

Title : References made to the passing away of Shri K.R. Narayanan (Former President of India, Member 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabha) on 9.11.2005, Shri Prakash Babu V. Patil (Sitting Member & Member of 8th, 9th, 10th and 13th Lok Sabha) on 21.10.2005, Shri S.Ahmed Mehdi (Member of 2nd and 3rd Lok Sabha) on 8.11.2004, Shri T.Thirthagiri Gounder (Member of 5th Lok Sabha) on 9.07.2005, Shri Mahendra Baitha (Member 9th to 13th Lok Sabha) on 14.08.2005, Shri R.N. Tripathi (Member, 7th Lok Sabha) on 19.08.2005, Shri Dhuleshwar Meena (Member 3rd & 4th Lok Sabha and Member, Rajya Sabha from 1980-1992) on 3.9.2005, Shri Rajo Singh (Member 12th & 13th Lok Sabha) on 9.9.2005, Shri K.V. Surendra Nath (Member 11th Lok Sabha) on 9.9.2005, Shri B.K.Gadhvi (Member 7th, 8th and 11th Lok Sabha and Union Minister of State for Finance from 1986-89) on 18.9.2005, Shri Swami Prasad Singh (Member 8th Lok Sabha) on 22.9.2005, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat (Member of 5th, 7th, 8th and 9th Lok Sabha) on 29.10.2005, Prof. Madhu Dandvate (Member 5th to 9th Lok Sabha) on 12.11.2005. Speaker made reference to the devastating earthquake which rocked the parts of Northern India and Pakistan on 8.10.2005 and conveyed condolences to the people of J&K and Pakistan. The Speaker also made reference to the serial bomb blasts occurred in Delhi on 29.10.2005 and resolute to fight against the menace of Terrorism. Further reference was made to the ruthless terrorist attack on civilians in Amman on 9.11.2005 and condoled the bereaved families and to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Also a reference was made to the derailment of eight bogies of Repalli-Secunderabad Delta Express in Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh & condolence was paid to 116 dead and 101 injured in the mishap.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri K. R. Narayanan, former President of India and Shri Prakashbabu V. Patil, sitting Member and eleven of our former colleagues, Shri S. Ahmed Mehdi, Shri T. Thirthagiri Gounder, Shri Mahendra Baitha, Shri R.N. Tripathi, Shri Dhuleshwar Meena, Shri Rajo Singh, Shri K.V. Surendra Nath, Shri B.K. Gadhvi, Shri Swami Prasad Singh, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat and Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan was one of our country's leading intellectuals and a great human being, who adorned with distinction several offices, including that of the President of our Republic and shed lustre on all of them. He distinguished our national life for long in varied ways.

From his very humble beginning in a remote village in Kerala, with his great merit and dedication he rose to occupy the highest office of the land. His was indeed a multifaceted personality with great vision and integrity. He demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the cause of India's socio-economic transformation. Shri Narayanan had very rich and varied experience as a distinguished diplomat, an eminent Parliamentarian, an extremely efficient Minister, an administrator and as a renowned academician.

A student of exceptional merit, he started his career as a lecturer at his alma mater, University College, Travancore in 1943. Later he also worked as a journalist with two national Newspapers before proceeding to London to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he had the opportunity to work under eminent Professors like, Harold J. Laski, Lionel Robbins, Friedrich Hayek and Karl Popper. The glowing testimonials from Harold Laski inspired India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to recommend Shri Narayanan for the Indian Civil Service. Thus commenced his distinguished career in the Indian Foreign Service spanning for almost three decades from 1949 to 1978. He was the Indian Ambassador to Thailand in 1967-69, to Turkey in 1973-75 and to the People's Republic of China in 1976-78. He was Foreign Secretary in 1976. He also taught at the Delhi School of Economics during 1954-55.

Shri Narayanan, an academic to the core, served with distinction as the Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1978 to 1980. Thereafter he was the Indian Ambassador to the United States of America from 1980 to 1984.

Shri Narayanan was a Member of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas. As a Member, he effectively articulated the concerns of the people at large. He was a people's leader in every sense of the term and always identified himself with the deprived and the downtrodden. During the Eighth Lok Sabha, he was a Minister of State in the Ministries of Planning from 1984 to 1985; External Affairs from 1985 to 1986; Science and Technology, and of the Departments of Atomic Energy, Electronics, Ocean Development and Space from 1986 to 1989. He was also the Vice-President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research from 1986 to 1989.

