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Title: Mr. Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Mohammad Maqbool Dar, member 11th Lok Sabha; Shri Chiman Bhai Shukla, member 6th Lok Sabha; Shri Gopeshwar, member 8th Lok Sabha; Shri Ram Prakash Tripathi member 6th Lok Sabha; and Shri G.M. Banatwalla, member 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11 th, 12 th, and 13th Lok Sabha on 17.04.2008, 21.04.2008, 23.05.2008, 24.06.2008, 25.06.2008 respectively. Mr. Speaker also made references to the passing away of field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshave; to the naxalite attack in Malkangiri district of Orissa on 29.06.2008 and to the terrorist attack at Narbal, Jammu and Kashmir on 19th July, 2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of five of our former colleagues, Shri Mohammad Maqbool Dar, Shri Chiman Bhai Shukla, Shri Gopeshwar, Shri Ram Prakash Tripathi and Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

Shri Mohammad Maqbool Dar was a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Shri Dar was a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from 1983 to 1986.

An able administrator, Shri Dar served as the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs from 1996 to 1998. He also served as a Member of the State Advisory Council of Jammu and Kashmir in 1992.

An advocate by profession, Shri Dar was an active social worker.

A widely traveled person, Shri Dar was the Leader of the Haj Goodwill Delegation on rescue measures for pilgrims at Meena and Mecca in 1997.

Shri Mohammad Maqbool Dar passed away on 17 April, 2008 at Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir at the age of 65. [r2]

Shri Chiman Bhai Shukla was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Rajkot Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat.

Earlier, Shri Shukla was a member of the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha from 1967 to 1970. Shri Shukla was also a member of the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Gujarat from 1993 to 1999.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When we are reading Obituary Reference, at least I expect silence. At least, show respect to our departed Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: An advocate by profession, Shri Shukla also served as a Professor at the Government Law College, Rajkot for many years.

Shri Shukla, a committed votary for the cause of social justice, worked for the uplift of socially oppressed and the downtrodden. Shri Shukla was actively associated with the movement for the liberation of Goa.

Shri Chiman Bhai Shukla passed away on 21 April, 2008 at Rajkot, Gujarat at the age of 80.

Shri Gopeshwar was a member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989, representing the Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar now in Jharkhand.

A committed nationalist Shri Gopeshwar as a student leader actively participated in the India's freedom struggle and Quit India movement. After Independence of the country he channelised his energies for the cause of Labour movement.

Shri Gopeshwar was one of the leading figures in the Indian Trade Union movement. He was elected as the General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress in 1987.

Shri Gopeshwar led a number of Trade Unions. A firm believer in the "Trusteeship Theory" pronounced by Gandhiji, he devoted his life championing the cause of the workers' participation in Management. He was the Editor of the publications 'Azad Hind' and 'Lok Sewak' and has to his credit a number of articles of interest to the working class.

A widely travelled person, Shri Gopeshwar gave voice to the interests of the Indian working class in various international conferences like the International Labour Conferences in 1967, 1981, 1983 and 1984. He was also a member of the Indian

Workers delegation to the erstwhile USSR, USA, China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and several European countries. He was the Vice President of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as well as its Asian and Pacific Regional Organizations.

Shri Gopeshwar was awarded the Sir Jehangir Gandhi Medal for Industrial Peace in 1985, for his dedicated services to the cause of the Labour movement.

Shri Gopeshwar passed away on 23 May, 2008 at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand at the age of 87.

Shri Ram Prakash Tripathi was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979, representing the Kannauj Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Tripathi was elected as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 1967 and 1974. He was again elected as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 2002. An able administrator, Shri Tripathi also served as the Minister for Cooperative Affairs in the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 2002-2003.

A committed social and political worker, Shri Tripathi strove for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society.

Shri Ram Prakash Tripathi passed away on 24 June, 2008 at Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 70.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla was a member of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1991 and the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 2004, representing Ponnani Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Earlier, Shri Banatwalla was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977.

