

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I had received a communication from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informing me that Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Shri Goyal, who has been a second rank holder in the All India C.A. Examination, is a second term Member of this House, comes with a political career spanning more than three decades and a wide ranging ministerial experience. He has held several portfolios such as that of Mines, New and Renewable Energy, Power, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Coal and Railways as a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers. During Shri Goyal's tenure as Minister of Railways, Indian Railways achieved its best ever safety record in 2018-19. Shri Goyal is also the recipient of 4th Annual Carnot Prize in 2018 in recognition of spearheading pathbreaking transformations in country's energy sector which included electrification of nearly 18,000 unelectrified villages in some of the remotest and inaccessible parts of the country.

I personally feel that this House will surely be benefitted by his rich political and administrative experience. His cordial and cheerful nature would further help him in discharging his duties as the Leader of the House efficiently.

I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record the remarkable contribution made by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of the State of Karnataka and former Leader of this House, in enriching the quality of debates in the House with his knowledge and expertise, and in ensuring the smooth functioning of the House.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, since we met last in March, 2021, two of our colleagues, Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra and Shri Rajeev Satav and ten of our former Members, namely, Prof. N. M. Kamble, Shri Bhagwati Singh, Shri Balihari Babu, Shri Ajit Singh, Shri Matang Sinh, Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi', Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia, Shrimati Shanti Pahadia and Shri Dilip Kumar *originally known as* Yusuf Sarwar Khan; and Shri Milkha Singh, the legendary track and field sprinter, have passed away.

Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra passed away on the 9th May, 2021, at the age of 78 years.

Born in March, 1943, at Sasan Padia in Puri District of Odisha in a family of sculptors, Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra had his education at Padia in Puri Town of Odisha.

An architect and sculptor, Dr. Mohapatra was initiated into sculpting at the tender age of 8 years by his grandfather, a sculptor who worked with the royal family of Puri for upkeep of the Shri Jagannath Temple. Though he did not get any formal training in sculpture, his craftsmanship was such that he was revered as an encyclopedia in the field of sculpture. The uniqueness about his craft was that he never used machines for sculpting but chose chisel and hammer only to create several masterpieces.

A genius in the world of sculpture, Dr. Mohapatra served as a Senior Instructor and Superintendent in the Handicraft Training and Designing Centre, Government of Odisha. He was the recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions like Padma Shri in the year 1976, Padma Bhushan in the year 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in the year 2013.

Dr Raghunath Mohapatra was a nominated Member of the Rajya Sabha from July, 2018 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Dr Raghunath Mohapatra, the country has lost a legendary craftsman and sculptor par excellence.

Shri Rajeev Satav passed away on the 16th May, 2021, at the age of 46 years.

Born in September, 1974, in Pune, Maharashtra, Shri Rajeev Satav was educated at Fergusson college and ILS Law College, Pune.

An agriculturist, Shri Satav served as the Chairman, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and Milk Development Committee, Zilla Parishad, Hingoli from 2007 to 2009. He started his legislative career as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 2009 to 2014 and went on to serve as a Member of Sixteenth Lok Sabha from May, 2014 to May, 2019.

Shri Rajeev Satav became Member of this House on the 3rd April, of 2020, from the State of Maharashtra. He actively participated in the debates held in this House and emphatically put forth views of his party on those issues. It is indeed saddening to lose a young colleague in such a short span of time.

In the passing away of Shri Rajeev Satav, the country has lost a promising leader and an able parliamentarian.

Prof. N.M Kamble passed away on the 3rd of April, 2021, at the age of 99 years.

Born in October, 1921, in Satara District of Maharashtra, Prof. N.M Kamble was educated at the Wadia College and Fergusson College, Pune and Siddharth College and Government Law College, Bombay.

An advocate, Prof. Kamble strived for the upliftment of Backward Classes and Buddhists. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes from May, 2007 to May, 2010. Prof. Kamble authored a book on Inferior Village Servants and also published numerous articles and papers on

Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Buddhists. He started his political career as a Member of the then Bombay Municipal Corporation in 1957.

Prof. N.M Kamble represented the State of Maharashtra in this House for three terms — from April, 1974 to April, 1980; from August, 1980 to April, 1982 and again from April, 1984 to August, 1988. He also served as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council for two terms and held various portfolios as a Minister in the Government of Maharashtra.

In the passing away of Prof. N.M Kamble, the country has lost a dedicated social worker and an eminent parliamentarian.

Shri Bhagwati Singh passed away on the 4th of April, 2021, at the age of 87 years.

Born in August, 1933 in Lucknow District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Bhagwati Singh was educated at the Lucknow University, Uttar Pradesh.

An agriculturist and a social worker, Shri Singh actively participated in farmer movements since 1953 and was involved in various constructive social work. He endeavoured to solve the water problems in the rural areas of Lucknow and strived to inculcate the habit of water harvesting in villages.