During his membership of the Tenth Lok Sabha, Shri Narayanan was unanimously elected the Vice-President of India on 21 August, 1992. As the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he ceaselessly endeavoured to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the proceedings of the House and was acknowledged as a very conscientious and able Presiding Officer. His illustrious career in public life reached its zenith when he was elected to the highest office of the land, the President of India, on 17 July, 1997. He took oath as the Tenth President of India on 25 July, 1997. He held this high office with rare distinction for a full term of five years.

Shri Narayanan enriched and enhanced the prestige and dignity of the august Office of the President of India by his utmost commitment to high constitutional values and ideals, which considerably strengthened our democratic edifice.

Shri Narayanan was associated with a number of educational, cultural and other organisations in varied capacities. He was the President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; Indian Institute of Public Administration; Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science; Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore; and the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala. He was also a member of the University Academy of Culture, Paris.

A person endowed with exceptional brilliance and a recipient of several academic and other awards, Shri Narayanan had also distinguished himself as a brilliant scholar. He authored many books like "India and America; Essays in Understanding", "Images and Insights" and "Non-Alignment in Contemporary International Relations" along with Shri K.P. Mishra. Besides delivering a large number of lectures to distinguished gatherings across the world, he contributed several articles on social, political, international and literary matters for various magazines and periodicals of repute.

Shri K.R. Narayanan passed away on 9 November, 2005 at New Delhi at the age of 85 years.

In Shri Narayanan's death, the country has lost a sagacious statesman, an ardent champion of secularism and constitutional propriety, a friend of the underprivileged and a fine human being, who strove all through his life for building a progressive, rational and egalitarian society. His passing away has indeed left a void that will be difficult to fill, but his life will ever remain an inspiration to all.

Shri Prakashbapu V. Patil was a sitting Member of the House representing the Sangli parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra. Earlier, he was a Member of the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1984 to 1996 and 1999 to 2004 representing the same constituency.

An able parliamentarian Shri Patil was Member, Committee on Agriculture at the time of his demise. Earlier he was Member, Rules Committee and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation in 1990. During the Thirteenth Lok Sabha he was Member, Committee on Agriculture and External Affairs.

A multi-faceted personality, Shri Patil was an agriculturist, educationist, journalist and engineer. He was associated with various co-operative and educational institutions. He was the Chairman, Vasantdada Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Sangli; President, Swami Vivekananda Educational Society, Kolhapur; Freedom Fighters Association, Maharashtra and All India Indo-Arab Friendship Association (Maharashtra).

Shri Patil, a dedicated social activist, worked for the uplift of the downtrodden and the backward classes besides taking various initiatives for spreading and promoting education.

A widely travelled person, Shri Patil visited various countries.

Shri Prakashbapu V. Patil passed away on 21 October, 2005 at Pune, Maharashtra at the age of 58 years.

Shri S. Ahmed Mehdi was a Member of the Second and Third Lok Sabhas from 1957 to 1967 representing the Rampur parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

An able administrator Shri Mehdi was the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals from February, 1966 to March, 1967.

He took special interest in community development and the uplift of weaker sections of the society. He was associated with several educational bodies. He was the Secretary, Raza D.M. College, Jaunpur, Shia Degree College, Lucknow and several schools and colleges in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Mehdi was the Associate Editor, 'Africa Quarterly' a Journal of India Council for Africa.

Shri S. Ahmed Mehdi passed away on 8 November, 2004 at New Delhi, at the age of 82.

Shri T. Thirthagiri Gounder was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha representing Krishnagiri parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Gounder was also elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1967 and thereafter in 1984 from Bergur and Morappur Assembly constituencies of Tamil Nadu respectively.

Shri Gounder who participated in India's freedom movement was an active social worker. In the initial years of his public life he was a member, Salem District Council and President, Harur Co-operative Union. Later he was the Director and Vice-President, Salem and Dharmapuri District Co-operative Central Bank and President, Harur Taluk Co-operative Union. He was also the Director, Co-operative Land Development Bank, Harur. He served as the Chairman, Harur Panchayat Council for three times and was also the Director, Palacode Co-operative Sugar Mill.

