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Title : The Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Bali Ram Bhagat, former Speaker, Lok Sabha and a member of Provisional Parliament (1950 to 1952), a member of 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabhas; Shri Latafat Ali Khan, a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha; Smt. Prabhawati Gupta, a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha; Shri K. Karunakaran, a member of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabhas and Shri T.S. Shrangare, a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Madam Speaker also made reference to the passing away of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, a legendary classical singer and recipient of Bharat Ratna. She further made a reference to a tragic incident of Stampede in Idukki district of Kerala causing death of 102 pilgrims including children and injuries to over hundred others.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of five of our former colleagues, Shri Bali Ram Bhagat, Shri Latafat Ali Khan, Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta, Shri K. Karunakaran and Shri T. S. Shrangare.

Shri Bali Ram Bhagat was elected the Speaker of the Fifth Lok Sabha on 15th January 1976, which position he held till 25 March, 1977. As Speaker of the Lok Sabha he conducted the proceedings of the House with great distinction. His parliamentary skill, in-depth knowledge of parliamentary procedures and practices, insight and holistic vision, coupled with a constructive approach towards the issues at hand earned him respect from all sections of the House.

Shri Bhagat was a member of the Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952; First to Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1977 and Seventh to Eighth Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1989. He represented the Patna cum Shahabad Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the First Lok Sabha; Shahabad Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas; Sitamarhi Parliamentary Constituency during the Seventh Lok Sabha and Arrah Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

An able administrator, Shri Bhagat served as Minister of Foreign Trade from February, 1969 to November, 1969 and Minister of Foreign Trade and Supply from November, 1969 to June, 1970; Minister of Steel and Heavy Engineering from June, 1970 to March, 1971 and Minister of External Affairs from September, 1985 to May, 1986. He also held various ministerial portfolios as Minister of State and Deputy Minister in the Union Council of Ministers.

During his long and distinguished parliamentary career, Shri Bhagat represented the Indian Parliament at various international fora. He was a member of the Indian Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference held at Istanbul in 1951 and later at Havana in 1981. A human rights activist, Shri Bhagat led the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which was held at Geneva in 1982-1983. He also had the distinction of being the Chairman of the United Nations Seminar on the thirty-third anniversary of the Human Rights Commission held at Geneva in 1983.

Shri Bhagat served as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for a brief period in 1993. Later, he was the Governor of Rajasthan from 30 June 1993 to 1 May 1998.

A veteran freedom fighter and a multifaceted personality, Shri Bhagat was a well-known journalist and writer. During the 'Quit India Movement', he edited two weeklies 'Our Struggle' and 'Non-Violent Revolution'. In 1947, he started 'Rashtra Doot', a progressive Hindi weekly from Patna. He was a regular contributor of articles on economic, national and international affairs in leading national newspapers.

In his demise the country has lost a great patriot, a distinguished Legislator and a true son of the soil.

Shri Bali Ram Bhagat passed away on 2 January, 2011 at New Delhi at the age of 89.

Shri Latafat Ali Khan was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970 representing the Muzaffarnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

An active social and political worker, Shri Khan was a member of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University during the Fourth Lok Sabha.

Shri Khan strove for upliftment of marginalized sections of the society particularly for the people belonging to rural areas. He served as a member of Management Committee of the Zilla Parishad, District Muzaffanagar and was also associated with several other organizations working for the upliftment of the masses.

Shri Latafat Ali Khan passed away on 23 November, 2010 at Noida, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 89.

Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta was a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing the Motihari Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

Shrimati Gupta was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1962 and from 1977 to 1984. She was also a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council from 1972 to 1977. She served as a Member of the Panel of Chairmen in the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Bihar Legislative Council.

Shrimati Gupta was the Minister of State for Mines and Geology from 1973 to 1974 and Minister of State for Jails, Transport and Housing from 1980 to 1983 in the Government of Bihar. She also served as the Cabinet Minister for Labour, Employment and Training during 1983 in the Government of Bihar.

