

Gangtok, March 15: Ninth Assembly of Sixth session of Budget Session 2017 commenced today which was presided over by the Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Mr. K.N.Rai.

The Budget session began with the Governor, Mr Shrinivas Patil addressing the House. In his address, Mr. Patil stated that in the Union Budget 2017-18, the Government of India has offered more funds for welfare schemes and minor tax sops for individual and small firms. He said that during the fiscal 2017-18, the state government is committed to focus on roads and housing projects. 'Besides roads, my Government is also committed to making Sikkim a Kutch House free State by building more than 3000 more houses during the year. My Government has declared 2017 as the year of development,' he stated.

Speaking on the reservation of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the Governor said that the state government has been vigorously pursuing with the Government of India, the demand for provision of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the Limboo-Tamang communities which has been pending for more than 14 years. He also put on record that the state government has been able to convince the Government of India for permitting His Holiness, the 17th Karmapa to come to Sikkim.

Earlier, the Governor began his address by conveying condolence on behalf of the House and the people of Sikkim on the demise of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Late Ms. J.Jayalalithaa, former member, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Mr. Dilli Ram Basnet, and former Governor of Sikkim, Late Mr. P. Shiv Shankar,

The Speaker, Mr. K.N.Rai after the speech of the Governor reported that the Governor of Sikkim has been pleased to deliver the address to the house.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling who is also the leader of the House, moving the motion of thanks stated that the members of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the Governor of Sikkim for his address. The Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Ugen T. Gyatso seconded the motion of thanks on the Governor's address.

OBITUARY

Gangtok: The first day of the Budget Session also saw the Obituary Reference on the passing away of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Late Ms. J.Jayalalithaa, former member, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Mr. Dilli Ram Basnet, and former Governor of Sikkim, Late Mr. P. Shiv Shankar by the Speaker(SLA) Mr.K.N.Rai which was also participated by the Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling who is also the Leader of the House and the other Members of the House.

During the Obituary Reference the Speaker Mr. K.N.Rai mentioned that Late Ms. J. Jayalalithaa who was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was born on 24th February, 1948 at Melukote, Pandavapura taluka, Mandya district, then in Mysore State (now Karnataka) to Jayaram and Vedavalli in a Tamil Brahmin family and passed away on 5th December, 2016 after having cardiac arrest.

He also stated her political growth where she was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1989 as a representative of the Bodinayakkanur (State Assembly Constituency). The election saw the Jayalalithaa-led faction of the AIADMK win 27 seats and Late Jayalalithaa became the first woman to be elected Leader of the Opposition. In February 1989, the two factions of ADMK merged and they unanimously accepted Late Jayalalithaa as their leader. In 1991 Late Jayalalithaa became the Chief Minister for the first time. With the demise of Jayalalitha, the Speaker mentioned how Tamil Nadu had lost such a powerful and great administrator.

While on the sad demise of former member, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Mr. Dilli Ram Basnet it was informed to the House that he was born on 4th August 1940 at Lower Sadam of Melli Constituency and he died on 14th February 2017. He was a teacher by profession and he joined politics on 1969. He became the Panchayat President on 1983 and was a member of the 4th Legislative Assembly on 1989. Late Mr. Dilli Ram Basnett was a Chairman of the Housing Board and was also the Chairman of Consumer Board on 1989. He also served as the Minister for Sikkim Nationalised Transport.

Similarly, during the obituary reference of passing away of former Governor of Sikkim, Late Mr. P. Shiv Shankar the Speaker said that he was born on 10th August, 1929, at Mamidipalli in Ranga Reddy district and he passed away in Hyderabad on 27th February, 2017. Late Mr. Shiv Shankar did his Bachelors in Law from Osmania University and practised as an advocate for a long time before being elevated as Andhra Pradesh high court judge in 1974. Later, he entered politics through Congress and got elected to Lok Sabha from Secunderabad in 1978. He got re-elected to Lok Sabha again in 1980 and became a Union Minister in the Indira Gandhi cabinet, taking care of the Law and Justice portfolio. On 21st September, 1994, Shiv Shankar was made the Governor of Sikkim, a post which he held till 11th November, 1995. Later, he was shifted to Kerala, where he was Governor till 1996.

The Chief Minister in his obituary reference said that Late Ms. Jayalalithaa was an Indian actor turned politician who served five terms as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for over fourteen years between 1991 and 2016. She first came into prominence as a leading film actress in the mid-1960s though reluctantly to support her family. In 1982 she joined the AIADMK, the party which MGR founded and in 1991 Late Ms. Jayalalithaa became the youngest Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the first time. On 22nd September 2016, she was admitted in Apollo hospital, Chennai for fever and dehydration and given treatment. Later, on 5th December, 2016, the doctors announced her death due to cardiac arrest.

While on the passing away of Lt. Mr. Dilli Ram Basnett, the Chief Minister remembered him as an honest and diligent human being. The Chief Minister spoke about him at length and he stated how disciplined and democratic he was in his thoughts. At the end the Chief Minister stated how with his passing away, he had left an indelible mark to the state of Sikkim.

Tributes were also paid by the Chief Minister to Lt Mr.P. Shiv Shankar where he stated that the nation has lost a seasoned politician and an able administrator. He mentioned how his political career spanned over four decades and was once considered the second most powerful leader in the Rajiv Gandhi cabinet. He became the Governor of Sikkim on 21st September, 1994 and remained so till 11th November, 1995. The Minister for Social Welfare, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Mrs.Tulsi Dev, also read out the obituary for Dilli Ram Basnett and mentioned how a person like him would be missed by the state.