

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. XVII, Special Sittings to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, Nos. 18 to 23

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 26, 1997/Bhadra 4, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our friends, Shri Dwarka Nath Das.

Shri Dwarka Nath Das was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Karimganj parliamentary constituency of Assam. He had represented the same constituency during Tenth Lok Sabha also from 1991 to 1996.

A teacher by profession, he had served as a principal in a school in his native district.

A well known social worker, Shri Das contributed a lot towards socio-economic development of South Assam Barak valley. He had special interest in the field of education, psychology, economics and philosophy.

An active parliamentarian, he served as a Member of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals and Select Committee on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1996. He also served as a Member of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1994-96.

Shri Dwarka Nath Das passed away at Calcutta on 18 August, 1997 at the age of 68 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is with a great sense of pride that we have gathered here for the Special Session on Lok Sabha to commemorate the golden jubilee of our Independence.

As you are aware, I have had prolonged discussions with leaders of parties and groups about the format of the discussion to be held during the special session. It was ultimately decided to have the discussion on a Motion as listed in today's List of Business. It was also decided that no formal business will be transacted during the Special Session.

Hon. Members will appreciate that the Motion has been drawn in very wide terms and has a very large canvass. I would rather not lay down specific guidelines for the discussion but it would be my earnest appeal to all sections of the House, that it would not be necessary for each speaker to try to dilate on all the aspects of the Motion.

In order to have a meaningful discussion within the time at our disposal, the Members would do well to concentrate while speaking only on one of the subjects listed in the Motion which may be the area of their special interest. This, I feel, will minimise repetition and at the same time provide opportunity to a greater number of Members to participate in the discussion.

I may further inform the House that it was also decided during deliberations in meetings with Leaders that the discussion on the Motion may not be on Party lines. Free and frank expression of views with constructive criticism, as well as appreciation, wherever called for and concrete suggestions for improvement would, therefore, best set the tone for the discussion. For enabling as many Members as possible to speak within the limited time available, it has been agreed at the leaders' meeting that the time limit for each Member may be restricted to ten minutes. Leaders would, however, be allotted more time. The decision in the morning is that the Leader of