

[Mr. Speaker]

- (7) House of Representatives, Morocco;
- (8) Members and Staff of the General Council, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
- (9) Franco-Indian Friendship Committee of the French National Assembly;
- (10) Former Chairman, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association General Council, Lagos;
- (11) Inter-Parliamentary Group of Monaco;
- (12) President of the Argentine National Senate; and
- (13) Parliament of Peru.

A copy each of these condolence messages and other such messages received from individuals has been placed in the Parliament Library for the information of Members.

12.06 hrs.

RETIREMENT OF SHRI KAUL AND APPOINTMENT OF SHRI SHAKDHER AS SECRETARY LOK SABHA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Shri M. N. Kaul has retired from the office of the Secretary, Lok Sabha, with effect from the 1st September, 1964.

Shri Kaul joined the Central Legislative Assembly as an Officer of the House in 1937 and has been continuously associated with its successor Houses, namely, the Constituent Assembly (Legislative), Provisional Parliament and now the Lok Sabha. He has held the office of the Secretary of the House since 1947.

His tenure was marked by many transitions and changes, constitutional and procedural. In all these matters, he tendered sound advice to the Speaker and helped in moulding the Constitutional provisions relating to Parliament and the Rules of

Procedure on modern lines. He helped and guided the Committees of this House, particularly during the initial stages.

I might also add that not only he gave advice to the Speaker and to the Committees but his advice was always available to every Member of the House to whichever group he belonged and he gave always sincere and sound advice.

After Independence, he was responsible for reorganising and expanding the Secretariat of this House to give prompt and efficient service to the Members.

He was also responsible for organising the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Delhi in 1957 which won high praise from all.

He accompanied several Parliamentary Delegations to the Inter-parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and other Goodwill Parliamentary Delegations and gave good advice on complicated matters.

He helped the Speakers and the Secretaries of the State Legislatures in their problems and his services were readily available to them at all times in Conferences and personal discussions.

He was also elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of Secretaries-General of World Parliaments and submitted to that body valuable reports on several aspects of parliamentary procedure and secretariat administration.

His has been a distinguished record of devoted service and unflinching loyalty. His vast experience and deep knowledge were of immense help to me since I took over as Speaker. His mature advice so readily available

was always sound and could be depended upon.

In appreciation of his long and distinguished record of service, I have appointed him as Honorary Officer of this House. It is only a recognition; there would be no functions that he would be discharging; it is only the acknowledgment of his services so that he can come to the office or to this Parliament building.

I have also to inform the Members of the House that I have appointed Shri S. L. Shaktidher, who has served this House as Joint Secretary for more than 11 years, as the Secretary of Lok Sabha.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Sir, I wholeheartedly endorse the observations you have made. Shri Kaul was a familiar and friendly figure for all of us; he was the first Secretary of the Lok Sabha after our Independence. We all know that he helped in building up high traditions and healthy conventions in the parliamentary work. I had occasion to know him for a long time, even before he became the Secretary here. I can say that he was a devoted officer and made a valuable contribution throughout his service. He was often seen rushing to the Speaker and telling something into his ears.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (कान्हाबाद):
यह प्रच्छा काम नहीं था । खुद कर
बात करना प्रच्छा होता है । प्राप भी कुछ
सीखें ।

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The Secretary has every right to advise his boss. But it is only advice and the decision is finally taken either by the Speaker or the Minister. But sometimes his voice was so loud that we were able to hear part of what he dinned into the ears of the Speaker.

Sir, I do not want to take more time of the House. Indeed I and the Government feel thankful to him

for the service he has rendered and we all wish him well. I hope our new Secretary, Mr. Shaktidher, will also try to keep up the same high standard.

Shri M. E. Masani (Rajkot): Sir, please permit me to associate myself with what has fallen from your lips and that of the Prime Minister. We, on this side of the House, too would like to pay our tribute to the efficiency and the great sense of fairness with which Mr. Kaul and his colleagues in the Secretariat have throughout behaved. I have myself had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Kaul since 1945. While we are sorry that this long association ends, we wish him well in whatever he undertakes.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kesergod): I also wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed here by you and the Prime Minister. We, the Members of the Opposition—especially myself who were here in the first Parliament had been very much helped by the Secretary and I wish him well.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): I also associate myself, on behalf of my party and of the Opposition Members, with the sentiments expressed by you and the Leader of the House about the retirement of Mr. Kaul. I knew him since 1952 when I entered this Parliament for the first time. I always remember him as one who always gave the most dispassionate advice to any Member who had the opportunity of meeting him. I wish him well.

Mr. Speaker: I think these are the sentiments of all Members.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): While associating myself with the sentiments that have been expressed, by your leave, Sir, I would like to make a submission. I do not wish to strike a jarring note. We are losing a valuable servant of the House. But he has been appointed, I find an Honorary Officer of the House.

Mr. Speaker: With no functions to perform.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I know. But as far as my study of the Constitution and the rules of the House goes, there is no provision in the Constitution for an Honorary Officer of the House. (Laughter). It is not a matter for laughter, because the Constitution recognises only two officers, namely, yourself and the Deputy-Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, he shall have nothing to do whatever?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: For instance, there is provision for acting Judges for the Supreme Court. So also, if the Constitution had provided for Honorary Officers, it would have been regular. He has rendered great service to the House, and I would not mind if the Constitution is amended for this purpose.

Mr. Speaker: I have not appointed him an officer with any functions to perform or any duties to discharge in that connection. It is usual in other Parliaments only to recognise the services. It is only a recognition of that and nothing more than that. It does not interfere with any provisions of the Constitution or rules.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): Sir, I would like only to say that we appreciate your gesture in having appointed Shri Kaul as your Honorary Officer because I am sure when you did it it was within the ambit of your authority and it was a kind of a token of appreciation of the work which he has been doing for so long for all of us. Therefore, I hope this House, without any kind of discordant note would express its appreciation of the services of Shri Kaul and also of the step you have taken in order to give some expression to that appreciation.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुबारकबाद देते समय मुझे श्री

शकधर से यही कहना है कि आगे से जरा बिरोधियों की तरफ काफी ध्यान दिया जायेगा और कायदे कानून ऐसे ढंग से बरते जायेंगे जिस से कि बहुत अच्छी हो ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्राप मुझ से कह रहे हैं ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : मैं कह तो रहा हूँ श्री शकधर से, लेकिन यह अपने लिये समझ लें तो श्री मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस वक़्त मैं रिटायर नहीं हो रहा हूँ कि यह बात कही जाये ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : एक बड़िया मौका मुझे इस समय मिला । श्री शकधर के जरिये मैं प्राप की खिदमत में एक बात यह कह दूँ कि यह सरकार लोक सभा से भागती है । पिछले दफे छः हफ्ते का अधिवेशन देख चुका हूँ । अब की यह सिर्फ चार हफ्ते का हो रहा है क्योंकि सरकार बहसों से भागती है, हम लोगों से उरती है । इसलिये श्री शकधर से . . . (Interruption).
साफ बात ? (Interruption).

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं माननीय सदस्यों से कहूँगा कि वे शांत रहें । मुझे डा० लोहिया से यह अर्ज करना है कि इस के लिये यह मौका नहीं है । प्राप फिर कभी कोई मौका लें और यह बात मुझ से कहें ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : प्रकृता में फिर कहूँगा ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, संयुक्त सोशलिस्ट पार्टी . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, संयुक्त सोशलिस्ट पार्टी बोल चुकी है ।