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Title: The Speaker made references to the passing away of Smt. Usha Choudhury, a member of the 7th and 8th Lok Sabhas and Shri Kalpanath Sonkar, a member of the 7th and 9th Lok Sabhas.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shrimati Usha Choudhary and Shri Kalpanath Sonkar.

Shrimati Usha Choudhary was a member of the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1989 representing the Amravati Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shrimati Choudhary was a member of the Committee on Government Assurances and the Committee on Estimates during the Seventh Lok Sabha. She was a member of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

An active social and political worker, Shrimati Choudhary served as the Chairman of the Amravati District Mahila Cooperative Bank. She contributed immensely towards the progress and development of women. She was instrumental in organizing camps for the welfare of women all over the State of Maharashtra and made concerted efforts for the uplift of the downtrodden and backward classes of the society, particularly those belonging to the rural areas. Shrimati Choudhary was awarded the 'Bharat Samaj Unnayan Ratna' by the World Development Parliament Institution, Calcutta in 1984.

A person with a scholarly bent of mind, Shrimati Choudhary was also an accomplished poetess. She has to her credit about a hundred poems published in various magazines and newspapers.

Shrimati Usha Choudhary passed away on 2 August, 2010 at Nagpur, Maharashtra at the age of 68.

Shri Kalpanath Sonkar was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984 and Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991, representing the Basti Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Sonkar served as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Shri Sonkar was a member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Railways during the Ninth Lok Sabha.

Shri Sonkar played a proactive role in the uplift of the backward and deprived sections of the society.

Shri Kalpanath Sonkar passed away on 23 August, 2010 at Basti, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 59.

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.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.
