

RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 30th April, 1997/10th
Vaisakha, 1918 (Saka)*

The House met at the eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman *in the Chair*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya, a former Member of this House on 25th April, 1997 at the age of 71.

Born in January, 1926 at Cooch-Behar in West Bengal, Prof. Bhattacharya had his education at Jenkins School and at Vidyasagar College. Prof. Bhattacharya was externed from Cooch-Behar in 1942 for involvement in the Quit India Movement. He was imprisoned thrice for participation in Students' Movement, State Peoples' Movement and Peasants' Movement in Cooch-Behar before its merger with West Bengal. In 1949, a *habeas corpus* petition, the first of its kind, against his detention was upheld by the then Cooch-Behar High Court. Prof. Bhattacharya was closely associated with several social and educational institutions and had been active in the thick of All-India Teachers' Movement. He was a member of the Senate and the Syndicate of Calcutta University.

Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya represented the State of West Bengal in this House from April, 1978 to April, 1984 and again from April, 1988 to April, 1994.

In the passing away of Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya, the country has lost a veteran freedom-fighter and a distinguished parliamentarian.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark* of respect to the memory of the departed.

*{Hon. Members then stood in silence
for one minute}*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our deep sense of sorrow and sympathy.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have great pleasure to introduce the hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral.

The Prime Minister may like to introduce his Council of Ministers.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to introduce to you and, through you, to the House my colleagues: Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia — Minister of Welfare; Shri Beni Prasad Verma — Minister of Communications; Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya — Minister of Steel & Minister of Mines; Shri CM. Ibrahim — Minister of Civil Aviation with additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Shri Janeshwar Misra — Minister of Water Resources; Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav — Minister of Defence; Shri Murasoli Maran — Minister of Industry; Prof. Saifuddin Soz—Minister of Environment and Forests; Shri R.L. Jalappa — Minister of Textiles. Shri S.R. Bommai — Minister of Human Resource Development; Shri Srikant Kumar Jena — Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Tourism; Shri T.G. Venkatraman — Minister of Surface Transport.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Shri Dilip Kumar Ray — Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Capt. Jai Narayan Prasad Nishad — Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh — Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Shri Ramakant D. Khalap — Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Departments of Law and Justice; Shri Saleem