

Title : Regarding passing away of Shri Chandrashekhar, sitting member of Lok Sabha, member 6th, 7th and 9th to 13th Lok Sabha and former Prime Minister, Shri Ajit Kumar Singh, sitting member of Lok Sabha, Shri Krishna Chandra Halder, member 5th to 7th Lok Sabha, Shri Chandrajeet Yadav, member 4th, 5th, 7th and 10th Lok Sabha, Shri T.Nagaratnam, member 7th and 11th Lok Sabha, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, member 13th Lok Sabha and Shri Bharat Singh Chowhan, member 4th to 6th Lok Sabha on 08.07.07, 01.08.07, 07.02.07, 25.05.07, 08.06.07, 30.06.07 and 26.07.07 respectively.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Chandrashekhar and Shri Ajit Kumar Singh, two sitting Members of this House and five of our former colleagues, Shri Krishna Chandra Halder, Shri Chandrajeet Yadav, Shri T. Nagaratnam, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma and Shri Bharat Singh Chowhan.

Hon. Members, it is with profound sorrow I refer to the passing away of our respectable colleague, Shri Chandrashekhar.

Shri Chandrashekhar was a sitting Member of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha representing Ballia Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a Member of the Sixth, Seventh and Ninth to Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1984 and 1989 to 2004, representing the same Parliamentary Constituency. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha for three consecutive terms from 1962 to 1977, representing the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Chandrashekharji was among the country's most respected political leaders. He was initiated into politics in the early 1950s, inspired by the great socialist leader Acharya Narendra Dev. He came to be known as the "Young Turk" in his early political career because of his principled stand on many important issues on which he held views different from the traditional approach. Indeed, he was a rebel against injustice and discrimination.

An illustrious Parliamentarian with four decades of signal contribution, he played a pro-active role in the parliamentary deliberations. A consummate orator, his speeches in Parliament had a rare force and they reflected his vision of a resurgent India. He was fearless in the expression of his views, but always maintained dignity in his dealings with those who held different political views. His presence and interventions in Parliament during periods of turmoil had quite often helped to restore calm in the House. His was an authentic voice of a conscientious leader and he never compromised with the declining ethical values in public life. The Parliament recognized his illuminating contribution in parliamentary deliberations and conferred on him the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 1995.[\[r1\]](#)

Shri Chandrashekhar had the distinction to serve as Prime Minister of India from 10th November, 1990 to 21st June, 1991 and during this period held several important portfolios. As Prime Minister, he took quite a few pro-people initiatives which showed his enlightened statesmanship and political sagacity.

Shri Chandrashekhar was the Chairman, Committee on Ethics from 2000 to 2001 and again from 2005 onwards.

A man of strong convictions, he took a principled and uncompromising stand on basic policies. He believed that the common man must be central to the policies and programmes of the Government. He undertook a Padayatra of 4260 kms from Kanyakumari to Rajghat, New Delhi in 1983 to establish rapport with the masses and to understand their problems; and established Bharat Yatra Centres in various States to educate the social and political workers at grass-roots level.

Shri Chandrashekhar's life is a saga of courage. A socialist to the core, he was a true secular nationalist and was an icon of the youth. He learnt and practiced politics in an era when ideals were sacrosanct.

Shri Chandrashekhar was an uncompromising champion of secular and democratic values. He fiercely opposed any deviations from these values, as he believed that these form the very foundations of the Indian nation. He demonstrated his unshakable faith in these values in his life and his active participation in the movement launched by Shri Jayprakash Narayan greatly contributed to its success.

A man of letters, Shri Chandrashekhar had to his credit publications entitled "Meri Jail Diary" (in Hindi) and "Dynamics of Social Change". He was the founder Editor and Chairman, Editorial Advisory Board of a weekly, "Young Indian".

With the passing away of Shri Chandrashekhar, an eventful era in the political history of the country has come to an end. In his demise the country has lost an eminent parliamentarian, an able administrator, a statesman and a dedicated Socialist who stood for secularism and a casteless society.

Shri Chandrashekhar passed away on 8th July, 2007 at New Delhi at the age of 80, after a prolonged illness.

Shri Ajit Kumar Singh was a sitting member of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha representing Bikramganj Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Singh was a member of the Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution during 2004; Committee on Health and Family Welfare; and Joint Committee on Offices of Profit during 2006; and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Power during 2004.

An agriculturist and active social worker, Shri Singh was one of the young and enterprising forces behind the cooperative movement in the country. He had the distinction of being an elected member of almost all major national level cooperative institutions. He served as the Chairman of NAFED and as the Director of IFFCO and KRIBHCO. He was also the founder Chairman of Tapindu Urban Cooperative Board, Patna, Bihar in 2000.

Shri Ajit Kumar Singh died in a tragic road accident at Siwan, Bihar on 1st August, 2007, at the early age of 45. His untimely death has cut short a promising future.

Shri Krishna Chandra Halder was a member of the Fifth to Seventh Lok Sabhas from 1971 to 1984, representing Ausgram and Durgapur Parliamentary Constituencies of West Bengal.

