

15.19 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF  
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS  
OF THE HOUSE

## SEVENTEENTH REPORT

SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD (Bal-  
lia): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House presented to the House on the 25th November, 1974".

The House will recall that on the 18th March 1974, when the hon. Speaker took the pleasure of the House to the grant of leave, certain objections were raised about the grounds on which leave had been recommended by the Committee in some cases and it was suggested that certain principles should be followed while granting leave of absence to members. The hon. Speaker also made certain observations and desired the Committee to lay down as to for what purposes members might remain absent from the sittings of the House. The Committee on absence of members from the sittings of the House considered the whole matter and have recommended in their Seventeenth Report the grounds on which leave could be granted to members and also recommended the grounds on which leave need not be granted to members. Copies of the report have already been circulated and all Members are aware of the grounds suggested by the committee. I need not take the time of the House by reading various grounds. I hope the House will approve these grounds.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Sequeira has given notice of an amendment. Is he moving it?

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA (Marmagoa): Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

"That at the end of the Motion add,—

"subject to the modification that in paragraph 6 of the Report, for the words 'need NOT be granted', the words 'need not ordinarily be granted', be substituted."

No one can possibly have a quarrel with the grounds that have been put forward in ordinary circumstances. But my submission is certain extraordinary circumstances arise very often. In my case, recently I had occasion to send to the Speaker a copy of the letter I had written to the Lt. Governor of Goa in which I drew his attention to the fact that he was not doing his job of maintaining law and order and in which I had alleged that with the full connivance of the local ministry, I was being denied the safety due to me as a citizen, on account of my being a Member of Parliament from the opposition party in Goa. I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to ask the Home Ministry consider this point as to what is to be done when the Lt. Governor of a territory, who is supposed to be the Administrator of the Territory, becomes a mere rubber stamp, a non-performing relic and makes himself completely redundant. In the case of my Governor, I suggest sending him out to Siberia or somewhere else as Ambassador....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: I fully agree with the committee that in ordinary circumstances, those items which are mentioned in para 6 are all right. But let us not tie the hands of the committee and let them have the freedom to examine cases where there are extraordinary circumstances.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना)

श्री तुलसीदास राम इतने दिनों से अनुपस्थित हैं। हाउस का समय बरबाद हो रहा है। मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि इस समिति के पास

[ श्री रामावतार शास्त्री ]

उन्होंने अपनी अनुपस्थिति के लिए कोई दरखास्त भेजी है या नहीं भेजी है और अगर नहीं भेजी है तो वह क्यों अभी तक उपस्थिति नहीं हो रहे हैं, हाउस एटेंड क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं ? यह तो उनको ही मालूम होगा कि क्यों व एटेंड नहीं कर रहे हैं लेकिन बमेटी के पास कोई दरखास्त आई है या नहीं आई है ? इसके बारे में कुछ खबर लग जाए तो मामला तय हो सकता है और जो पर्दा गिरा हुआ है वह हट सकता है और यह उनके घाते से हो सकता है । चक्रिण प्रसाद जी इसके बारे में कुछ बता सकते तो बताएं ।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. In pursuance of the direction given by the House and by the Speaker, the Committee on the Absence of Members went into this question as to what should be the grounds when members can be granted leave. Now they have submitted a report to the House and Shri Chandrika Prasad has come forward with a motion that this report may be accepted. There is a paragraph of the report which Mr Sequeira wants to modify by his amendment. So that we may understand what we are discussing, I will read out to the House that small portion. Para 6 says:

"The Committee further recommend that leave need NOT be granted on grounds like—

- (i) Working in constituency other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 above
- (ii) Professional or business engagements
- (iii) Private affairs
- (iv) Domestic trouble other than those mentioned in Paragraph 4 above"

Shri Sequeira wants to modify this by substituting the words "need NOT be granted" by the words "need not ordinarily be granted".

As far as Shri Tukmohan Ram is concerned, we do not know whether he attends the House or not because a Member can attend the House without coming to the chamber. He can come to the lobby, sign his name and go away. So, let us not go on the assumption whether he attends or does not attend the House when we do not know anything about it.

I will now put the amendment of Shri Sequeira to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That at the end of the Motion add,—

"subject to the 'modification that in paragraph 6 of the Report, for the words 'need NOT be granted', the words 'need not ordinarily be granted', be substituted'"

*The motion was adopted*

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. I will now put the main motion as amended to the vote of the House.

The question is

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House presented to the House on the 25th November, 1974, subject to the modification that in paragraph 6 of the Report, for the words 'need NOT be granted' the words 'need not ordinarily be granted', be substituted"

*The motion was adopted*