

for purposes of promotion or retrenchment in the Department. (ii) For purposes of confirmation, however, their seniority is maintained on All India basis.

(B) *Drawing Staff*: Their seniority is maintained in the same manner as in the case of the ministerial staff.

(C) *Staff working against the Isolated posts*: Their seniority is maintained on zonal basis for all purposes viz. promotion, confirmation and retrenchment.

(D) *Technical Staff*: Their seniority is maintained on All India basis for all purposes viz. promotion confirmation and retrenchment.

(c) and (d) *Different Zones and their jurisdictions*:

(i) *Northern Zone*: It comprises of Circles and Divisions located in Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir States.

(ii) *Southern Zone*: It comprises of Circles and Divisions located in Madras, Bombay and neighbouring areas.

(iii) *Eastern Zone*: It comprises of Circles and Divisions located in Calcutta, Assam, Gangtok and N.E.F.A.

Class IV Staff of C.P.W.D.

1912. **Shri Tangamani**: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seniority of Class IV staff on regular establishment employed in various divisions of the Central Public Works Department is maintained according to each division?

(b) if not, whether it is according to different zones or regions;

(c) if so, what are the different zones or regions; and

(d) the jurisdiction of each zone?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No

(b) For purposes of promotion to the higher posts on the same cadre and reduction in establishment the seniority list is maintained on Circle and Zonal basis respectively, and for purposes of confirmation on All India basis in so far as Peons, Barkandazes, Chowkidars and Daftries are concerned and on zonal basis in respect of others.

(c) and (d). There are three zones viz.

(1) *Northern Zone* comprising of Circles and Divisions located in Delhi, Punjab, U.P. and Jammu and Kashmir State;

(2) *Southern Zone* consisting of Offices in Madras, Bombay and neighbouring areas; and

(3) *Eastern Zone* comprising of Offices in Calcutta, Assam, Gangtok and N.E.F.A.

12.08½ hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vajpayee perhaps, wanted to say something.

Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur): Sir, may I know your reactions to my letter of this morning with regard to the publication of a news item relating to the Chinese reply to the Indian note of 12th February? It has been reported in the Press that the Government of India has received a reply; and the contents of the reply have also appeared in the Press. I feel that before the publication of the contents of the reported reply, this House should have been informed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I should like to be clear on this subject of what is sometimes referred to as a privilege of this House. I am not aware of any such privilege that I should control the Press as to what they should print or not print when they get it...

Shri Vajpayee: The External Affairs Ministry should be controlled and not the Press.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: . . . And the External Affairs Ministry even, to what measure it should be controlled as to what it should give to the Press and what it should not. I think it is a novel proposition of which I have not been aware in any country. But that is another matter. I want to be clear on this matter which is referred to again and again, to my knowledge, without any justification in parliamentary practice in any country. In fact, it would become almost impossible for Parliament to function if I am supposed to tell them of all military moves, all diplomatic moves from day to day. That is not parliamentary government, so far as I know. But that is by the way.

We have been trying to keep the House fully informed of these developments. Sometimes, it so happens that newspapers get some information and they publish it—not because we give it to them. We do not want to encourage publication in newspapers before we have decided that it should be published. A reply has come from the Chinese Government and we were waiting to find out the exact date of publication by them and by us and then I shall place it before the House possibly—I do not know—in the next two or three days. We are not responsible for a newspaper publishing it or the substance of it. (*Interruptions.*) (*An Hon. Member:* It has leaked out) May be. I do not think that it leaked out. The newspaper concerned has correspondents abroad too and those correspondents get it from other sources also.

Shri Vajpayee: When will this be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: For the information of the House, I should like to place it before the House as soon as possible—may be, in two or three days, perhaps, on Monday. I

shall not be here but I shall instruct my colleague, the Deputy Minister, to lay it on the Table of the House on Monday.

I may add that the note which is a fairly long one is really a resume of what has been said in the past. There is nothing new in it except the repetition of what they have said. Well, presumably, if I may use the word, it is to put their case as a whole, together, again.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): The language is very polite, it seems?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is referring to politeness.

Shri Hem Barua: It is said about the note that the language is very polite. That is what the newspaper reporters say.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The language is, and ought to be, always polite when Governments deal with each other and when guests come they should also be treated politely. (*Interruptions.*)

Shri Hem Barua: Nobody says that guests should not be treated politely.

Mr. Speaker: Now, one point has been raised. So far as this matter is concerned, I had noted here—'not a matter for a privilege motion.' But I was informed that the Prime Minister wanted to make a statement. Otherwise, I would not have called him.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I appreciate that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let me make my position clear. With respect to these matters, I would like the hon. Members to know what exactly I am going to allow and not to allow. It is for the hon. Minister to find out, and to decide for himself, whether a particular document ought to be placed on the Table of the House or not. If he makes up his mind that it ought to

be placed here, the hon. Members expect that this House must be the first to get information before it is given to the Press. But it is for the hon. Minister to decide whether it is a matter which is so important that the information ought to be given first to the House or whether it is not of such importance and might be given out to the Press.

Today, I understood him to say that somehow it had leaked out. In that case, every hon. Member is entitled to ask how it has leaked out. If, on the other hand, he feels that it is not a matter which ought to be kept secret, there is absolutely no such question of leakage. If the hon. Minister feels, on the other hand, that it is a matter of importance and the House ought to be taken into confidence first, before it goes out, every step ought to be taken to see that the outside world does not give information of this matter before the paper is laid on the Table of the House. It is for the Minister to decide.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I understand you, Sir, the whole matter is left to the discretion of the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am quite satisfied with it.

Shri Vajpayee: May I submit that I did not want this question to be the form of breach of privilege I only wanted to draw your attention.

Mr. Speaker: I can only add this to avoid any misunderstanding in the future. When the hon. Minister gives information to the Press or allows the information to be given to the Press he ought not to say that he wanted to place it on the Table of the House first.

If he wanted to give it to the Press, let him say so. If, on the other hand, he wanted to keep it a secret, the House is always entitled to ask

how it has leaked out before it was given to the House. That is the only point.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I beg of you to say that there are many matters which are not exactly secret but publicity is given to them at a time considered the right time? Normally, if you place anything before the House, it is obvious that it is not right to issue it to the Press previously. But if the Press gets it—not from us and so there is no question of leakage—surely, the Ministries concerned are not responsible for the activities of the Press. Obviously, it is a matter not of privilege but pure courtesy even that it should be placed before the House before it is sent to the Press. But sometimes it so happens—apart from the papers—that we have Press Conferences and there are questions and answers. Something is said and an answer has to be given. That is not a matter of discourtesy to anybody that an answer is given. Can it be said that every answer should be given here before it is given in the Press Conference?

Mr. Speaker: We have understood each other very well.

12.16 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUDIT REPORT, DEFENCE SERVICES

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to lay on the Table, under Article 151 (1) of the Constitution, a copy of Audit Report, Defence Services, 1960 (including Report on the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services and the Commercial Appendix thereto for the year 1958-59). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2073/60.]

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of a statement show-