

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES 24.11.2019
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 27th November, 1953.

*The House met at Half Past One
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIVY PURSES

*351. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have communicated with several princes to review the question of Privy Purses and examine the possibilities of scaling them down; and

(b) if so, whether any response has been received from the princes?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No official communication from the Government of India has been sent on this subject. But the Prime Minister wrote a personal letter to a number of Princes.

(b) A number of replies have been received by the Prime Minister. Most of them are in the nature of provisional replies stating that the matter is being considered more fully. It will not be desirable to give any further particulars about these replies at this stage.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know, Sir, whether any Princes conveyed their refusal of this proposal?

Mr. Speaker: I think in view of what the Prime Minister has stated...

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Sardar Hukam Singh: I am not asking for the name or anything of that kind.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be. As he states, it will not be proper to disclose all that at this stage.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I make a submission.....

Sardar Hukam Singh: From the answer, I gather that the communication was addressed only to a number of Princes. How was that number selected? Was it sent to those who were getting the highest allowances or were there some other considerations?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It was sent only to Princes who were getting privy purses of Rs. 1 lakh or over.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it contemplated that this reduction would be effected by voluntary surrender or would there be.....

Mr. Speaker: I think all these questions are premature. This matter requires to be delicately handled.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it the intention of Government to follow up officially the implications of this personal letter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That also will have to be considered later, as to what the best method is to follow it up.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.