

**JOINT COMMITTEE
ON
SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER AMENITIES
TO
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

REPORT

(Presented on the 7th August, 1968)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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**JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS
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DURING - 1968**

Sl. No.	Name	Presented
1.	Salary, Allowances and other Amenities to Members of Parliament - J.C. Report.	7.8.68
2.	Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1967 By Shri Nath Pai, M.P. - Report J.C.	22.7.68
3.	- do- Statement	
4.	- do- Evidence	
5.	Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1967 Report of Select Committee.	6.5.68
6.	-do- Evidence	
7.	Gold (Control) Bill, 1968 Report of Joint Committee.	13.8.68
8.	Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1968 Report of the Joint Committee.	11.11.68
9.	-do- Evidence	
10.	Criminal and Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1968 - Report of Joint Committee.	2.12.68
11.	Union Territories (Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions) Bill, 1968 (Report of Joint Committee.	10.12.68

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER
AMENITIES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

Shri Bibhuti Mishra—*Chairman.*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri G. M. Bakshi
3. Shri Panna Lal Barupal
4. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu
5. Shri Y. Gadilingana Goud
6. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta
7. Shri Hem Raj
8. Shri Tulshidas Jadhav
9. Shri N. P. C. Naidu
10. Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair
11. Shri Rabl Ray
12. Shri A. S. Saigal
13. Shri Sheo Narain
14. Shri G. Viswanathan.

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri A. D. Mani
16. Shri C. D. Pande
17. Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel
18. Shri Patil Puttappa
19. Shri Biren Roy
20. Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Talwar
21. Shri Niranjana Varma.

SECRETARIAT

Shri R. P. Kaushik—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri G. H. G. Raman—*Under Secretary.*

JOINT COMMITTEE ON SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER
AMENITIES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

REPORT

I

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances and Other Amenities to Members of Parliament, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf this report to Parliament.

On the 15th December, 1967, Shri Panna Lal Barupal, M.P. moved¹ for introduction of a Bill in Lok Sabha to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 with a view to entitling Members of Parliament to draw daily allowance at an increased rate of Rs. 50/- for each day during any period of residence on duty instead of a D.A. of Rs. 31/- per day and a salary of Rs. 500/- per mensem as at present. The Bill also sought to provide the Members with free postal facilities and two third-class sleeping berth railway passes instead of one first-class pass. The Bill also sought to provide that a Member who has completed two full terms as a Member of Parliament consecutively or otherwise should be entitled to receive pension in the same manner as is admissible to a Central Government employee. It was also provided in the said Bill that every Member shall be entitled to rent-free accommodation of a uniform type IV with free telephone, furniture, water and electricity and other amenities.

2. The Bill was opposed² at the introduction stage, and on the question that leave be granted to introduce the Bill, the Lok Sabha³ divided: Ayes 138: Noes 31. The motion was accordingly adopted and the Bill was introduced⁴.

3. The Bill was taken up for consideration⁵ in Lok Sabha on the 26th April, 1968. Amendments were moved⁶ for circulation of the Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon (i) by the first day of the next session and (ii) by the 2nd September, 1968. During the discussion, differing views were expressed and the Minister for

¹L.S. Debs. dated 15-12-1967, cc. 7386.

²L.S. Debs. *ibid*, cc. 7387—7391.

³L.S. Debs. *ibid*, cc. 7396—7400.

⁴L.S. Debs. *ibid*, c. 7400.

⁵L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. dated 26-4-1968, p. 31074.

⁶L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid* p. 31075.

Parliamentary Affairs suggested¹ that "this question as to what concessions and facilities may be given to hon'ble Members may be gone into by a Committee". On his appeal, the mover of the Bill agreed² to withdraw his Bill and the Bill was accordingly withdrawn³ by leave of the House.

4. Immediately thereafter, on the 26th April, 1968 the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved⁴ the following motion:—

"That the question of providing further amenities and facilities in the matter of salary, allowances and other amenities to Members of Parliament in the context of the debate in Lok Sabha on the 26th April, 1968, on the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1967 by Shri Panna Lal Barupal be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses to be nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, for examination and report;

that the Committee shall consist of 21 members, 14 from this House and 7 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that the House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 7 members nominated to the Joint Committee by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha."

When the motion was placed before Lok Sabha, an objection⁵ was taken to the wording of the motion, namely, that it should refer only to 'amenities and facilities' and the words 'salaries and allowances' should be deleted. The Speaker clarified⁶ that only the name of the Committee was "Committee on Salaries and Allowances" and "it will go into the amenities for members". Thereupon, the motion was adopted⁷.

¹L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. dated 26-4-1968, p. 31117.

²L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31119.

³L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*.

⁴L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31120.

⁵L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31121.