Shri Halder was a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1968, from 1969 to 1970, and from 1991 to 1996. He served as the Minister of Excise in the Government of West Bengal from 1969 to 1970.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Halder, during the Fifth Lok Sabha, was a member of the Committee on Estimates from 1971 to 1974; Committee on Public Undertakings from 1974 to 1976; Consultative Committee of Ministry of Steel and Mines, and Industrial Development from 1971 to 1977. During the Sixth Lok Sabha, Shri Halder was member in Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions from 1977 to 1978; Joint Select Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Inclusion and Exclusion Bill, from 1977 to 1979; and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Industry from 1977 to 1979. He was also a member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table during the Seventh Lok Sabha. [\[KMF2\]](#)

A perceptive administrator, Shri Halder served as the Commissioner, Burdwan Municipality from 1954 to 1956 and was the Vice-President, Burdwan District Kisan Sabha from 1973 to 1980. A social and political activist, he evinced keen interest in the uplift of backward classes, and dedicated his entire political career for the cause of peasants and the vulnerable sections of the society.

A widely travelled person, Shri Halder was a member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to erstwhile USSR, North Korea and Mongolia in 1978.

Shri Krishna Chandra Halder passed away on 7 February, 2007 at Burdwan, West Bengal at the age of 85.

Shri Chandrajeet Yadav was a member of the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and Tenth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1977, 1980 to 1984 and 1991 to 1996, representing Azamgarh Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Yadav was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1967.

An able administrator, Shri Yadav was the Union Minister of Steel and Mines from 1974 to 1977.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Yadav was member, Committee on Government Assurances during the Seventh Lok Sabha and was the Chairman. of Public Accounts Committee during the Tenth Lok Sabha .

A widely travelled person, Shri Yadav was a member of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) team which visited Cambodia in 1993 to observe the conduct. of elections held there.

A versatile social activist, Shri Yadav was the President of Indo-G.D.R. Friendship Society; National Committee on Aid for Democratic Republic of Vietnam and All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation. He was the Vice- President of Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Committee; Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and Asian Solidarity Organisation. He also served as the General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Kisan Sabha and member, Presidium of the World Peace Council.

Shri Chandrajeet Yadav passed away on 25 May, 2007 at New Delhi at the age of 77, after a brief illness.

Shri T. Nagaratnam was a member of the Seventh and Eleventh Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1984 and 1996 to 1997, representing Sriperumbudur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Nagaratnam was member of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation during Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1981.

An advocate by profession, Shri Nagaratnam was an active social worker. Propelled by the fervour for public service, he optimally utilized his professional legal services in actively participating in legal aid programmes for the poor and the needy.

Besides he also organized literacy programmes for educational uplift of the masses.

Shri Nagaratnam, a votary of the working class, also served as the President, Stoneware Pipes Limited Employees Union, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu from 1970 to 1972. He was also a member of the Senate of Madras University during 1994.

Shri Nagaratnam was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation which visited Sweden in 1997.

Shri T. Nagaratnam passed away on 8 June, 2007 at Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu at the age of 69, after a prolonged illness.

Dr. Sahib Singh Verma was a member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2004, representing Outer Delhi Parliamentary Constituency of Delhi.

Earlier, Dr. Verma was the Chairman, Metropolitan Council, Delhi from 1977 to 1989 and later a member, Delhi Legislative Assembly from 1993 to 1998.

A person with an administrative acumen, Dr. Verma was a Cabinet Minister in Delhi Government from 1993 to 1996. Thereafter, he became the Chief Minister of Delhi from 1996 to 1998. Dr. Verma was also the Union Minister of Labour from 2002 to 2004.

An active parliamentarian, Dr. Verma was the Chairman, Joint Committee on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999; member, Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution from 1999 to 2000 and Committee on Ethics from 2000 to 2001.

An educationist by profession, Dr. Verma was a leader of the masses who cherished an austere lifestyle. An amiable person, his ever smiling appearance and genial temperament added to his stature and popularity which extended beyond Delhi to other parts of the country. He championed the cause of the farmers, labourers and the unorganized sector. As the Union Minister for Labour, he strove for the betterment of the working class.

As Chief Minister of Delhi, Dr. Verma was instrumental in carrying out several rural development schemes and was the guiding factor in the enactment of Delhi Agriculture Cattle Preservation Act and Delhi Tree Preservation Act. A techno-friendly person, he also launched a website for enabling people to take stock of works done by the Government and get their feedback. Besides, he had set up a public Grievances Redressal Commission and appointed the Lokayukta in the State. In his demise, we have lost a popular political activist.

Dr. Sahib Singh Verma met his untimely death on 30 June, 2007 in a tragic road accident at Shahjahanpur at Alwar in Rajasthan at the age of 64.

Shri Bharat Singh Chowhan was a member of the Fourth to Sixth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1979 representing Dhar Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Chowhan, during 1976, was a member of the Business Advisory Committee, Committee on Estimates and Consultative Committee constituted under the Tamil Nadu State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1976. An agriculturist by profession, Shri Chowhan served as the Chairman, District Panchayat Council from 1957 to 1967.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Chowhan actively participated in the freedom movement. He was member of Hindustan Socialist and Republican Army before independence. A well known social worker, Shri Chowhan was actively associated with various social activities and was instrumental in setting up of rural libraries and promoting adult education.

Shri Bharat Singh Chowhan passed away on 26 July, 2007 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 95, after a brief 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.

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

11. 17 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 13th August 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

11.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Monday, August 13, 2007/Sravana 22, 1929 (Saka).

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