

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, January 31, 2017/ Magha 11, 1938 (Saka)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Presidents' Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 31st of January, 2017.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Sir James Richard Mancham, the founding father and first President of Seychelles; and, Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India.

Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani passed away on the 8th of January, 2017. A statesman and reformist, he initiated economic liberalization and development of the country. He also contributed significantly to the strengthening of the Indo-Iranian relationship. His demise is an irreparable loss to Iran and its people.

Sir James Richard Mancham passed away on the 8th of January, 2017, at the age of 77 years. A great patriot, his contribution

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

to the independence struggle of Seychelles and its subsequent political and economic development will always be cherished by the people of his country.

His life-long commitment towards democracy, human development and climate change will always be remembered by the world at large. A long-standing friend of India, he was instrumental in building strong bilateral ties between the two countries. His death is an irreparable loss to Seychelles and its people.

Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India, passed away on the 26th of January, 2017. He will be remembered in India for his devoted career spanning many decades to the strengthening of ties between India and Russia. He endeared himself to all with his vast linguistic and cultural knowledge of our people. His demise is an irreparable loss to both Russia and India.

This House joins the bereaved families, the Governments and the people of Iran, Seychelles and Russia in mourning the passing away of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Sir James Richard Mancham and Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in their hour of grief.

I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh, Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad, Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai and Shri Ramdas Agarwal, former Members of this House.

Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh passed away on the 17th of December, 2016, at the age of 90 years.

Born in June, 1926, at Imphal in Manipur, Shri Singh was educated at the Saint Paul College, Kolkata and the University of Calcutta.

A legal practitioner, he served as the legal adviser to the Imphal Municipality and as a lecturer in the L.M.S. Government Law College, Imphal. He also served in the Manipur Bar Association for many years as its General Secretary, Vice-President and President. He was associated with students' organisations and the People's Union for Civil Liberties and worked for the empowerment of women in society.

Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh represented the State of Manipur in this House from June, 1990 to April, 1996.

In the passing away of Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad passed away on the 6th of January, 2017, at the age of 87 years.

Born in January, 1929, at Kasaragod District of Kerala, Shri Schamnad was educated at the St. Aloysuis College, Mangalore and the Law College, Chennai.

An advocate by profession, Shri Schamnad practised at the Kasaragod Bar. He was actively engaged in social service activities right from his student days and worked for the upliftment of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. He served as the Vice-Chairman of the Finance Enterprise Corporation and as a Member of the Senate of the Universities of Kerala and Calicut.

Shri Schamnad started his legislative career as a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1960 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1960 to 1964.

Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad represented the State of Kerala in this House for two terms - from February, 1970 to April, 1973, and again from April, 1973 to April, 1979.

In the passing away of Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai passed away on the 10th of January, 2017, at the age of 95 years.

Born in March, 1921, at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Kidwai was educated at the Lucknow Christian College and the Lucknow University.

A freedom fighter, Dr. Kidwai actively participated in the Freedom Movement during his student days. He started his career as a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the Aligarh Muslim University in 1948 and went on to become a Reader in 1961. He was

the Founder of the U.P. Nationalist Muslim Students' Federation. He also served as the President of the Aligarh Muslim University Teaching Staff Association and as a Member of the Court of Aligarh Muslim University.

Dr. Kidwai was a prolific writer and has many publications on the freedom struggle and various streams of political thought to his credit.

Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai, the country has lost a veteran freedom fighter and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri Ramdas Agarwal passed away on the 26th of January, 2017, at the age of 80 years.

Born in March, 1937, at Jaipur in Rajasthan, Shri Agarwal was educated at the Jaipur Maharaja College, Rajasthan.

A businessman by profession, he was associated with various chambers and associations of mining and trading organizations.

Shri Ramdas Agarwal represented the State of Rajasthan in this House for three terms - from April, 1990 to April, 1996, from April, 1996 to April, 2002 and again from April, 2006 to April, 2012. He was also the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

In the passing away of Shri Ramdas Agarwal, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a noted businessman.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Sir James Richard Mancham, Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin, Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh, Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad, Dr. Mohd. Hashim Kidwai and Shri Ramdas Agarwal.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

**Reference to the Tragic Deaths in Recent Incidents of Avalanches
in Jammu & Kashmir**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, one officer and nineteen soldiers of the Indian Army and some civilians reportedly lost their lives in the avalanches in Sonmarg in Ganderbal district, Gurez Sector in Bandipora district and Machchil Sector in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on the 25th, 26th and 28th of January, 2017 respectively.

The loss of precious lives in these natural calamities is indeed painful and unfortunate.

The House joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in this tragedy.)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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