

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, March 14, 2018/ Phalguna 23, 1939 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri V.P.M. Samy, a former Member of this House and Prof. Stephen Hawking.

Shri V.P.M. Samy passed away on the 2nd of February, 2018, at the age of 87 years.

Born in April, 1930, in Valavanur of South Arcot District of Puducherry, Shri V.P.M. Samy was educated at the Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai.

A social worker, Shri Samy strived for the upliftment of the poor, weaker and downtrodden sections of the society and was associated with several social development activities. He served as the founder President of the Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Association, Puducherry.

Shri V.P.M. Samy represented the Union Territory of Puducherry in this House, from July, 1977 to July, 1983.

In the passing away of Shri V.P.M. Samy, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

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

Prof. Stephen Hawking, renowned British physicist and cosmologist passed away on the 14th of March, 2018, at the age of 76 years. He had a rare early-onset of slow-progressing form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis also known as motor neurone disease that gradually paralysed him over the decades. But his indomitable spirit overcame this.

Prof. Stephen Hawking was a theoretical physicist, whose insights shaped modern cosmology. He had thirteen honorary degrees to his credit. He was recipient of many awards, medals and prizes notably the Fundamental Physics Prize (2013), Copley Medal (2006) and the Wolf Foundation Prize (1988).

Prof. Stephen Hawking's first major breakthrough came in 1970, when he and Roger Penrose applied the mathematics of black holes to the entire universe and showed that a singularity, a region of infinite curvature in space time, lay in our distant past, the point from which came the big bang. He also discovered that black holes leak energy and fade to nothing - a phenomenon that would later become known as Hawking radiation.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri V.P.M. Samy and Prof. Stephen Hawking.

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

Reference to a Naxal Attack on the 212 Battalion of CRPF in Kistaram Area of Sukma District in Chhattisgarh

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, nine personnel belonging to the 212 Battalion of the CRPF were reportedly killed and two others were injured in a naxal attack in Kistaram area of Sukma District in Chhattisgarh on the 13th of March, 2018. This dastardly attack and act of senseless violence deserves to be condemned in the strongest terms and must be confronted with determination and firmness. The loss of precious lives in this tragic incident is indeed painful and unfortunate.

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

Reference to the Victims of a Massive Forest Fire, during a mountain Trekking Expedition to the Kurangani hills in Theni District of Tamil Nadu

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware of the sad news that 10 trekkers reportedly lost their lives and 14 others were injured in a massive forest fire during a mountain trekking expedition to the Kurangani hills in Theni district of Tamil Nadu on the 10th of March, 2018. The loss of precious lives in this tragic incident is indeed painful and unfortunate.

The House joins me in expressing our heartfelt condolence 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.)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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