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Title: Mr. Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India and member, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabhas; Shri Munawar Hasan, a sitting member and member 11th Lok Sabha; Shri Tayyab Hussain, member, 5th and 7th Lok Sabhas, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, member, 8th to 13th Lok Sabhas. Mr. Speaker also made a reference to the loss of lives and injuries that took place in Assam on 30th October, 2008. Mr. Speaker further made reference to the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 26 November, 2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the said demise of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India, Shri Munawar Hassan, sitting Member and two of our former colleagues, Shri Tayyab Hussain and Shri Ajit Kumar Panja.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977; Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980 and the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas from 1988 to 1996. He represented the Phulpur parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during the Fifth Lok Sabha and the Allahabad parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh and in the bye-election to the Eighth Lok Sabha. He represented the Fatehpur parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1983 to 1988 representing the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was earlier a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1969 to 1971 and from 1981 to 1983. He was also a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Parishad from 1980 to 1981. He held the office of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 1980 to 1982.

An able administrator, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh served as the Union Deputy Minister of Commerce from 1974 to 1976 and as the Union Minister of State of Commerce from 1976 to 1977. During the Seventh Lok Sabha he served as the Union Minister of Commerce from 1983 to 1984. During the Eighth Lok Sabha he was the Union Minister of Finance from December, 1984 to January, 1987 and Union Minister of Defence from January to April, 1987.

After the general election to the Ninth Lok Sabha, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh emerged as the Leader of the coalition enjoying majority in Lok Sabha and had the distinction to serve as Prime Minister of India from 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1989 to 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1990. As Prime Minister, he took several pro-people initiatives which reflected his idealism, enlightened statesmanship and his vision of an egalitarian society. The implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission Report for reservation for backward classes in Central Government jobs was one such step. His emphasis on transparency and corruption-free governance won him accolades all over. He had himself set high standards for probity in public life. Influenced by Acharya Vinobha Bhave, he donated large tracts of his family land to the landless in the Bhoodan Movement.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was among the country's most respected political leaders. A man with tremendous courage of conviction he was committed to his principles, unmindful of the consequences. He also had a flair for painting and poetry, in the pursuit of which, he excelled.

With the passing away of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, an eventful era in the political history of the country has come to an end. In his demise the country has lost a true friend of the poor and the deprived and a statesman who stood for secularism and a casteless society.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 at New Delhi at the age of 77, after a prolonged illness. [\[k1\]](#)

Hon. Members, I am extremely grieved also to report of the sudden passing away of our young friend, who has been our very dear colleague, the sitting Member Ch. Munawar Hassan of this House representing the Muzaffarnagar parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he was a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing the Kairana parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Ch. Hassan was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2003 representing the State of Uttar Pradesh. He also served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for two terms from 1991 to 1996.

Ch. Hassan was a Member of the Committee on Railways; House Committee; Committee on Transport and Tourism and Committee on Agriculture during the Eleventh Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and the Committee on Labour during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

A well-known activist and a crusader for the cause of social justice, Ch. Hassan fought for the rights and the welfare of the

poor, down-trodden and the deprived sections of the society.

Ch. Munawar Hassan passed away today this morning in tragic circumstances in a road accident at the young age of 44.

Shri Tayyab Hussain was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 and the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984, representing the Gurgaon and Faridabad parliamentary constituencies of Haryana respectively.

Earlier, Shri Tayyab Hussain was a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1966 and a Member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly from 1966 to 1967. Shri Hussain also served as the Deputy Minister for Health and P.W.D. in the Government of Punjab from March, 1962 to December, 1962.

Shri Hussain was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee; Joint Select Committee on Criminal Procedure Code; Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Committee on Tariff and Customs Bills during the Fifth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee to review rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to the General Revenues during the Seventh Lok Sabha.

An advocate by profession, Shri Hussain was a committed social and political worker. He was a member, Central Advisory Council from 1963 to 1964 and Chairman, Punjab Wakf Board from 1965 to 1978. He was a member of the Wakf Act Amendment Committee of the Central Wakf Councils from 1967 to 1968 and Central Wakf Advisory Council in 1963. Shri Hussain played a prominent role in the work relating to social and educational uplift of the people, specially the minorities and was associated with the establishment of various educational and social organisations and management of their affairs.

