

OBITUARY REFERENCES

Title: References made to the passing away of Shri Abhaysinh S. Bhonsle, Member of 12th Lok Sabha on 4th February, 2004; Shri Bhagirath Bhanwar, Member of 5th and 6th Lok Sabha on 10th February, 2004; Shri Sikander Bakht Member of 6th Lok Sabha and Member of Rajya Sabha, 1990-2002 on 23rd February, 2004; Shri S.B. Chavan, Member of 7th and 8th Lok Sabha and Member of Rajya Sabha 1988-2002 on 26th February, 2004; Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Member of 6th Lok Sabha and Member of Rajya Sabha, 1969-78 and 1980-88 on 1st April, 2004; Shri Abdul Shafee, Member of 5th Lok Sabha on 26th April, 2004; Shri A.M. Thomas, Member of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Lok Sabha on 27th April, 2004; Shri N. Gouzagian, Member of 7th Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2004 and Shri E.K. Nayanar, Member of 7th Lok Sabha and Chief Minister of Kerala, 1980-81, 1987-91 and 1996-2001 on 19th May, 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of nine of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Abhaysinh S. Bhonsle, Shri Bhagirath Bhanwar, Shri Sikander Bakht, Shri S.B. Chavan, Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Shri Abdul Shafee, Shri A.M. Thomas, Shri N. Gouzagin and Shri E.K. Nayanar.

Shri Abhaysinh S. Bhonsle was a member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1998 to 1999 representing the Satara parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra.

Earlier, Shri Bhonsle was a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1978 to 1995. An able administrator, Shri Bhonsle served as a Minister in the State Government holding various important portfolios.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Bhonsle was a member of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution and its sub-Committee on Department of Sugar and Edible Oils from 1998 to 1999. He was also a member of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society from 1998 to 1999.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Bhonsle was a devoted political and social worker.

Shri Abhaysinh S. Bhonsle passed away on 4th February, 2004 at the age of 60.

Shri Bhagirath Bhanwar was a Member of the Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabhas from 1971 to 1979, representing the Jhabua parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Bhanwar started his public life as a Councillor in the Alirajpur Municipal Committee in 1958. Later, he served as a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1971. He was member, Consultative Committee on Tribals, Government of Madhya Pradesh from 1962 to 1975 and was Chairman, Consultative Committee on Forest Production, during 1977. He also served as a Deputy Minister of Education in the Madhya Pradesh Government from 1967 to 1969.

A devoted social worker and journalist, Shri Bhanwar was Assistant Editor of the *Panchayati Raj*, a weekly. He was actively associated with many political, social and public welfare movements.

His passion for social work led him to strive relentlessly for the education and upliftment of the Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Bhanwar was member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Steel and Mines from 1972 to 1977; Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Industrial Development from 1977 to 1978; Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, from 1973 to 1976 and again from 1977 to 1978; Joint Committee on the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill, 1974; and Committee on Subordinate Legislation, from 1977 to 1978.

Shri Bhagirath Bhanwar passed away on 10th February, 2004 at Sarwad, Madhya Pradesh, at the age of 70.

Shri Sikander Bakht was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979, representing the Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency of Delhi. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1990 to 2002. Earlier, Shri Bakht was a Member of the Delhi Municipal Corporation from 1967 to 1971; and the Delhi Metropolitan Council from 1972 to 1977.

An able administrator, he served as the Minister of Works, Housing, Supply, Rehabilitation and Wakf from 1977 to 1979; Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment, and External Affairs from 16th May 1996 to 31st May, 1996; and

Minister of Industry from March 1998 to November, 1999.

He was the Governor of Kerala at the time of his death.

An ideal Parliamentarian, he served on various Committees. He was a member of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs from 1991 to 1997 and the Committee on External Affairs during 1996-1997. He was also a member of the Committee of Privileges, Committee on Ethics and the General Purposes Committee of Rajya Sabha, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Installation of Portraits and Statues of National Leaders and Parliamentarians in Parliament House Complex. He also served as the Chairman, Committee on Commerce from 1999 to 2002 and the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Functioning of Wakf Boards from 2000 to 2002.