Shri Bhagwati Singh started his legislative career as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1977 and remained its Member for two terms – from 1977 to 1982 and from 1985 to 1989. He was also a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council for two terms – from May, 1990 to May, 1996 and from July, 1998 to July, 2004. Shri Bhagwati Singh held various portfolios in the Council of Ministers in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. He was also Leader of the House in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council in the year 2003.

Shri Bhagwati Singh represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 2004 to July, 2010.

In the passing away of Shri Bhagwati Singh, the country has lost a prominent farmers' Leader, an able administrator and an eminent parliamentarian.

Shri Balihari Babu passed away on 28th of April, 2021, at the age of 70 years.

Born in December, 1950, in Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Balihari Babu was educated at Public Inter College, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.

A social worker, Shri Balihari Babu conducted several programmes of social upliftment and always endeavoured for the promotion of equality, harmony and brotherhood in society.

Shri Balihari Babu represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from April, 2006 to June, 2009.

In the passing away of Shri Balihari Babu, the country has lost a dedicated social worker and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Ajit Singh passed away on the 6th of May, 2021, at the age of 82 years.

Born in February, 1939, at Bhadola village in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ajit Singh was educated at the Lucknow University; IIT, Kharagpur and Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, USA.

An agriculturist and a computer scientist, Shri Ajit Singh worked assiduously throughout his life raising the issues of farmers and farming community and economic condition of India. He was elected to the Lok Sabha seven times and served as a Member of that House during Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

Shri Ajit Singh served in the Union Council of Ministers under different governments and held key portfolios including Food, Industry, Agriculture and Civil Aviation.

Shri Ajit Singh represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House, from July, 1986 to November, 1989.

In the passing away of Shri Ajit Singh, the country has lost a prominent farmers' leader, an able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Matang Sinh passed away on the 6th of May, 2021, at the age of 67 years.

Born in August, 1953, in Tinsukhia District of Assam, Shri Matang Sinh served in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, from 1994 to 1998.

Shri Sinh represented the State of Assam in this House, from April, 1992 to April, 1998.

In the passing away of Shri Matang Sinh, the country has lost a good administrator and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt passed away on the 7th of May, 2021, at the age of 94 years.

Born in March, 1927 in Surendranagar District of Gujarat, Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt was educated at H.L. College of Commerce, Ahmedabad.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt served as the President of the District Co-operative Union, Surendranagar, from 1973 to 1977. He was also a founder Member and Chairman of the Surendranagar Law Society which runs various educational institutions; and of the Surendranagar District Co-operative Milk Union. Shri Bhatt was also the Organiser and Vice-President of the Surendranagar Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited opened in the year 1983.

Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt represented the State of Gujarat in this House, from August, 1987 to August, 1993.

In the passing away of Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt the country has lost an educationist, a pioneer of cooperative movements and an eminent parliamentarian.

Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi' passed away on the 14th of May, 2021, at the age of 78 years.

Born in January, 1943 at Chatra in Madhepura District of Bihar, Dr. Ramendra Kumar was educated at the Patna University, Patna.

An academician and writer, Dr. Ramendra Kumar took active part in social, cultural and political activities right from his student days. He started his academic career as a Lecturer and served as the University Professor of Hindi and Principal of T. P. College, Madhepura. Dr. Ramendra Kumar also served as the Founder Vice-Chancellor of B. N. Mandal University, Madhepura, and as the Senator of Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Dharbhanga. He authored many books in Hindi and wrote several articles and poems in leading literary magazines.

Dr. Ramendra Kumar started his legislative career as a Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly in the year 1981 and served as the Member of that Assembly for two terms till 1989. He also served as a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha, from 1989 to 1991.

Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi' represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms – from July, 1992 to July, 1998 and again from July, 1998 to July, 2004.

In the passing away of Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi', the country has lost a prolific writer, an eminent academician and an able parliamentarian. Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia passed away on the 19th of May, 2021, at the age of 89 years.

Born in January, 1932, at Bhusawar village in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia was educated at the Agarwal College Agra; M. S. J. College, Bharatpur; the Maharaja College and the Rajasthan University Law College, Jaipur; and the T. N. B. Law College, Bhagalpur.

An agriculturist and social worker, Shri Pahadia actively participated in student movements and organised night schools for illiterate children and adults. Working relentlessly for upliftment and empowerment of Dalits, tribals and other socially backward people, he also assisted Community Development Blocks in their developmental activities in the fields of agriculture, cottage industries, Panchayati

Raj, cooperatives and family planning. Shri Pahadia also took part in movements against '*pardah*' and prostitution. He also served as the Editor of '*Adhikar*', a weekly of Bharatpur.

Shri Pahadia started his legislative career as a Member of the Second Lok Sabha and went on to serve as a Member of Fourth, Fifth and Seventh Lok Sabha. He also served as a Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for four terms. Shri Pahadia also served as Deputy Minister in the Union Council of Ministers holding portfolios of Finance; Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation; Labour, Communications and Supply.