Shri T. Thirthagiri Gounder passed away on 9 July, 2005 at Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu at the age of 85.

Shri Mahendra Baitha was a Member of the Ninth to the Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1989 to 2004, representing Bagaha parliamentary constituency of Bihar.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Baitha was a Member of Consultative Committee, Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals during Ninth Lok Sabha; Consultative Committee, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Committee on Labour and Welfare during Tenth Lok Sabha; Committee on Transport and Tourism, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Communications during Eleventh Lok Sabha; Committee on Communications, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Railways during Twelfth Lok Sabha and Committee on Communications, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Communications during Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

A freedom fighter, Shri Baitha took active part in the Quit India Movement, 1942.

An active social worker, Shri Baitha constituted various Committees at the Block and District levels for the welfare and uplift of the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society for providing assistance to the needy and the poor.

Shri Mahendra Baitha passed away on 14 August 2005 at Bettiah, Bihar at the age of 77.

Shri R. N. Tripathi was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984, representing Bilhaur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Tripathi actively participated in India's struggle for freedom and was also imprisoned several times.

An active political worker, Shri Tripathi was the President of Zila Parishad, Kanpur in 1988. As a journalist, Shri Tripathi edited a weekly "Jaipraja Nayak".

An eminent social worker, Shri Tripathi worked relentlessly for uplift of backward and downtrodden sections of the society. He was also associated with widow-remarriage, anti-child marriage and anti-dowry campaigns.

Shri R. N. Tripathi passed away on 19 August 2005 at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 105 after a brief illness.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena was a Member of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1970 representing the Udaipur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. Shri Meena was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1992, representing the State of Rajasthan.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Meena was also an active social worker. Working amongst tribals, he strove for amelioration of their lot educationally as well as culturally. He was the President, Akhil Rajasthan Adivasi Sangh. He was also a Member of the Executive Committee, Bhartiya Adim Jati Sewak Sangh; Central Tribal Advisory Board and State Planning Advisory Council, Rajasthan.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena passed away on 3 September 2005 at Ajmer, Rajasthan at the age of 70.

Shri Rajo Singh was a Member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2004 representing the Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

Earlier, Shri Singh was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly for six consecutive terms spanning over more than a quarter of a century, that is, from 1972 to 1998. During this period, he held the office of the Minister for Rural Development from 1980 to 1982, and the Minister for State for Revenue and Parliamentary Affairs from 1982 to 1983 in the State Government.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Rajo Singh served on various Parliamentary and Consultative Committees during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha. He was a Member, Committee on Railways; Committee on Petitions; Committee on Official Languages; Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House; and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Communications.

An agriculturist, a social worker and a teacher by profession, Shri Singh took active interest in socio-cultural and educational activities. He established the Ramadhin College, Sheikhpura and was its founder Secretary from 1969 to 1980. He was also the founder Secretary of Sunder Singh College and the founder Member of Sanjay Gandhi Smarak Mahila College, Sheikhpura. He was the Member, Management Board of Rajendra Agriculture University from 1972 to 2005, Senate Member of Tilaka Manjhi Bhagalpur University from 1977 to 1980, and life member of the University Senate from 1981 onwards.

Shri Singh was also active in the Co-operative Movement and contributed to the strengthening of the movement. He was Member, Co-operative Council in 1986 and Administrative Member, National Co-operative Handloom Development Bank Association from 1986 to 1988.

Shri Rajo Singh died on 9 September 2005 at Sheikhpura, Bihar at the age of 77 under tragic circumstances.

Shri K. V. Surendra Nath was a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing Thiruvananthapuram Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Earlier, Shri Surendra Nath was a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1991.

An active trade unionist, Shri Surendra Nath was associated with various trade union bodies in different capacities from 1953 to 1971. He served as Member, General Council of AITUC; Vice-President, Trade Union Council; and as Vice-President, AITUC, Kerala. He also served as the Secretary, Kerala Institute of Marxist studies from 1980 to 1991.