From 7th July 1992 to 15th May 1996 and 1st June 1996 to 18th March, 1998, Shri Bakht was the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. He was Leader of the House, Rajya Sabha from 20th May 1996 to 31st May 1996 and from 19th March 1998 to November, 1999.

An ardent enthusiast of sports, Shri Bakht also evinced keen interest in Indian classical music and Urdu poetry. Shri Bakht was conferred the Padma Vibhushan Award by the President of India on 30th March, 2000.

A widely travelled person, Shri Bakht attended the Inter Parliamentary Union Conferences held in Australia in 1993 and in Romania in 1995. He also attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences held in Malaysia in 1996 and in Mauritius in 1997.

Shri Sikander Bakht passed away on 23rd February, 2004 at Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 86.

Shri S.B. Chavan was a Member of the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1986, representing the Nanded Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra. Shri Chavan was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1988 to 2002. Shri Chavan had a long and distinguished political career.

An advocate by profession, Shri Chavan participated in the freedom struggle in the former Hyderabad State. He organised Students' Movement and gave up practice during the 'Quit Court' Movement in the Hyderabad State. In 1952, he was chosen President of the Nanded Municipal Council. He was elected to the erstwhile Bombay State Legislative Council in 1956 and thereafter he was a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1980. Later, he was a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council from 1986 to 1988.

An efficient and effective administrator, Shri Chavan served the country in various important capacities. He was the Deputy Minister of Revenue in the erstwhile Bombay State in 1956. Later, he was a Minister in the Government of Maharashtra. He served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra twice from 1975 to 1977 and from 1986 to 1988.

At the Union, he served as Cabinet Minister of Education, Culture and Social Welfare from 19th October, 1980 to 7th August, 1981; Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission from 8th August, 1981 to 18th July, 1984; Minister of External Affairs from 19th July 1984 to 1st August, 1984; Minister of Defence from 2nd August, 1984 to 30th December, 1984; Minister of Home Affairs from 31st December, 1984 to 12th March, 1986; Minister of Finance from 25th June, 1988 to 2nd December, 1989 and thereafter, as Minister of Home Affairs from 21st June, 1991 to 16th May, 1996.

He was Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha from 2nd July, 1991 to 15th May, 1996 and Leader of the Opposition from 23rd to 31st May, 1996. He also served as the Chairman, Standing Committee on Human Resource Development and Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha and as a member of the Committee on Rules, Business Advisory Committee and General Purposes Committee of Rajya Sabha and of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Railways.

An educationist, he established the Sharda Bhavan Education Society in 1950. He was Chancellor of the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. He also served as Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi; Bharat Scouts and Guides, Delhi; Maratha Mitra Mandal, Delhi and Marathwada Mitra Mandal, Pune.

Besides, Shri Chavan was associated with several other institutions in different capacities.

Shri Chavan took keen interest in the Hindustani Classical Music. A widely travelled person, he visited many countries.

Shri S.B. Chavan passed away on 26th February, 2004 at Mumbai at the age of 84.

Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979, representing the Patiala Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab. He was a sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha. Earlier also he was a Member

of the Rajya Sabha from 1969 to 1976 and 1980 to 1988.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Tohra played a prominent role in contemporary Sikh political, cultural and religious affairs. A very popular leader, he not only served as a member of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and its Executive Committee and Hazoor Sahib Gurudwara Board, Nanded, but was also elected President of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, as many as 26 times.

Shri Tohra led a simple life. His life exemplifies the virtues of austerity and selfless service and has left a deep imprint on the lives of the people, particularly in Punjab.

A devoted social worker, he was actively involved in the uplift of the weaker sections of the society. He relentlessly fought for the betterment of the marginalized farming community. He headed several religious, educational and other bodies.

Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra passed away on 1st April, 2004 at New Delhi at the age of 80.

Shri Abdul Shafee was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977, representing the Chandrapur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. An active parliamentarian, he was a member of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions from 1976 to 1977.

Shri Shafee, an agriculturist and businessman by profession, was a devoted social worker. He worked for the betterment of the poor and the underprivileged. He started social work in Rajoli village and was awarded the First Prize by the Government of Maharashtra for making Rajoli an ideal village. During the Chinese aggression in 1962, through his tireless efforts, he collected the maximum contribution of gold from the public for the coffers of the country.