Shri Pahadia served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, from June, 1980 to July, 1981. He also served as the Governor of the State of Bihar, from March, 1989 to February, 1990, and that of Haryana, from, July, 2009 to July, 2014.

Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia represented the State of Rajasthan in this House for two terms — from March, 1965 to March, 1966 and again, from March, 1966 to February, 1967.

In the passing away of Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia, the country has lost an able administrator, a dedicated social worker and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shrimati Shanti Pahadia passed away on the 23rd of May, 2021, at the age of 84 years.

Born in August, 1936, in Sawai Madhopur District of Rajasthan, Shrimati Shanti Pahadia worked assiduously for rural development and the upliftment of weaker sections of the Society. She took keen interest in adult education, particularly women's education and raised her voice against child marriage, *pardah* system and dogmatic traditions.

Shrimati Shanti Pahadia started her legislative career as a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in May, 1980 and remained its Member till October, 1980. She represented the State of Rajasthan in this House, from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Shrimati Shanti Pahadia, the country has lost a dedicated social worker and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Dilip Kumar whose real name was Yusuf Sarwar Khan passed away on the 7th of July, 2021, at the age of 98 years.

Born in December, 1922, at Peshawar in the North-West Frontier Province of undivided India, Shri Dilip Kumar was educated at the Wilson College and the Khalsa College, Mumbai.

As a student, Shri Dilip Kumar excelled in the literary activities and sports. He had an abiding interest in the Urdu poetry. He made his debut as an actor in 1944, thus beginning a long and illustrious association with the film industry which lasted for more than five decades during which he acted in over 65 films, notable ones being *Devdas*, *Naya Daur*, *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Ram aur Shyam*, *Ganga Jamuna etc.*

Shri Dilip Kumar was also crowned as 'Tragedy King' of Hindi cinema as he had the remarkable ability to transform melancholic roles into award winning performances. A doyen on Indian film industry and an inspiration to generations of film artists, Shri Dilip Kumar heralded a new era in film industry at a time when our country was putting behind the shackles of colonial rule. He also served as the Sheriff of Bombay in 1980.

Shri Dilip Kumar was recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions for his performances in films, both in India and abroad, including Filmfare Best Actor Award for a record eight times. Shri Dilip Kumar was awarded *Padma Bhushan* in the year 1991, Dada Saheb Phalke National Award in the year 1994 and *Padma Vibushan* in the year 2015.

Shri Yusuf Sarwar Khan *alias* Dilip Kumar represented the State of Maharashtra in this House, from April, 2000 to April, 2006.

The passing away of Shri Yusuf Sarwar Khan *alias* Dilip Kumar marks the end of an era in film industry and the country has lost a legendary film artiste and an able parliamentarian.

Shri Milkha Singh passed away on the 18th of June, 2021, at the age of 91 years.

Born in November, 1929, at Govindpura village in Punjab province of the undivided India, Shri Milkha Singh's early life was marked by great adversity. He was orphaned in the violence that took place during the partition.

Undeterred by hardships, Shri Milkha Singh joined Indian Army and was subsequently selected for special training in athletics by the army. His competitive progress earned him selection to represent India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics which provided him the much needed global exposure and since then there was no looking back for Shri Milkha Singh.

Fondly known as the 'Flying Sikh' in recognition of his sprinting ability and achievements, Shri Singh won Gold medals in the 200-metre and 400-metre events in the Asian Games held at Tokyo in 1958. He also won a Gold medal in the 400-metre event at the 1958 Commonwealth Games and thus became the first gold medallist at the Commonwealth Games from independent India. As an iconic achievement for Indian athletics, Shri Milkha Singh secured fourth position in the 400-metre finals at the 1960 Rome Olympics and the national record he set on that day was broken only after 38 years in 1998. In 1962, Shri Singh won Gold medal in 400-metre event and took another Gold medal as a part of 4 x 400-metre relay team at the Asian Games held at Jakarta. He also represented the country in the Tokyo Olympics held in the year 1964. He was awarded the *Padma Shri* in the field of sports in 1959.

Shri Milkha Singh's achievements paved a path for Indian athletics to put a foot print on the world map. He had been a guiding light for the aspiring athletes and left no chance to motivate and guide them. Sportspersons and common people will continue to draw a great deal of inspiration from his life and deeds.

In the passing away of Shri Milkha Singh, the country has lost a legendary athlete and a great motivator.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra, Shri Rajeev Satav, Prof. N. M. Kamble, Shri Bhagwati Singh, Shri Balihari Babu, Shri Ajit Singh, Shri Matang Sinh, Shri Jitendrabhai Labhshanker Bhatt, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi' , Shri Jagannath Prasad Pahadia, Shrimati Shanti Pahadia, Shri Dilip Kumar *originally known as* Yusuf Sarwar Khan and Shri Milkha Singh.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.
