

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, July 17, 2017/ Ashadha 26, 1939 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta, former Member of this House; Shri Anil Madhav Dave, sitting Member; Shri P. N. Sukul, Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao and Shri Era Sezhiyan, former Members; Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, sitting Member; and Dr. C. Narayana Reddy and Shri U. K . Lakshmana Gowda, former Members of this House.

Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta passed away on the 12th of April 2017 at the age of 56 years.

Born in March 1961, at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Gupta was educated at the Allahabad, Lucknow and Agra Universities. An educationist, a businessman and a sports administrator, he was associated with several educational institutions and made significant contribution in the field of higher education. He was the Chancellor of the Babu Banarasi Das University. He was also the Publisher and the Chief Editor of a few dailies in Lucknow. He was a badminton player of international level and he served as the President of the Badminton Association of India and the Olympic Association.

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

Dr. Gupta served as Mayor of Lucknow from 1993 to 1995.

Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for three terms – from November 1996 to November 2002; from November 2002 to May 2008; and again from November 2008 to November 2014. He served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel in the Union Council of Ministers from 2006 to 2008. He was also the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

In the passing away of Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a sports enthusiast.

Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Minister of State in the Union Council of Ministers and a sitting Member of this House, passed away on the 18th of May 2017 at the age of 60 years. Born in July, 1956, at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Dave was educated at the Gujarati College, Indore.

A social worker, Shri Dave worked assiduously for the conservation of river Narmada and its catchment area through Narmada Samagra, an organisation founded by him for the conservation of rivers and for addressing climate change and environmental issues. He was the founder and Vice-President of Jan Abhiyan Parishad, an organisation to interlink and empower Self-Help Groups and NGOs.

Shri Dave was a prolific writer with several publications on various subjects and areas to his credit.

Shri Anil Madhav Dave represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House for three terms from August, 2009 to June, 2010, from June, 2010 to June, 2016 and again from June, 2016 till his sad demise. He was the Chairman of the Select Committees of the Rajya Sabha on (i) Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015, (ii) Real Estate Regulation and Development Bill, 2013 and

(iii) Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013. He served as Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Union Council of Ministers since July, 2016.

In the passing away of Shri Anil Madhav Dave, the country has lost a champion of environment protection, a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Shri P. N. Sukul passed away on the 28th of May, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in February, 1932, at Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Sukul was educated at the D.A.V. College, Kanpur.

A civil servant, Shri Sukul served in the Uttar Pradesh Government Secretariat and was actively associated with several employees and labour welfare associations and organisations. He was the Founder General Secretary of the Mazdoor Parishad, Uttar Pradesh and Chairman of the All India State Government Employees Federation.

Shri Sukul has several poems, short stories and essays in Hindi to his credit. He was the Editor of the Hindi fortnightly 'Karmaketu'. He was also an avid sports enthusiast.

Shri P. N. Sukul represented the State of Uttar Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms -- from July, 1980 to April, 1984 and again from April, 1984 to April, 1990. He served as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1986 and of the Joint Committees of Parliament on the Veterinary Council Bill, 1981 and the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

In the passing away of Shri P. N. Sukul, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated labour leader.

Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on the 30th of May, 2017, at the age of 70 years.

Born in May, 1947, in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Rao contributed immensely to Telugu and Hindi Cinema as director, producer, dialogue-writer, lyricist and actor. He championed the cause of women, girl child and the downtrodden by raising issues such as eradication of dowry, bonded labour and other social evils through his films. He also founded a school for the poor at Chennai and a Women's College at Palakole in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Rao was the founder publisher and editor of 'Udayam', a Telugu daily.

Dr. Rao was awarded the Honorary Doctorate 'Kalaprapoorna' by the Andhra University for his contribution to Telugu cinema and culture.

He was the President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce and the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Film Industry Development Committee.

Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 2000 to April, 2006 and from April, 2006 to April, 2012. He served as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines in the Union Council of Ministers from May, 2004 to April, 2008.

In the passing away of Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao, the country has lost a well-known film personality, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Era Sezhiyan passed away on the 6th of June, 2017, at the age of 94 years.

Born in April, 1923, in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu, Shri Sezhiyan was educated at Annamalai University.

Shri Sezhiyan started his career as a journalist and was Editor of Tamil dailies, 'Nam Nadu', 'Manram' and 'Makkal Arasu'. He served as the President of South Zone Insurance Employees' Federation and was a Member of the National Integration Council and Indian Council of World Affairs. He has several books of short stories, one-act plays, dramas and articles on political, economic and social subjects to his credit.

