

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 26, 1997/Phalgun 7, 1918 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute  
past Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House, with a deep sense of sorrow, of the passing away of one of our esteemed friends Shri. D.L. Baitha.

Shri D.L. Baitha was a Member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing Araria Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during 1980-84.

Earlier he was a Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1952-72. He was a Member of the State Council of Ministers for several years and held various portfolios with distinction.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Baitha served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and also as Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence in the Union Council of Ministers. He was a Member of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions. He was also the Chairman of Railway Convention Committee during 1980-84.

An agriculturist and lawyer by profession, Shri Baitha constituted a Committee for dealing with the problem of landless labourers. He worked hard for the development of rural areas.

An active social worker, he worked ceaselessly for the upliftment of poor and weaker sections of the society.

Shri D.L. Baitha passed away on 10 February, 1997 at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi at the age of 73 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.03 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

11.04 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Royalty on Crude Oil

+  
\*61. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE:  
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state.

(a) whether a number of oil producing States are insisting upon the Union Government to revise the royalty rate on crude oil and natural gas after the well head price with effect from 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the provisions of the oil-fields (Regulation and Development) Act 1948 is proposed to be amended accordingly;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):  
(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Governments of Assam and Gujarat have been requesting the Central Government to fix the rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993-96 and to revise the 'on account' rate of royalty on crude oil w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

(c) For the three years period (1993-94 to 1995-96), the actual weighted cost of production would be worked out on the basis of the figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the final rate of royalty notified and necessary adjustments made against the 'on account' payments already made. The Government have decided to revise the 'on account' rate of royalty on crude oil w.e.f. 1.4.96 from Rs. 528/MT to Rs. 578/MT.

(d) to (f) The Schedule to the Oil-fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 is amended suitably as and when the rate of royalty on mineral oil is re-fixed by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, tension between the Central Government and the States on the question of royalty on oil and natural gas is increasing day