sections of the society and industrial workers.

Shri K.Ramamurthy passed away on 27 October, 2002 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu at the age of 62 after a brief illness.

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.

As the hon. Members are aware, on 9 September, 2002 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express derailed over Dhawe bridge at Rafiganj in Bihar in which 107 people lost their lives and many were injured.

In another incident, 28 persons were killed and several injured when terrorists entered the Akshardham Temple complex, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and started firing indiscriminately on the innocent devotees on 24 September, 2002.

Hon. Members are also aware that last month the world witnessed another cowardly and barbaric act of terrorism when armed terrorists took several hundreds of innocent men, women and children as hostage in a theatre in Moscow on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2002. The Government of India had expressed its deep sympathy and solidarity with the Government and friendly people of Russia with whom we share a close, warm and long-standing relationship. Our Government had also resolutely condemned the terrorist act. We feel relieved that hundreds of lives could be saved. On behalf of the people of India, whom this House represents, we convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of the tragedy. We also wish to convey to our Russian brothers and sisters and to our fellow parliamentarians in the Russian Federation that this House, which itself was the target of a terrorist attack last December, is one with them in their grief and also in their resolution to fight the scourge of terrorism.

India firmly condemns all acts of terrorism wherever they may occur and whatever may be their motivation. Terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds and must be condemned unambiguously wherever it exists. We also strongly condemn those who support terrorism or finance, train, harbour, or support terrorists. India and Russia have both been victims of the global menace of terrorism. The Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism signed by the hon. Prime Minister and the President of the Russian Federation in Moscow last year reaffirmed our commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms. The terrible terrorist act in Moscow is another reminder to the international community that the global phenomenon of terrorism can be defeated only through global, combined, comprehensive, determined, sustained and long-term efforts.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives of the innocent people due to these tragic incidents and also condemn these heinous acts of violence and terrorism.

The House may place on record its deep sense of grief on these tragedies.

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

**11.17 hrs.**

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

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