

A man of letters, Shri Valmiki Choudhury authored a number of books, important among them being 'Rajendra Babu Ka Vyaktitva', 'Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki Diary', 'Ajat Shatru' etc.

Shri Valmiki Choudhury passed away on 28th March, 1996 at the age of 75 years at New Delhi.

Shri D.D. Puri was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha representing Kaithal Parliamentary Constituency of undivided Punjab State during 1962-67.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Punjab Vidhan Sabha during 1952-62.

A dedicated social and political worker, he worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the down-trodden. A noted industrialist, Shri Puri represented India at the United Nations Sugar Conference, New York in 1956 and again at Geneva in 1958 and 1961 and led several trade delegations to Iran and Pakistan in 1961.

An able Parliamentarian, he lost no opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the problems faced by the workers.

Shri D.D. Puri passed away at London, the United Kingdom on 22nd April, 1996 at the age of 82 years.

Shri P.A. Antony was a Member of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Trichur Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala during 1984-89 and 1989-91.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Legislative Assembly of Kerala during 1972-77. A well-known political and social worker, Shri P.A. Antony took keen interest in the development of education for the weaker sections of the society.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Antony also served as Member of the Committee on Government Assurances, Consultative Committee of Commerce, Committee on Official Language, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri P.A. Antony passed away at Chalakudy on 24th April, 1996 at the age of 60 years.

Shri Vijay Pal Singh was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Muzaffarnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1971-77.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952-59 and 1962-67.

An agriculturist by profession, he was associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of peasants in different capacities.

Shri Singh worked relentlessly for creating awareness among the down-trodden about their rights and strove for eradication of social evils emanating

from casteism and communalism. He dedicated his entire life for amelioration of the lot of the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Vijay Pal Singh passed away at District Hospital, Muzaffarnagar on the 6th of May, 1996 at the age of 73 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the Condolence Resolution moved by your honour in this House, it is my painful duty this morning to associate myself with the Motion paying homage to Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

In the demise of Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the nation has lost an eminent freedom fighter, an able administrator, a clean politician and an elder statesman. He sacrificed almost everything during the freedom struggle including his higher education by responding to the clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi by taking a plunge into freedom struggle early in his youth and spent several years in Jail. He was from a farming family. By sheer dint of sacrifice, hard work and merit, he became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. As Chief Minister, he took initiative in launching many projects which later led to an accelerated agricultural development. He was not only a progressive administrator but also an extraordinarily sensitive politician. He was a mass leader and was deeply committed to high standards in public life.

He served the country in several capacities starting as a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Constituent Assembly of India, as Minister in the State and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He was a Member in the Cabinet formed by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and later in the Cabinet of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. As an able administrator, he provided nature guidance to several Ministries in the Central Government. It was a tribute to his parliamentary skills that he was elected the Speaker of the 4th Lok Sabha, an office that won him wide acclaim. It was a tribute to his genius that he was again elected unanimously the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in March, 1977 and then went on to be elected unanimously to the highest office of the land.

I had the fortune of knowing him closely for several years. I also had the opportunity of interacting closely with him during his last years when he made Bangalore his home. As I speak about him today, many of these memories of my association with him are crowding in. The public life of India is poorer by his departure, but he will always remain one of the prime examples of public life for all of us to emulate.