Shri Surendra Nath was a perceptive political thinker with firm ideological moorings. He also took keen interest in social and educational issues. He organised programmes for the promotion of total literacy in the State of Kerala. He was the President of Kerala Environmental Protection Samiti and of Abhaya Social Welfare Organisation, Thiruvananthapuram. He also served as Secretary of C. Achutha Menon Foundation and K. Damodaran Memorial Trust.

A man of letters, Shri Surendra Nath has to his credit a travelogue *Along the Roof of the World* and various articles on political theory and current ideological issues. He was also the Editor of *Marxist Veekshanam*, a theoretical monthly journal.

Shri K.V. Surendra Nath passed away on 9th September, 2005 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala at the age of 80.

Shri B.K. Gadhvi was a member of the Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1989 and from 1996 to 1997 representing the Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat.

An able parliamentarian, he served as the Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances from 1985 to 1986, and of the Standing Committee on Defence from 1996 to 1997. He was also the Union Minister of State for Finance from 1986 to 1989.

An agriculturist and advocate by profession Shri Gadhvi was an ardent social activist. He took keen interest in the welfare of the weaker sections of the society. Shri Gadhvi was the Director, Gujarat State Land Development Bank from 1972 to 1977. He was also the Director of the Gujarat Agriculture University and President, Jagurati Educational Trust. He was also Member, National Council of Technical Education from 1980 to 1984. He was closely associated with the Organisation of Farm Labourer's Association and the Bidi Workers Association.

A widely travelled person Shri Gadhvi was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held at Nairobi, Kenya in 1983.

Shri B.K. Gadhvi passed away on 18th September, 2005 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat at the age of 68.

Shri Swami Prasad Singh was a member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Singh was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1969 to 1977 and 1980 to 1984. An able administrator, Shri Singh served as the Cabinet Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh from 1969 to 1970, and 1971 to 1977, and 1980 to 1984, and held various important portfolios.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Singh was a member of the House Committee from 1985 to 1987 and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority from 1988 to 1989.

An able lawyer and a social activist, Shri Singh took keen interest in the spread of education especially among the backward classes. Shri Singh served as the President of the Governing Bodies of B.N.V. Degree College and B.N.V. Inter College, Rath, and Intermediate College, Gohand.

Shri Swami Prasad Singh passed away on 22nd September, 2005 at Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 86.

Shri H.K.L. Bhagat was a member of the Fifth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabhas from 1971 to 1977 and 1980 to 1991 representing the East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency of Delhi.

Shri Bhagat was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Housing from 1975 to 1977 and from 1982 to 1983, and in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from 1983 to 1984. During his tenure in the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989, he was a Union Minister and held the portfolios of Parliamentary Affairs, Tourism, Food and Civil Supplies and Information and Broadcasting.

A capable parliamentarian, Shri Bhagat during his distinguished tenure in the House was the Chairman of various Joint and Select Committees on Bills besides being a member of the Committee of Privileges, Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Business Advisory Committee.

Shri Bhagat was a member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1956. He was the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Government of Delhi in 1952. He was the Deputy mayor of Delhi during 1964 to 1966. He became the Chief Executive Councillor, in charge of Education, Law, Labour and Transport, Delhi Government from 1966 to 1967.

Shri Bhagat was also associated with various social, cultural and educational institutions of the capital, notable among them being the Gandhi Darshan Samiti and the Shanti Van Samiti.

A widely travelled person, Shri Bhagat was a Delegate to the International Film Festival in Moscow in 1983 and the Non-Aligned Movement Information Ministers Conference at Jakarta and Cairo in 1984.

Shri H.K.L. Bhagat passed away on 29th October, 2005 at New Delhi at the age of 84.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate was a member of the Fifth to the Ninth Lok Sabhas from 1971 to 1991 representing the Rajapur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. Earlier he was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council from 1970 to 1971.

A veteran socialist leader, Prof. Madhu Dandavate was one of the towering figures of post-independence public life in the country. He was an outstanding parliamentarian, an able administrator and above all a leader of unquestionable integrity and transparent honesty. A true patriot and a nationalist to the core, Prof. Dandavate actively participated in the Quit India Movement and later in 1955, in the movement to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule. He also took part in the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement.

