

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT**

4919

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 17th April, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-48 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**REPORTS AND SELECTED DOCUMENTS OF
THE NEUTRAL NATIONS REPATRIATION
COMMISSION, KOREA.**

**The Minister of Parliamentary
Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):**
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy
of the Reports and Selected Documents
of the Neutral Nations Repatriation
Commission, Korea, in pursuance of
an assurance given by the Prime
Minister in paragraph 17 of the state-
ment on Korea laid on the Table on
the 16th March, 1954. [Placed in the
Library. See No. S-116/54.]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**COLLECTIVE DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE WES-
TERN PACIFIC**

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sadhan Gupta
has, under Rule 215, drawn attention
of the Prime Minister to the following
matter of urgent public importance

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and has requested that he may make
a statement hereon.

"The Communique issued simul-
taneously from London and
Washington to the effect that
Britain and the U.S.A. are ready
with other interested countries to
examine collective defence ar-
rangements for South-East Asia
and the Western Pacific and to
Mr. Eden's explanatory statement
that he and Mr. Dulles envisaged
in South-East Asia an alliance
comparable with the Atlantic Pact
in Europe."

**The Deputy Minister of External
Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** Mr.
Speaker, the Prime Minister is out on
tour and he has asked me to read to
the House the statement he had pre-
pared on the Joint Communique issued
in London and Washington on the con-
clusion of the talks between the Gov-
ernment of the United Kingdom and
the United States Secretary of State,
Mr. John Foster Dulles.

"The Government received a copy of
the communique shortly before it was
issued in London and Washington.
This was conveyed to them for infor-
mation by the High Commissioner for
the United Kingdom on behalf of his
Government in the ordinary course of
exchange of important information
between the Commonwealth countries
on matters of mutual interest and im-
portance. No other intimation or con-
sultation or exchange of views have
taken place between the Government
of India and any of the Governments
who are concerned parties in this
matter.

[Shri Anil K. Chanda]

On the evening of the 14th April, the U.K., High Commissioner informed us that he had been asked by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom to ascertain our views on the position resulting from the U.K. Government's talks with Mr. Dulles, as set out in the joint Communique.

This Joint Communique is only part of the wider and, if I may add graver problem of the recent developments in respect of Indo-China, which is engaging the attention of the Government and is exercising the public mind in this country.

The general views of the Government of India and their approach and policy on these matters are too well known to need reiteration. It is not the intention of the Government to depart from the firm and well-considered principles of their policy, which is calculated to promote peace and to resolve conflicts by a peaceful approach, and by methods of negotiation and agreement, rather than by the accentuation and threat of further conflicts creating conditions which might appear to one side or the other to be either threats or display of force intended to condition the course of negotiations. Keeping this policy in view, and with their considered appreciation of the grave consequences of the continuation of hostilities in Indo-China, the Government of India made a public appeal to all concerned Governments and peoples, to seek to bring about a cessation of these hostilities. This was without prejudice at this stage to any of the political, military, territorial or other issues involved. As stated then, it was not the Government's intention to intervene in this matter, but they earnestly hoped that the modest suggestion, which did not prejudice any issue would meet with favourable responses. The Government are glad to note that their appeal evoked such

favourable responses from the neighbouring Asian countries of Burma and Indonesia, and also from the Prime Minister of Canada, whom we had the good fortune and privilege of having amongst us as our honoured guest at the time. The Government have also noted the significant interest and the volume of interested concern and appreciation it aroused in France itself which showed beyond all doubt that a considerable volume of opinion in France, both in the country and in her Parliament, favoured our approach and suggestion. The question of cessation of hostilities is still in our view, an important one and can open the way to further negotiations.

The Government have welcomed the Geneva Conference and hope that no endeavour will be considered too great at that conference to bring the war to an end and to negotiate a settlement. It has always been our view that negotiations under threats or by military activities being stepped up preceding negotiations and calculated to condition such negotiations or to give the impression of being so calculated, are not helpful.

In regard to the content of the Communique itself, in so far as it refers to collective defence agreements by the Western powers for the defence of South East Asia, the approach and views of the Government are well known and they remain unchanged.

It is my intention to make a fuller statement on the position of the Government on the whole of this problem and the more recent developments, which have rendered it grave and of deeper and more profound concern to us and to South East Asia as a whole. The House will, I hope, agree with me that such a statement dealing with the problem as a whole and made before the Geneva Conference will be more appropriate at a somewhat later stage than any elaboration of our position at present."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that the Business Advisory Committee met on the 14th April, 1954, to consider the allocation of time for the Government legislative business to be brought forward before the House during the remainder of the current session.

The Committee agreed to the following allotment of time to the various Bills:—

| Name of Bill | Time allotted, |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill | 2 hrs. |
| 2. State Acquisition of Lands for Union Purposes (Validation) Bill | } 5 hrs. |
| 3. Absorbed Areas (Laws) Bill | |
| 4. Lushaj Hills District (Change of Name) Bill | |
| 5. Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Bill | |
| 6. Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill | |
| 7. Factories (Amendment) Bill | 5 hrs. |
| 8. Voluntary Surrender of Salaries (Exemption from Taxation) Amendment Bill | 1 hr. |
| 9. Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Bill | 1 hr. |
| 10. High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Bill | 4 hrs. |
| 11. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill. | 12 hrs. |
| 12. T.A. and D.A. of Members Bill | 2 hrs. |
| 13. Finance Bill | 16 hrs. |
| 14. Special Marriage Bill | 8 hrs. |
| 15. Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill | 10 hrs. |
| 16. Companies Bill | 16 hrs. |

In order to make up for the time allotted to the various Bills as indicated above, the Committee recommended that the House should also sit on Saturdays, the 24th April, 1st, 8th and 15th May 1954. There would be no question hour on these days.

I take it that the House is agreeable to these recommendations.

Some Hon. Members: Excepting Saturdays.

Mr. Speaker: I assume that the volume of opinion is in favour of accepting these recommendations. (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Members will see that the Business Advisory Committee is a committee representing all sections and views of the House and its conclusions are not majority decisions but unanimous decisions. It always functions on the basis of unanimity of agreement. It is not possible to please and satisfy each and every individual Member of the House belonging to this or that party. This represents therefore, not only the collective view but also, I believe, the collective wisdom of the House.

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Then, may we understand that the present Session will terminate definitely on the 15th?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot follow.

Shri Barman: Are we to understand that we definitely adjourn on the 15th?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it means that; there must be some certainty about things.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): May I draw your attention.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have not yet finished. This report shall be published in the Bulletin and shall constitute the order of the House in regard to the allocation of time for the various Bills. The Government is now requested to allocate the priorities and the order in which they propose to take up the Bills. This may be done as early as possible—say by Monday the 19th instant.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With regard to asking the Government to announce priorities by Monday, I am afraid it will not be possible for the Government to do it by Monday but I can