Shri Sezhiyan started his legislative career as a Member of the Third Lok Sabha in 1962. He was also a Member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha. He served as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee from 1971 to 1973.

Shri Era Sezhiyan represented the State of Tamil Nadu in this House from April, 1978 to April, 1984. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table from 1982 to 1984.

In the passing away of Shri Era Sezhiyan, the country has lost a noted journalist, a distinguished parliamentarian and a political thinker.

Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy passed away on the 9th of June, 2017, at the age of 79 years.

Born in November, 1936, at Mahabubnagar District of Telangana, Shri Reddy was educated at the Vivekavardhini College, Osmania University.

An agriculturist and social worker, Shri Reddy worked assiduously for the welfare of the farmers. He was a Member of the Managing Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. He served as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited. He also served as Director of various Corporations.

Shri Reddy started his legislative career as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and was a Member of that Assembly for five terms, from 1967 to 1972, 1972 to 1978, 1978 to 1983, 1983 to 1985 and again from 1999 to 2004. He was also a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from 2007 to 2009. He served as Minister of State for Rural Water Supply, Youth Service and Leather Industries Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (LIDCAP), Handlooms and Textiles, Sericulture and Printing and Stationery in the Government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1981 to 1982.

Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from April, 2012 to June, 2014, and the State of Telangana from June, 2014 till his sad demise.

In the passing away of Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Dr. C. Narayana Reddy passed away on the 12th of June, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in July, 1931, at Karimnagar District of Telangana, Dr. Reddy was educated at the Chaderghat College and the Osmania University. He was awarded honorary doctorates by several Universities.

A poet, Dr. Reddy started his career as a Professor of Telugu at the Osmania University. He served as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Official Language Commission and the Andhra Pradesh State Cultural Council. He also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra Pradesh Open University from 1986 to 1989 and of the Telugu University from 1989 to 1992. He was the Advisor for Culture and Languages to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1992 to 1995.

A prolific writer, Dr. Reddy has several volumes of poetry, lyrical plays, literary criticism, essays and several popular songs

written for Telugu films to his credit. He was honoured with several awards and recognitions for his outstanding contribution to Telugu Literature, notable being the 'Padma Shri' in 1977, Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1982, 'Jnanapith' Award in 1988 and the 'Padma Bhushan' in 1992.

Dr. C. Narayana Reddy was a Nominated Member of this House from August, 1997 to August, 2003.

In the passing away of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, the country has lost an eminent litterateur and a distinguished parliamentarian.

Shri U.K. Lakshmana Gowda passed away on the 6th of July, 2017, at the age of 97 years.

Born in December, 1919, at Chikmagalur District of Karnataka, Shri Gowda was educated at the Central College, Bengaluru.

A coffee planter and an agriculturist, Shri Gowda was the founder Chairman of the Karnataka State Planters' Association and President of the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Shri U.K. Lakshmana Gowda represented the State of Karnataka in this House for two consecutive terms - from April, 1968 to April, 1974 and again from April, 1974 to April, 1980.

In the passing away of Shri U.K. Lakshmana Gowda, the country has lost an able parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Shri P. N. Sukul, Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao, Shri Era Sezhiyan, Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy and Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda.

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

(i) Reference to the Victims of Torrential Rains, Landslides, Floods & Lightening Strikes in North-Eastern States and several other parts of the Country

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, several persons lost their lives and many others were injured, displaced and rendered homeless due to torrential rains, landslides, floods and lightening strikes in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some other parts of the country in the months of June and July, 2017. The incessant rains have also caused extensive damage to houses, property, infrastructure, crops and livestock.

(ii) Reference to the Victims of Terrorist Attack in Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is with utmost grief and sorrow that I refer to the dastardly killing of seven Amarnath pilgrims and injury to 21 others in a terrorist attack in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir, on the 10th of July, 2017. No words are strong enough to condemn this inhuman, barbaric and heinous act. The yatra, which symbolizes peace and harmony, is, however, continuing and the resilient attitude of the people in the face of such adversity is to be appreciated.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in condemning this cowardly and senseless act and in offering condolences to the bereaved families and also pray for speedy recovery of the injured. On this occasion, let us reiterate our firm resolve to fight terrorism with determination.

(iii) Reference to the Victims of Bus Accident in Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, in another tragic incident, 16 Amarnath pilgrims reportedly lost their lives and around 30 others sustained injuries, when the bus in which they were travelling plunged into a gorge in Ramban district of Jammu & Kashmir, on the 16th of July, 2017.

The loss of precious lives and injury to people is indeed tragic and unfortunate.

The House joins me in expressing heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

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

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