

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, January 29, 2018/ Magha 09, 1939 (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 29th of January, 2018.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Mohinder Singh Kalyan and Shri Khagen Das, former Members of this House.

Shri Mohinder Singh Kalyan, passed away on the 18th of November, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

Born in January, 1932, at Village Burj Hakima in Ludhiana District of Punjab, Shri Mohinder Singh was a journalist by profession. He was the owner and Editor of the newspaper '*Punjabi Rattan*' and also served as the Chairman of the Punjab Small and Medium Newspapers Association.

Shri Mohinder Singh was actively associated with several technical, educational, social, financial and medical institutions in

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

various capacities. He also served as the President of the Khet Mazdoor Union, Punjab; Vice-President of the Rashtriya Dalit Mazdoor Sangh and as the Director of the Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation.

Shri Mohinder Singh Kalyan represented the State of Punjab in this House, from July, 1992 to July, 1998.

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

Shri Khagen Das passed away on the 21st of January, 2018, at the age of 81 years.

Born in September, 1937, at Durgapur Village in Commilla District (*now in Bangladesh*), Shri Das was educated at the S.N. College, Kolkata and the Calcutta University.

A social worker, Shri Das strived for the upliftment of the tribals and the downtrodden and backward communities as well as for the welfare of farmers. He also organised literacy movements and relief measures during natural calamities.

Shri Das commenced his legislative career as a Member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly in 1978 and was its Member till 1988. He served as the Cabinet Minister for Revenue, Health, Statistics, Printing and Stationery Department in the Government of Tripura from 1983 to 1988. He was also the Member of the Tripura State Planning Board and Chairman of the Tripura Industrial Development Corporation.

Shri Khagen Das represented the State of Tripura in this House, from April, 1998 to February, 2002. He was the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture from June, 2001 to February, 2002. He was also a Member of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

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

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

(i) Reference to the Victims of Crash of the Pawan Hans Helicopter off the Mumbai Coast

(ii) Reference to the Victims of a Fire in a Fire Cracker Unit in Bawana Industrial Area of Delhi

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, five ONGC personnel and two pilots were reportedly killed when the *Pawan Hans* helicopter carrying them crashed off the Mumbai Coast on the 13th of January, 2018.

Hon. Members, in another tragic incident, 17 persons including ten women reportedly lost their lives and two others were injured in a massive fire which broke out in a firecracker unit in Bawana industrial area of Delhi, on the 19th January, 2018.

The loss of precious lives in these tragic incidents 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 these tragedies.)

(i) Felicitation to Miss Aanchal Thakur

(ii) Felicitation to the Indian Blind Cricket Team

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, on behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I congratulate Miss Aanchal Thakur for winning a Bronze, India's first ever International Medal in the Alpine

Ejder 3200 Cup, an international skiing event organized by the Federation Internationale de Ski in Turkey, on the 9th of January, 2018. The victory of Miss Aanchal Thakur is all the more significant, as it symbolises India's foray into newer areas of sports.

Hon'ble Members, on behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I also congratulate the Indian Blind Cricket Team for winning the 5th ODI Blind Cricket World Cup title at Sharjah in UAE on the 19th of January, 2018. Their victory is an eulogy to will power and fortitude transcending disabilities and limitations.

By their achievements, these sportspersons have made our country proud. I am sure, that they will be a source of inspiration to millions of our budding sportspersons to excel in their fields of sports. We wish Miss Aanchal Thakur and the Indian Blind Cricket Team all success in their future endeavours and hope that they would continue to make the country proud by bringing many more laurels in the future.

(ii) Felicitation to the Successful Launch of PSLV C-40

(iii) Felicitation to the Successful Test of Agni-V

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its 100th Satellite, a Cartosat-2 series weather observation satellite, along with 30 co-passenger satellites including 28 belonging to 6 countries, *namely*, Canada, Finland, France, Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, using its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C40), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on the 12th of January, 2018, and thereby setting a milestone in Indian space history.

On the 18th of January, 2018, the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile, reaffirming India's indigenous missile capabilities and further strengthening its credible deterrence.

The credit for these landmark achievements go to our scientific community working with ISRO and DRDO.

On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the scientists, engineers and technicians of ISRO and DRDO, who were associated with these projects and do hope that they will continue to scale greater heights and make the country proud of their achievements. We wish them all success for their future endeavours.

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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