

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-513167].

12.37 hrs.

MOTION RE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

The Minister of Law (Shri Govinda Menon): I beg to move the following:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst members of each House according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote;

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing 'committees' and all 'committees' that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the 'committees' examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule; whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst members of each House according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote;

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing 'committees' and all 'committees' that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under

article 102 of the Constitution;

- (ii) to, recommend in relation to the 'committees' examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

Shri Banga (Srikakulam): The hon. Minister has not given us any idea as to why he is moving this particular motion. Is it in order to get this standing Committee elected? If so, what is it that the earlier Committee has done, what were the various new offices of profit which were considered, which of them were treated as offices of profit and which were not so treat-

ed. No such information has been given to us at all. Also for what period of time is the new Committee to function?

Shri Govinda Menon: It is all stated in the body of the motion. The new Committee will be in office till the end of this Lok Sabha.

In 1959, when the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification Act) Bill was debated here, there was a demand from members, which was accepted by the Mover of the Bill, the then Law Minister, that a Committee of the Houses with this name shall be constituted in every Lok Sabha which would review from time to time the offices of State and Central Governments to be formed later which may or may not occasion disqualification from membership. The work of this Committee would be to examine whether other offices than those contained in the present legislation should be included in the schedule to the legislation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst members of each House according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote;

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing 'committees' and all 'committees' that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

- (ii) to recommend in relation to the 'committees' examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule; whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

The motion was adopted.

14.42 hrs.

STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN WEST ASIA

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before proceeding with the Railway Budget discussion, the Minister of External Affairs

may make a statement on the situation in West Asia, if he desires to.

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): Sir, we have just heard—I have heard what you have heard—on the telex that fighting has broken out between Israel and UAR. It is a cause of grave anxiety not only to Government but, I am sure, to every Member of the House. We are most anxious that peace should be maintained in Western Asia. I want to assure the House that we have done our best to do so. If you have been following reports in the newspapers, our Permanent Representative in New York has been trying to do his best to have a resolution passed which will receive a majority vote and which will lessen tensions and enable the Secretary-General to bring about through his talks some settlement. But before that resolution could be discussed or voted upon, if reports are correct, the situation has worsened.

Naturally, I cannot make a full statement because I know just as much about it as Members. All I can say is that we all desire peace because war will be a calamity to the UAR, to Israel and to the whole world and, we, as a peace-loving nation, are anxious that peace should be maintained in Western Asia. The assurance I can give to the House is that India will do its best to see . . .

श्री रामसेवक यादव (वाराणसी) :
तथ्य क्या है ? तथ्य बताइये । मंत्री महोदय को इस बारे में ज्यादा जानकारी होनी चाहिए ।

An hon. Member: What are the facts?

श्री मु० क० चागला : मुझे ज्यादा जानकारी कैसे हो सकती है ? अभी तार आए हैं . . .

Shri M. L. Sondhi (New Delhi): What has Shri R. K. Nehru been doing in Cairo? Tell us some facts. Do not go on moralising.