Shrimati Gupta served as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

A committed social and political worker, Shrimati Gupta was a member of the State Social Welfare Board, Bihar. She played a proactive role in the upliftment of women and children. She worked for the welfare of weaker sections of the society.

Shrimati Gupta was a Member of the delegation to the I.L.O. Conference held in Switzerland in 1984 and a member of the Political Mission to Mauritius in 1976. Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta passed away on 10 December, 2010 at Patna at the age of 82.

Shri K. Karunakaran was a Member of Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2004 representing the Thiruvananthapuram and Mukundapuram Parliamentary Constituencies of Kerala, respectively.

During his long and illustrious political career spanning over a period of more than six and a half decades, Shri Karunakaran served as a Member of the Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1948 to 1949 and as a Member of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1954. He was a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for seven terms from 1965 to 1995. He was Minister of Home Affairs in the Government of Kerala from 1971 to 1977. He served as Chairman, Public Accounts Committee in the Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1968 to 1970. He was Leader of Opposition in Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1969; in 1978; from 1980 to 1981 and again from 1987 to 1991.

Shri Karunakaran also served as a Member of Rajya Sabha for three terms representing the State of Kerala.

An astute administrator, Shri Karunakaran held the Office of the Chief Minister of Kerala for four terms from March to April, 1977; from 1981 to 1982; again from 1982 to 1987 and from 1991 to 1995. Shri Karunakaran also served as the Union Minister of Industries from June 1995 to May, 1996. He was Chairman, Committee on Energy and Member of the Rules Committee and General Purposes Committee during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Rules Committee and Committee on Transport and Tourism during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Popularly known as 'Leader', Shri Karunakaran actively participated in the freedom struggle of the country. A committed Trade Unionist he was associated in organization of several Trade Unions. He was the Founder Member of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (I.N.T.U.C.), Kerala. He also served as the Chairman, Committee on Population, National Development Council, 1992.

In his demise the country has lost a true friend and voice of the working class who fought for a society shorn of social, political and economic inequalities.

Shri K. Karunakaran passed away on 23 December, 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 92.

Shri T. S. Shrangare was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Osmanabad Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shri Shrangare served as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications in the Union Government from 31 July, 1979 to 14 January, 1980.

An advocate by profession, Shri Shrangare served as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor at Sessions Court, Latur. He also served as the President, Lawyers Bar Association, Latur. An active political activist, Shri Shrangare played a proactive role in providing free legal aid to the poor and the needy. He was associated with the Management of a number of educational institutions and was also instrumental in setting up of many educational institutes in his constituency.

Shri T.S. Shrangare passed away on 8 January, 2011 at Latur, Maharashtra at the age of 73.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, the legendary classical singer is no more with us.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, enthralled generations of music lovers in India and abroad with his mesmerising renditions of Hindustani classical and devotional music.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was instrumental in bringing classical music closer to the masses. 'Mile sur mera tumhara', the song on the theme of national integration aired more than two decades ago had a phenomenal impact and established a connect between Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and the common man.

Several prestigious awards, namely, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Tansen Samman, the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, were conferred upon him.

Though the huge void created by his demise would never be filled, the universal appeal of his music would continue to inspire generations of music lovers.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, passed away on 24 January, 2011 at Pune at the age of 89.

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, on 14 January, 2011, in a tragic incident at least 102 pilgrims including children lost their lives and over hundred others were injured. This tragedy occurred in a stampede which was triggered when a jeep went out of control and crashed into devotees returning from the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage at Pulmedu near Vandiperiyar in Kerala's Idukki district.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on this tragedy which has brought pain and suffering to the families of the bereaved and injured.

I am sure the House would join me in expressing grief over this tragic incident.

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

**12.40 hrs.**

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

**12.41 hrs**

**The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock**

*on Tuesday, February 22, 2011/Phalgun 3, 1932 (Saka).*

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