Shri Shafee also served as the President of several bodies including the Gram Panchayat, Rajoli, Chandrapur; Zila Parishad, Chandrapur; Sardar Patel College of Arts, District Chandrapur; Patel Education Society, Nagpur; and Kidwai Education Society, Nagpur. He was a member of the Zila Parishad, District Chandrapur, for ten years; and he also worked on several State-level Committees.

Shri Abdul Shafee passed away on 26th April 2004 at Rajoli, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra at the age of about 79 years.

Shri A.M. Thomas was a Member of the First to Third Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1967, representing the Ernakulam Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Earlier, Shri Thomas was a Member of the Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1948 and of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1949 to 1952. He also held the office of the Speaker of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly during 1951-52.

An able administrator, he was the Union Deputy Minister, Food and Agriculture, from 1957 to 1963 and Union Minister of State, Food and Agriculture, from 1963 to 1964, and Defence and Defence production, from 1964 to 1967.

An advocate by profession, Shri Thomas was also a capable legislator. He was a member of the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee appointed by the Cochin Government to enquire into disabilities of Paliyam Tenants and Tenancy Select Committees. During his membership of Lok Sabha, he was the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Rubber Bill.

Shri Thomas led the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Sugar Conferences held in Geneva in 1958 and 1961. He also served as India's High Commissioner in Australia and Zambia and as the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

He was ever sensitive to the socio-economic problems facing the country and he worked devotedly for resolving the same.

Shri A.M. Thomas passed away on 27th April 2004 at Ernakulam, Kerala, at the age of 92.

Shri N. Gouzagin was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984, representing the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency of Manipur.

Earlier, Shri Gouzagin was a Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1974. He was re-elected to the Assembly in 1974. He served as Deputy Chief Minister in the Government of Manipur from March 1974 to July 1974. Thereafter, he again served as Cabinet Minister from January 1976 to July 1977.

During his membership of the Lok Sabha, he also served as a member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Gouzagin was also a devoted social worker. He was actively associated with the students' organisations and was the General President, Siamsinpawlp (Paite Students' Association) from 1961 to 1962 and 1963 to 1964. He was the Founder President of the Lamka College in 1977. He was an active member of the Red Cross Society, Churachandpur Branch.

He was member, Presidium of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, Manipur Branch and Indi-GDR Friendship Society, Manipur Branch.

Shri Gouzagin authored a book '*Pullai*' which was a collection of songs.

Shri Gouzagin passed away on 11 May, 2004 at Imphal, Manipur at the age of about 74 years.

Shri E.K. Nayanar was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970, representing the Palghat Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Shri Nayanar was a leading figure of the Communist movement in the country. He began his political career as a student leader and participated in the freedom struggle.

Shri Nayanar was elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly six times.

An able administrator, Shri Nayanar served as the Chief Minister of Kerala for about eleven years during 1980-81, 1987-91 and also 1996 to 2001. Shri Nayanar thus had the distinction of being the Chief Minister of Kerala for the longest period. During his Chief Ministership, the State of Kerala witnessed many socio-economic reforms. His major contributions as an administrator included the pioneering role his Government played in democratic decentralisation in the State, in the inspiring campaign to make Kerala cent per cent literate and in the measures taken to strengthen the Public Distribution System.

Shri Nayanar had a literary bent of mind. A man of letters, he wrote several books and also served as the Editor of *Deshabhimani*.

In his demise, we have lost a popular leader of the masses. Shri E.K. Nayanar passed away on 19th May, 2004 at New Delhi at the age of 85.

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.

As the hon. Members are aware, on 23rd May, 2004, 29 persons were killed and five were injured when extremists blew up a Border Security Force bus by detonating a bomb in Anantnag district on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Jammu and Kashmir.

The dead included 12 Jawans of the Border Security Force besides women and children.

We strongly condemn this heinous act of violence and deeply mourn the loss of lives in this incident.

The House may place on record its profound sorrow 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.

12.45 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

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...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please wait.

...(Interruptions)

श्री रघुनाथ झा (बेतिया) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक मिनट हमें बोलने का मौका दें। (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us go through the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Secretary-General.

*Not Recorded.