

12.47½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES

FOURTH REPORT

Shri Siddananappa (Hassan): Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Government assurances.

12.48 hrs.

RE. CENTENARY OF
SHRI GOKHALE

Mr. Speaker: I have received intimation from the Home Minister that because of the centenary of Shri Gokhale, Government are observing 9th May as holiday and that all Government offices would be closed on that day. As it is, we are sitting on the 9th. Now, if it be the desire of the House that we should also observe that day as holiday, then we will have to sit on the 7th.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): How many such centenaries shall our House observe?

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) :
ता० 18 को कीजिये ।

Mr. Speaker: It is for the House to decide what it should do. Because all the offices of the Central Government observe it as holiday, I should bring it to the notice of the House. If it pleases the House . . .

Shri M. R. Krishna (Peddapalli): Let us work on that day.

Mr. Speaker: There is only one alternative. We cannot lose a day. Independently of this holiday on the 9th, Shri Chaglia has written to me that he has the Aligarh Muslim University Bill and, therefore, we should sit on the 7th also. I do not think we can do that, in addition to our

sitting on the 9th. He says that we should sit on the 7th also.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : ता० 7 को नहीं
होना चाहिये ।

Shri N. Dandekar (Gonda): With great respect to the memory of Shri Gopala Krishna Gokhale, I do not think he would desire us not to work. I think we ought to work. All this business of not working because of somebody's centenary, somebody died or somebody was born,—I think he would be the first person to object to that.

Mr. Speaker: Then, is it the desire of the House that we should sit on the 9th?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): I agree that these holidays need not be observed and work must be there on these days. But here we have observed holidays for the centenaries of very eminent men in this country and Shri Gokhale is one of the pioneers of parliamentary democracy in this country, who carried the torch of freedom in this country.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, I am one with those who think that the time has come when we should evolve proper conventions as to how to honour the brave sons of ours who are no more. Shri Gokhale was so great that he might be the only Indian whom Gandhiji called his guru. So great was he and his contribution. Having accepted that so that none of us is misunderstood I may say that you and the Government must take a lead in evolving healthy and proper conventions for honouring the memory of great sons of India. A time may come when all the 365 days in the year are observed as holidays in memory of great sons of India, because this nation is going to produce and must produce great sons. We are second to none in having regard for him. I know his life. We are inspired by that, by the great noble honoured life of Gokhale.