Born on 21st January, 1924 in Ahmednagar, Prof. Dandavate had his education in Maharashtra and obtained his Post Graduate Degree in Science from the prestigious Royal Institute of Science, Bombay. Later he was a Lecturer in Physics, including nuclear Physics, at Siddharth College, Bombay, where he rose to become the Vice-Principal. He had shone brilliantly both as a student and as a Professor and left his mark in academics as he did later in public life. He was also a trustee of the Yusuf Meherally Education Society.

A parliamentarian of exceptional skill, Prof. Dandavate greatly enriched democratic life in the country for more than half a century, both in and outside Parliament. His thought provoking, analytical and incisive speeches, laced with humour and on subjects of immense social relevance, were greatly inspiring. Highly articulate and clear in his thinking, Prof. Dandavate contributed significantly to the proceedings in the House and always conducted himself with enormous dignity and poise. His knowledge of the rules and parliamentary procedure was exemplary. He made intelligent use of the various parliamentary devices to raise issues of genuine public importance and to make the government answerable. His was one of the most powerful and progressive voices in Parliament and outside in defence of democracy and the socialist and secular values in the country. An embodiment of gentleness, sparkling intellect and above all humanism, he was a role model for those in public life, particularly for the young parliamentarians.

Prof. Dandavate's administrative capabilities were amply established while he served as the Union Minister of Railways from 1977 to 1979 and as the Minister of Finance from 1989 to 1990. As the Railway Minister he brought the railway network into Konkan, and as Finance Minister he pioneered ways and means of detecting undeclared sources of income and for widening the tax net. His sound understanding of economics and fiscal issues, stood in good stead when he served the country as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission later. He was a member, Business Advisory Committee from 1980 to 1984 and Estimates Committee from 1985 to 1986.

Recognised across the country as one of the prominent erudite politician-scholars, wedded to socialism and Gandhian principles,

Prof. Dandavate had authored several books, some of the notable among them being *Three Decades of Indian Communism; Marx and Gandhi; Gandhiji's Impact on Socialist Thinking; Yusuf Meherally – A Quest for New Horizon; Jaya Prakash Narayan: The Man and His Ideas; and A Dialogue with Life.*

Through his amiable and caring disposition, through his hard work and commitment and through his intelligent and constructive approach, he endeared himself to everyone with whom he had come in contact. In his passing away, the country has lost an outstanding parliamentarian, a great human being, a leader of the masses and a champion of the downtrodden and of the working class and a many-splendoured personality.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate passed away on 12th November, 2005 at Mumbai, Maharashtra, at the age of 81 after a protracted 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.

As the hon. Members are aware, a devastating earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter Scale rocked parts of northern India and Pakistan on 8 October, 2005. The State of Jammu and Kashmir was worst hit by the earthquake, where about 1,336 persons lost their lives and 6,587 were injured. Thousands of houses and buildings were damaged. The loss of lives and property in Pakistan was of a much larger magnitude.

The Government expeditiously took relief and rehabilitation measures and also extended help to the Government of Pakistan by sending relief supplies across the border. The House expresses solidarity with the relief efforts being undertaken by our Government.

The House conveys its sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families in Jammu and Kashmir. The House also expresses its deep sympathies to the Government and the people of Pakistan.

Hon. Members, on 29 October, 2005 the country again became a victim of the terrorist violence. In the serial bomb blasts which occurred at three different places in Delhi on the eve of important festivals of Deepawali and Eid, about 65 people lost their lives, and 155 persons were injured. The blasts were timed to disturb the communal harmony in the country. However, such horrendous acts make us more steadfast in our resolve to fight against the menace of terrorism and defeat the designs of perpetrators of such crimes against humanity.

The House also expresses its state of shock and grief over the multiple terrorist attacks targeting civilians in Amman, on 9 November, 2005, which resulted in death of a large number of people and injured many more. We strongly condemn these ruthless terrorist attacks on innocent civilians and offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Hon. Members, in a tragic incident, on 29 October, 2005, eight bogies of Repalli-Secunderabad Delta Express derailed and fell into a rivulet in Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh. One hundred and sixteen passengers lost their lives, and 101 were injured in this mishap.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives in the tragedy and the House expresses its deep sense of grief in this regard.

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

11.32 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 11.a.m. tomorrow.

11.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, November 24, 2005/Agrahayana 3, 1927 (Saka).*
