

11.01/2 hrs.

Title: References made to the passing away of Shri Sudhakar Pandey, a member of 5th Lok Sabha and a member of Rajya Sabha (1980-1986) on 18 April, 2003 and death of 33 persons in a terrorist attack in Tripura on 7 May, 2003.

MR.SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Sudhakar Pandey.

Shri Sudhakar Pandey was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Pandey was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1986.

Shri Pandey was an able parliamentarian. He was a Member of Committee on Estimates from 1975 to 1976, and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Committee on Official Language from 1976 to 1977. He was also a Member of *Hindi Shiksha Samiti* during 1971 and the Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1974 to 1977.

Shri Pandey was a veteran freedom fighter. He actively participated in India's struggle for independence and was also arrested in 1943.

As an active social worker, Shri Pandey played a pioneering role in the foundation of several institutions and societies for the welfare of the youth and destitute. He worked relentlessly for providing encouragement to artists, literateurs and for the promotion of new talents. He also served with distinction in various capacities in many academic, social and cultural institutions.

A man of letters, Shri Pandey took keen interest in literature, education, arts and culture. He authored several books. He was also conferred upon the "*Sahitya Varidhi*" award by *Hindi Sahitya Sammelan*, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Pandey was a Member of the Indian Delegation to the World Conference on Hindi in Mauritius.

Shri Sudhakar Pandey passed away on 18 April, 2003 at the age of 76 after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend, and I am sure, the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

Friends, on 7 May, 2003, 33 people were killed and several others injured by extremists in Tripura.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives of these people and condemn this barbaric act of terrorism. The House may place on record its deep sense of grief on this tragedy.

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

11.03 hrs.

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