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National



Parliament homage to M.S.

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, DEC. 13. Parliament began its proceedings today with an obituary reference to the renowned Carnatic music exponent, Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi, who died in Chennai on Saturday. A minute's silence was observed in both Houses after the presiding officers read out the obituary references.

In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker, Somnath Chatterjee, said: "A Magsaysay award winner, Subbulakshmi, who was popularly known as 'M.S.' took Carnatic music to aesthetic heights." Recalling her early days and short tryst with films, he said: "M.S. was the first woman to be awarded the 'Sangitha Kalanidhi,' a prestigious title of the well-known Music Academy of Chennai."

The obituary reference made a mention of the various milestones in her career spanning several decades. "In her illustrious career, which spanned over five decades, she mesmerised a generation of Carnatic music lovers. M.S. received a large number of awards during her illustrious career. India's top civilian honour, Bharat Ratna, was conferred on her in 1998. The void caused by her demise would never be filled. While she is not physically with us, her melodious voice will always continue to inspire us."

Reading out the obituary reference in the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, said: "Her

News Update

Stories in this Section

- HCL asked to pay Rs. 100 crores
- Parliament homage to M.S.
- Call for fresh approach to internal security
- Where Sidhu didn't score
- NDA team to leave for Kanchi Mutt today
- Rao's condition improves
- Cell calls' details sought
- Plea rejected
- 'No need for Modi to quit'
- Goa turns more colourful
- So near to God, so far from Heaven
- Bright prospects for growth: Chidambaram
- BJP seeks dismissal of Bihar Government
- U.S. arms supply will not hit India-Pakistan talks: Mulford
- Nanavati panel visits Godhra
- 'Steps being taken to ensure safety of Best Bakery accused'
- 'Receding glacier no threat to shrine'
- Court 'no' to Chandraswami
- Relatives meet Kanchi Acharya in jail
- NCW writes to women MPs on quota Bill
- Court query on continuation of operations by 297 petrol pumps
- CBDT not to appeal against tribunal's order on Lalu

melodious voice provided spiritual solace and divine peace to many hearts. A legendary figure in Carnatic music, Shrimati Subbulakshmi was known for her simplicity and devotion. She brought international fame to our nation when she was invited in 1966 to render a concert before the U.N. General Assembly."

It also took note of the various awards conferred on her. "She was a recipient of the Magsaysay Award. The nation's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, was also conferred on her. M. S. reached her iconic status with the film *Mira* in 1945. Her admirers included eminent personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In the passing away of Shrimati M. Subbulakshmi, the country has lost not only a shining star of Carnatic music, but it is an irreparable loss to the entire world of classical music."

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National

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- [Railway Ministry rejects Garg panel findings](#)
- [Court notice to Centre on Hindu Succession Act](#)
- [Jharkhand told to hold local elections in April](#)
- [Case against Mallika Sarabhai dropped](#)
- [Usher in a new era, ULFA urges Government](#)
- [Bomb hoax](#)
- [No reply yet from Interpol about Quattrocchi: CBI](#)

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