During his long and illustrious tenure spanning over a period of more than two and a half decades, Shri Banatwalla ably served as a member of various Parliamentary Committees.

An active social and political worker, Shri Banatwalla was the President of the Cutchi Memon Students Circle, Mumbai from 1954 to 1956 and the Cutchi Memon Jamat, Mumbai from 1965 to 1967. He was a Member of the Anjuman-i-Islam Board for Commercial Education, Mumbai from 1954 to 1956; Aligarh Muslim University Court, from 1967 to 1977 and in 1999; Maharashtra State Integration Committee from 1967 to 1977; All India Muslim Personal Law Board and All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat. Shri Banatwalla also served as the Special Executive Magistrate, Mumbai with distinction during 1967 to 1977.

A man with an academic bent of mind, Shri Banatwalla has to his credit two books 'Religion and Politics in India' and 'Muslim League' published in English and one book 'Azadi Ke Baad' in Urdu language as well as numerous articles in leading journals.^[m3]

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Shri G.M. Banatwalla passed away on 25 June, 2008 at Mumbai at the age of 75.

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, you are all aware of the sad demise of Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw a veteran soldier and the hero of 1971 war. Popularly known as 'Sam Bahadur', Field Marshal Manekshaw was among the first batch of Indian Commissioned Officers who passed out from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun in 1934. During the World War-II, he served on the Burma front and was honoured for his bravery on the battle front.

Field Marshal Manekshaw displayed his innate leadership qualities and aptly used his battle skills in the Jammu and Kashmir operations during 1947-48. He later became the Colonel of 8 Gorkha Rifles and 61 Cavalry. During his stint as the GOC, Eastern Command he successfully handled the situation in Nagaland and was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his contribution.

He rose to become the Chief of Army Staff in 1969. During the Indo-Pak War in 1971, his superior war strategy, uncanny military sagacity and motivational presence led to the victory of Indian forces and mass surrender of Pakistani troops in erstwhile East Pakistan and the birth of Bangladesh. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan in 1972 and was conferred with the rank of Field Marshal for his brilliant leadership and skills. Even after his retirement he continued to be associated with several welfare projects for the soldiers and ex-servicemen.

In his demise the country has lost a great soldier, a rare military genius, a patriot and a hero who inspired a generation of our countrymen.

Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw passed away on 27 June, 2008 at Wellington, Tamil Nadu at the age of 94.

Hon. Members, on 29 June, 2008 over 50 security personnel of the Anti-Naxal Force of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa Police drowned in Balimela reservoir in Malkangiri district of Orissa when the boat ferrying them was attacked by the naxalites.

Hon. Members, you might also be aware that in another incident on 19th July, 2008 reportedly at least 10 soldiers were killed and around 14 were injured when Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists triggered a landmine as an Army bus packed with soldiers passed over it at Narbal along the strategic Srinagar-Baramulla Highway.

The House condoles the death of the valiant soldiers and expresses its sympathy with the injured and bereaved families. The House also strongly condemns these acts of naxalites and terrorists and resolves resolutely to combat their evil designs.

Hon. Members, in another incident on 7th July, 2008 in a terrorist attack on the premises of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, five Embassy personnel lost their lives – Brig. R.D. Mehta, Defence Attaché, Shri V.V. Rao, Counsellor, Constable Ajay Singh Pathania, Constable Roop Singh from the ITBP contingent and an Afghan staff member Mr. Niamutullah.

Over 60 Afghanistan nationals were also killed in this attack. This included the Afghanistan security personnel stationed outside the embassy, children and other innocent passers-by. The House offers its deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives and also to the many others who were injured.

The House places on record its appreciation of the commitment and dedication of our civil servants, engineers, doctors, technicians, security personnel and other nationals who are working in Afghanistan to assist in its reconstruction.

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

11.19 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

11.20 hrs.