

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Tuesday, December 11, 2018/Agrahayana 20, 1940 (Saka)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

RESOLUTION AND OBITUARY REFERENCE

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of a great personality and former Prime Minister of India 'Bharat Ratna' Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; former Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar; sitting members, Dr. Bhola Singh, Shri M.I. Shanavas, and Shri Mohammad Asrarul Haque.

First of all, I would like to move a condolence motion before the House for our former Prime Minister, Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji.

Hon. Atal Ji was born on 25th December, 1924 at Gwalior. He started his career as a journalist and rose to the office of Prime Minister. He was a Member of 2nd and 4th Lok Sabha from Balrampur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar

Pradesh, 5th Lok Sabha from Gwalior Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh, 6th and 7th Lok Sabha from New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency and 10th to 14th Lok Sabha from Lucknow Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha for two terms. Shri Atal Ji was one of the greatest Members of our Parliament. Shri Vajpayee Ji was the Minister of External Affairs from 1977 to 1979 and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha from 1993 to 1996 and from 1996 to 1997. In 1977, he was the first person to speak in Hindi in the United Nations. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India for three terms, first in 1996, second from 1998 to 1999 and third from 1999 to 2004. Shri Vajpayee was conferred with the 'Padma Vibhushan' in 1992. He was a recipient of the Best Parliamentarian Award by Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) in 1994. He was also conferred with the 'Bharat Ratna', the highest Civilian award of the country in the year 2015. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a colossal personality of Indian politics and an icon of Indian democracy. He had depth like a sea, grandeur like the Himalayas, intensity like the sun, serenity like the moon, towering personality like the sky, caring like a father and a person who touched the hearts of millions of people. As a Leader of Opposition, his pragmatic criticism was full of softness, dignity and decency which enthralled both the ruling party and the Opposition. Keeping national interests above all, he used to ensure accountability of the Government through his sharp and unassailable arguments, and by putting forth his views without any bitterness,

but forcefully. As a Prime Minister, his chivalrous and energetic personality influenced all equally. Shri Atal Ji was an orator par excellence. His supporters and critics both conceded that Atal Ji had an unmatched personality. It is because of these qualities, he was the most popular leader in the field of politics. He has had a long-standing effect on the shining orbit of Indian democratic politics and it will continue forever. He was well aware of the essence, real character and discipline of India's democracy. Shri Atalji was a devout, who continued to ascend lifelong while considering politics as a means of human service, away from bitterness, gain or loss. Atal Ji was the pole star of clean politics. As an able politician, diplomat and leader of the masses, Atal Ji earned the recognition not only at national but at international level also and thus left an indelible mark. Under his bold leadership, the nation attained great achievements. Among them, underground nuclear tests in Pokhran, victory in Kargil War, Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, unprecedented development in Telecom and IT Sector are especially notable. The magnetic impact of the charming personality of Shri Vajpayee Ji was imprinted in the hearts of the people of India. When he used to speak in Parliament, meetings, seminars and conferences, the audience would get enthralled and influenced. All his views, statements, words and poetry poured out straight from the core of his heart. As a politician, politics based on principles, bold decision making ability, farsightedness, polite behavior and humour were his unique distinctions. He had

set highest standards of excellent conduct, honesty and gentle behavior. He used to speak the truth very easily with wit and openness. His sensitivity, quintessence patriotism as well as his undeterred belief and progressive thinking towards democracy is reflected in his poems and articles. Shri Vajpayee wrote several books including 'Mrityu Ya Hatya', 'Amar Balidan', 'Kaidi Kavirai Ki Kundaliyan', 'New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy' and 'Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen' to name a few. Atal Ji also edited journals and magazines like 'Rashtradharm', 'Panchjanya', 'Veer Arjun' and 'Swadesh', etc.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away on 16 August, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 93.

With his demise, the nation has suffered an irreparable loss and the country has lost a great leader well known for his multifaceted and versatile personality. With his departure, an era of Indian politics has come to an end. His persona stands out as a source of inspiration for all of us and the generations to come. Today, while paying him tribute, I would say-

"Aaj ek Jananayak 'anant' hai,
Ek prakhar vaktaa 'nishabd' hai,
Ek ojasvee kavi 'smritiyon' men hai,
Ek yug ka safar 'chitron' men hai,
Kaal ke kapaal par amit chhap chhodne wale

Atal ji amar hain:-

Maa Bharti ke kan-kan men,
Desh ke jan-jan men, har-man men."

This House expresses its deepest condolences to his family, admirers and colleagues on the sad demise of the great son of the country hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. The ideas and principles of Atal Ji will keep on guiding all of us by becoming a source of inspiration for the masses.