A widely travelled person, Shri Hussain was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegations to Romania and Hungary in 1973.

Shri Tayyab Hussain passed away on 7 October, 2008 at Gurgaon, Haryana at the age of 72.

Shri Ajit Kumar Panja was a Member of the Eighth to Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1984 to 2004 representing the Calcutta North-East parliamentary constituency of West Bengal.

An able administrator, Shri Panja held several important portfolios in the Union Cabinet. He served as the Union Minister of State for Planning from 1985 to 1986; Union Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies in 1986; Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge) from 1986 to 1988 and again from 1991 to 1993; Union Minister of State for Finance from 1988 to 1989; Union Minister of State, Coal (Independent Charge) from 1993 to 1995; and Union Minister of State for External Affairs from 1999 to 2001.

Earlier, Shri Panja was a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1971 to 1977 and from 1982 to 1984. Shri Panja also served as a Cabinet Minister, Judiciary and Parliamentary Affairs (Home) from 1971 to 1972 and Cabinet Minister, Health and Family Planning and Water Supply, Municipal Affairs and Forests Development in the Government of West Bengal from 1972 to 1977. [\[SS2\]](#)

Shri Panja, who was an advocate by profession and a committed social activist by choice, strove for the welfare of the poor, needy and physically handicapped and was associated with several social organizations for the uplift of the Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the down-trodden.

A man of letters, Shri Panja has to his credit several books in English and Bengali. He was an avid lover of theatre. As a stage artist he was conferred the best actor '*Uttam Award*' in 1999.

A sports enthusiast, Shri Panja was a member of the prominent football clubs in the country.

A widely traveled person, Shri Panja represented the country in a number of Conferences at the International Level.

Shri Ajit Kumar Panja passed away on 14 November, 2008 at Kolkata at the age of 72.

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.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, the country has been a victim of several terrorist attacks in recent times. Serial bomb blasts took place in the districts of Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and Guwahati of Assam on 30 October, 2008. Eighty-nine persons died in the bomb blasts and 477 were injured besides there was immense loss to property.

Another bomb blast took place in a passenger train at Diphu railway station in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on 02 December, 2008. Two persons died and about 30 were injured in this blast.

On 26th November, 2008, life in Mumbai -- the financial hub of the country -- was paralyzed due to most horrendous terrorist attacks at several crowded places and prominent hotels of the city. Concerted retaliatory measures were mounted by the police and security forces, and the terrorists, who had stationed themselves at three different places, were finally neutralized after prolonged encounter lasting over 60 hours. Eighteen brave security personnel of Mumbai Police including the Head of the Anti-Terrorist-Squad (ATS) and two commandos of National Security Guard (NSG) became martyrs while fighting against terrorists.

The House commends the exemplary role of our security personnel and other civilian agencies in their fight against the terrorists. In all, 164 people including 26 foreign nationals lost their lives in these cowardly attacks besides large-scale destruction of property. In these dark days the indomitable spirit and courage shown by our security forces and the people of Mumbai stands apart and holds out hope for the resurgent Nation to bounce back.

The House strongly condemns these terrorist attacks on the country, which are a crime against humanity. I am sure the House would join me in conveying our heart-felt condolences to the members of the families who became victims of these attacks. The House also calls for strict action and all out efforts to prevent recurrence of such cowardly and inhuman attacks.

I would like to inform the House that some hon. Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation including its Chairman, Shri Krishnadas and Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were in the Taj Mahal Hotel during the dastardly attack, and were evacuated through the praiseworthy efforts -- in the most difficult circumstances -- of the Security Forces, the State Government and the Hotel employees. On behalf of the House, I have conveyed our appreciation to them.

It is also extremely tragic that an Official of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Shri Rajeev Saraswat -- who was working as in-charge of the Control Room for the Parliamentary Committee -- had to give up his life in the line of duty. On behalf of the House, I have communicated our deepest condolences, through the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, to the bereaved family and assured them of all help that may be required for their rehabilitation.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on these tragic incidents which have brought immense pain and untold suffering to the families of the bereaved and injured.

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

**11.14 hrs.**

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

[r3]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 11.00 hours.

**11.15 hrs.**

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock  
on Thursday, December 11, 2008/Agrahayan 20, 1930(Saka)

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[k1]contd by b1

Contd by C [SS2]

[r3]Fld.. by d1