

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 14, 1997/Vaisakha 24, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the demise of our esteemed friend Shri B. Bhagvati.

Shri B. Bhagvati was a member of Second, Third and Fourth Lok Sabha, representing Darrang and Tezpur Parliamentary constituencies of Assam during 1957-70. Earlier, he was a member of Assam Legislative Assembly for ten years. He served as Union Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications and Works and Urban Development from May, 1962 to March, 1967.

A veteran freedom fighter, he had actively participated in the Non-cooperation Movement in 1921 and Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and had suffered imprisonment on many occasions.

A widely travelled person, he was the workers' representative to Geneva on the Plantation Committee of the International Labour Organisation. A man of letters, Shri Bhagvati authored many books—'Gandhivad' and 'Bhartiya Sanskritik Dhara' are some of his important publications.

Shri Bhagvati passed away at Tezpur on 8th May, 1997 at the age of 90 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 now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (DUMARIAGANJ):
Madam, Chairman....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour should not be treated as Zero Hour. You should get time in the Zero Hour.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rural Electrification

[Translation]

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*541 DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in the country during the last three years and the funds incurred thereon. State-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to include rural electrification as a minimum basic amenity under the common minimum programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The details of the villages electrified in all the States, as reported by the respective State Electricity Boards and the financial assistance provided by the REC to the State Electricity Boards, in the last 3 years is given in the Annexure enclosed

(b) and (c) Government accords priority to rural electrification in order to provide the energy infrastructure as a 'basic need for rural development'.