

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 28, 1995/ Vaisakha 8, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

Obituary Reference

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away one of our former colleagues namely Shrimati Hansa Mehta.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta was a member of the Constituent Assembly representing Bombay during 1946-1950. She was one of the prominent women leaders who participated in our country's freedom movement. Born in 1897, she started her political career by actively associating herself with various women's organisations. She was the Secretary of National Council of Women, and later served as the Vice-President and President of All India Women's Conference during 1945-46.

Earlier, she had served as the Member of Bombay Legislative Council in 1937-1939 and again in 1946-1952. During 1937-1939, she served as a parliamentary secretary.

A multi-faceted personality, she was an educationist of repute. She served as a fellow of Senate of University of Bombay during 1931-1946 and Member of Board of Studies in Gujarati, University of Bombay in 1935. During 1949-1958 she was the Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. Besides, she was actively associated with the University Grants Commission and various other educational organisations. She was awarded honorary degrees by several universities.

She represented India in the Human Rights Commission of United Nations during 1947 to 1952. She was also one of the Indian delegates to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 1948. She led the Indian delegation to the World Family Congress held at Paris in 1958. She was member of Indian delegation to UNESCO Conference in 1956 and 1958-1960 and participated in various social and cultural conferences at the national and international levels.

A champion of the cause of women, she strove relentlessly at various national and international fora for the education and amelioration of the women. Her exemplary achievements were duly recognised, when she was conferred upon the prestigious award of 'Padma Bhushan' in 1959.

She wrote several books in Gujarati language. She also translated 'Hamlet' and 'Merchant of Venice' into Gujarati. She also translated one Sanskrit classic into Gujarati. Apart from these, she had published a few notable works in English on the topics related to women's issues and Post-War Educational Reconstruction.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta passed away on 4th April, 1995 at Bombay at the age of 98 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a shortwhile as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Raids by I.T. Department

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*361. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of raids conducted by the Income Tax department during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the details of unaccounted money, documents, gold, silver and other articles seized and other undeclared property unearthed during these raids;

(c) the number of persons prosecuted/convicted in this regard; and

(d) the total number of Income Tax assesseees in each State and the amount of tax collected by the Government during the last two years, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). The details are given in Statement-I

(c) No prosecution has been launched in respect of cases reported in Statement-I as assessments are yet to be finalised.

(d) The details of total number of Income Tax assesseees are given in Statement-II and the details of amount of tax collected during the last two years are given in Statement-III.