The Resolution was adopted.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee served as Speaker of Lok Sabha during the 14th Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009. An institution in himself as Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Chatterjee symbolised the quintessence of dignity and credibility of the Legislature and he protected and upheld the highest norms of parliamentary democracy. He conducted the proceedings of the House with great ability, impartiality and dignity. His parliamentary skills and comprehensive knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures earned him respect from all the sections of the House. He founded Parliamentary Museum and Lok Sabha TV. Due to these initiatives, the proceedings of Parliament reached every household, which ultimately helped in strengthening the democracy. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was a public servant undeterred, outspoken and sensitive towards his principles. He was revered by the Members of the ruling party and the opposition. He always raised his voice for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society and for the problems

being faced by the common men. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was conferred upon the 'Outstanding Parliamentarian' Award for the year 1996 and also honoured with the 'Congressional Medal of Achievement' by the House of Representatives of the Congress (Parliament) of Philippines in April, 2005. Shri Chatterjee was a Member of 5th Lok Sabha from Burdwan Parliamentary Constituency, 6th and 7th Lok Sabha from Jadavpur Parliamentary Constituency and 8th to 14th Lok Sabha from Bolpur Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal. During his long and illustrious parliamentary sojourn, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Privilege Committee, Committee on Railways, Committee on Communications and Information Technology. Shri Chatterjee led the Indian Parliamentary delegations during the visits to several countries and represented the Indian Parliament at various international fora. I had also accompanied him on those visits and how a Speaker has to handle his delegation, I have learnt this literally from him. A man of letters and abound in literary talent, Shri Chatterjee contributed various incisive articles in leading journals and publications including Lok Sabha publications, namely '25 Years of Parliament' and '50 Years of Parliament'.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee passed away on 13 August, 2018 in Kolkata, West Bengal at the age of 89 years.

Shri Ananthkumar was a Member of the 11th to 16th Lok Sabha consecutively for 6 terms, elected from Bangalore South Parliamentary constituency, which shows his popularity. He served as Union Minister of the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Tourism and Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Housing and Urban Affairs, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj from 1998 to 2003. An able parliamentarian, Shri Ananthkumar served as the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committees on Coal and Steel, Finance, Chemicals and Fertilisers and External Affairs and also served as the member of various Parliamentary Committees. A man of letters, Shri Ananthkumar authored many books on various socio-political issues and education and also wrote articles on national issues in the newspapers and periodicals. Shri Ananthkumar visited several countries as part of Indian Parliamentary Delegations. He was the first Indian delegate to address the United Nations General Assembly in Kannada. A gentle and soft-spoken, popular, untiring Ananthkumar ji discharged his responsibility as a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with a great sense of efficiency and always taking everybody along. During tense moments in the Parliament also, there was simplicity in his temper and a soft smile on his face. Shri Ananthkumar ji was a person treading uninterrupted on the path of duty and due to this quality, he was endeared by all. His working style was unmatched.

Shri Ananthkumar passed away on 12 November, 2018 in Bengaluru, Karnataka at the age of 59.

Dr. Bhola Singh was a sitting Member representing the Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. He was also a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha. Dr. Singh served as a member of the various Parliamentary Committees. Earlier, he was a Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha for eight terms, which shows his popularity among the people. He served as Deputy Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha from 2003-2005. He was also the Minister of Home, Education and Urban Development in the Government of Bihar. A man of letters, Dr Bhola Singh penned several books such as 'Kissan Mere Bhagwan Hain', 'Main Pravaah Hoon' and 'Begusarai'. He also wrote articles for newspapers and efficiently articulated his considered views in Panel discussions on Doordarshan. Hindi of Dr. Bhola Singh was simple, easy and chaste, touching the heart of the general public. We have witnessed it many a times while sitting here. He had excellent command over Hindi language. He always endeavoured for the welfare and upliftment of the deprived classes.

Dr. Bhola Singh passed away on 19 October, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 79.

Shri M.I. Shanavas was a sitting Member representing Wayanad Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala. He was also a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha. Shri Shanavas started his political career with student politics. He was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development and Committee

on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, and he served as the member of the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce during 15th Lok Sabha. He was known as an aware and active Member of Lok Sabha.

Shri M.I. Shanavas passed away on 21 November, 2018 in Chennai at the age of 67.

Shri Mohammad Asrarul Haque was a sitting Member representing the Kishanganj Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. He was also a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha. Shri Asrarul Haque was a member of the Committee on Home Affairs and Committee on Industry. As an active social worker and an eminent writer, he wrote several articles on diverse social, cultural, political and religious issues in all leading Urdu dailies and published many books. "Islam Aur Musalmanon Ki Jimmedariyaan" (Islam and Responsibilities of Muslims) and "Islam and Society" are few of them. He did commendable work in the field of education in Kishanganj and set up many educational institutions.

Shri Mohammad Asrarul Haque passed away on 7 December, 2018 in Kishanganj, Bihar at the age of 76.

Honourable Members, we deeply mourn the loss of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Ananth Kumar, Dr. Bholu Singh, Shri M.I. Shanavas and Shri Mohammad Asrarul Haque and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debates of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

English and Hindi versions of Synopsis of Debates are also available at <http://loksabha.nic.in>.