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Title : The Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Vice-President of India; Shri Digvijay Singh, a sitting member of Lok Sabha and member of the 12th and 13th Lok Sabhas and Shri Ram Sagar, a member of the 6th and 9th Lok Sabhas. The Speaker also paid homage to the martyrs of Kargil War. She further made a reference to the death of 27 paramilitary personnel of CRPF and injuries to seven others on 29th June, 2010 in a naxalite attack in Chhattisgarh. The Speaker also made references to the death of 8 CRPF personnel and 6 villagers in different naxal attack in Chhattisgarh on 8th and 16th May, 2010 respectively. She also made a reference to the loss of 158 lives in an Air India Express plane crash outside Mangalore airport in Karnataka. She further made references to the suspected naxalite attack on Gyaneshwari Express leading to its collision with a goods train causing death of 148 people and injuries to over 200 people in West Bengal and death of 60 people and injuries to 90 people in a collision of Uttarbanga Express with Vanachal Express at Sainthia station in West Bengal. She also made a reference to the recent devastating floods caused by heavy rains in Punjab, Haryana and some parts of the country resulting in loss of lives of 51 people.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India; Shri Digvijay Singh, a sitting member of this House; and one of our former colleagues, Shri Ram Sagar.

Hon. Members, you are all aware of the sad demise of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Vice-President of India. Shri Shekhawatji was one of the well-known public figures of the country who held a distinguished public life.

Shri Shekhawat was a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1972 and from 1977 to 2002. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1974 to 1977.

An astute Administrator, Shri Shekhawat served as Chief Minister of Rajasthan for three terms from June, 1977 to February, 1980; March 1990 to December 1992; and December 1993 to December 1998. He also held the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from July 1980 to December 1999 to August 2002.

Shri Shekhawat was elected to the high office of the Vice-President of the country on 19th August, 2002. As ex-officio Chairman, Rajya Sabha he conducted the proceedings of the Upper House with great distinction and added grace and elegance to this exalted office which he held till 21st July, 2007.

Shri Shekhawat was actively associated with several welfare projects which touched the lives of ordinary citizens.

In his demise the country has lost a sagacious statesman, a committed votary of the humanitarian values. His absence will be felt in many walks of life.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat passed away on 15th May, 2010 at Jaipur at the age of 87.

Shri Digvijay Singh was a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. Earlier he was a Member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2004 in the Parliamentary Constituency.

He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1990 to 1996 and 2005 to 2009 representing the States of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively.

Shri Singh was a Member of the Committee on Defence and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. He was also a Member of the Committee on External Affairs during the present Lok Sabha.

An able Administrator, Shri Singh held several important portfolios in the Union Cabinet. He served as the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance from 21st November, 1990 to 21st June, 1991; Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs from 21st November, 1990 to 21st June, 1991; Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways from 13th October, 1999 to 22nd July, 2001 and again from 1st August, 2001 to 1st July, 2002; Minister of State in the Ministry of

Commerce and Industry from 22nd July, 2001 to 1st September, 2001 and Ministry of External Affairs from 1st July, 2002 to 22nd May, 2004..

A sports enthusiast, Shri Singh was a member of the National Rifle Association of India.

A widely travelled person, Shri Singh was a member of the Indian Parliamentary delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1992.

Shri Digvijay Singh passed away on 24 June, 2010 at London (England) at the age of 54.

Shri Ram Sagar was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 and Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991, representing the Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Sagar was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1968 to 1974. During this period, he served as the Minister of Social Welfare in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Sagar was a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the Ninth Lok Sabha.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Sagar played a proactive role in the uplift of the backward and deprived sections of the society.

Shri Ram Sagar passed away on 12 July, 2010 at Varanasi at the age of 71.

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, today is the 11th Anniversary of the Indian victory in the Kargil War. On this occasion let us pay our homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives and express the gratitude of a thankful nation to all the soldiers who fought valiantly in this war for our motherland.

Hon. Members, on 29 June, 2010, 27 paramilitary personnel belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force were killed and seven others including four special police officers of the Chhattisgarh Police were seriously injured in an attack by Maoists in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh.

Earlier, on 8 May, 2010 eight Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed when naxals blew up a bullet-proof vehicle in which they were travelling in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. On 16 May, 2010, in another naxal attack, six villagers including the sarpanch of the village were killed in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh.

The House strongly condemns these dastardly attacks which are aimed at disturbing peace and creating chaos in the country.

Hon. Members, on 22 May, 2010 in a tragic air crash, an Air India Express plane crashed outside Mangalore airport in Karnataka killing 158 people on board.

In a tragic train accident, at least 148 people were killed and over 200 injured due to derailment of the Mumbai-bound Gyaneshwari Express leading to its collision with a goods train in West Midnapore district of West Bengal on 28 May, 2010. In another train accident, at least 60 people were killed and over 90 injured when Sealdah bound Uttarbanga Express collided with the Ranchi bound Vananchal Express at Sainthia station in Birbhum district of West Bengal on 19 July, 2010.

Hon. Members, the recent devastating floods caused due to heavy rains in the States of Punjab, Haryana and some other parts of the country resulted in loss of at least 51 lives. These floods also claimed lives of a large number of cattle, besides causing large-scale destruction to crops and property and have rendered a large number of people homeless.

I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families of Kargil War martyrs and those who became victims of naxal attacks, accidents and natural calamities.

The House may now stand in silence for a short w h i l e a s a m a r k o f r e s p e c t t

11.12 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

11.13 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 / Sravana 5, 1932 (Saka).