⁶L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31121.

⁷L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31122.

5. The Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on 10th May, 1968 adopted¹ the following motion:—

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses to consider the question of further amenities and facilities in the matter of salary, allowances and other amenities to Members of Parliament and authorises the Chairman to nominate seven members to serve on the said Joint Committee.”

6. The names of the members nominated to the Joint Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, were published in the Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II, dated the 14th May, 1968.

7. The Committee met for the first time on the 6th June, 1968. At the first sitting, the Committee considered what procedure should be followed by them in considering various issues concerning the facilities and amenities etc.—whether any circular should be issued to all members, or to leaders of various groups inviting their suggestions. The Committee felt that they were representative of all sections of the two Houses and therefore such a procedure was not necessary. They decided to take up amenities and facilities one by one and after considering the same in detail, record their decision item-wise.

8. It was suggested to the Committee, in this connection, that they might consider the points which had been discussed by an informal committee consisting of Members of Parliament belonging to different parties|groups of which Shri Tulsidas Jadhav was the Convener and to which reference had been made in the proceedings in both the Houses. The Committee accepted this suggestion.

9. The Committee also agreed to consider certain suggestions regarding further amenities and facilities made by a member of the Committee (Shri Biren Roy, M.P.) in a letter circulated to the members of the Committee.

10. The Committee held in all 6 sittings. At their first to fourth sittings held on the 6th June, 1st and 2nd July, 1968 the Committee considered and took decisions on various amenities and facilities to be provided to Members of Parliament as also revision of the rate of daily allowance. At their fifth sitting held on the 23rd July, 1968, the Committee reconsidered some of their earlier recommendations.

¹R.S. Cyclostyled Debs. dated 10-5-1968, p. 249.

They considered a fresh item regarding amenities, viz. Catering facilities for Members in Parliament House. The Committee did not, however, consider another suggestion made by a Member that the bungalows allotted to Members from the General Pool for which rent was chargeable under F.R. 45-A should be transferred to the M.Ps. Pool of Accommodation and the ceiling of Rs. 105 per mensem should be made applicable to them, as the subject came within the purview of the House Committee. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the Report. Those Members of the Committee who desired to append Minutes of Dissent were permitted to do so. At their sixth sitting held on the 3rd August, 1968, the Committee reviewed their earlier decision regarding 'Rail Travel Facilities' and suitably modified the same.

II

SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AND COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON

11. The Committee noted that the payment of salaries and allowances to Members and the amenities to which they are entitled are governed by the provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended) and the rules made thereunder. Section 8 of the Act *ibid* provides that "a member shall be entitled to such medical facilities for himself and for members of his family and to such housing, telephone and postal facilities as may be prescribed by rules under section 9." The Joint Committee constituted under sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Act *ibid* has been empowered under sub-section (3) to make rules, *inter alia*, to provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- “* * * * *
- (f) medical, housing, telephone and postal facilities mentioned in section 8;
- * * * * *

So far, the said Joint Committee have made the following rules with regard to the subjects mentioned above:—

- (1) The Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956; and
- (2) The Medical Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1959.

The Committee were aware that in case they recommended any further amenities and facilities not covered by the existing provisions of the above rules the relevant rules would have to be amended suitably, and where their recommendation pertained to any amenities and facilities regarding which rules had not been framed so far, necessary rules on the subject would have to be framed by the Joint Committee constituted under Section 9 of the Act *ibid*. The Committee were also aware that where their recommendation related to a subject not provided for under any of the existing provisions of the Act *ibid*, the Act would also have to be amended. Keeping the above position in view, the Committee considered the

different subjects pertaining to the amenities and facilities and made their recommendation on each subject either unanimously or by a majority, as the case may be, as indicated in each case.

(1) HOUSING FACILITIES

(a) *Rent-free accommodation*

12. Under the Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956, as they stand at present, the monthly rent¹ payable by a member in respect of any residence allotted to him in his capacity as such member is 25 per cent² less than the monthly rent payable in respect of that residence immediately before the commencement of these rules. The remission in rent applies also to the rent of furniture and charges on account of servants' quarters, motor garages, table and pedestal fans, table lamps, floor standard lamps, boilers, refrigerators, desert coolers and air conditioning units and includes also charges in respect of additional services. The charges, if any, on account of the transport of any items of furniture to and from the residence of a member made at his request shall also be 25 per cent less than the actual charges otherwise payable in respect thereof under the rules for the time being in force.

13. Adequate provision exists for the accommodation of members coming to attend the sessions of Parliament and there are various localities near the Parliament House where residential accommodation is available for Members. While there are as many units of accommodation as there are members, the Committee find that some of them being bungalows and others being either Flats or hostel type accommodation, the area of different units is not uniform, and it has not been found possible to allot the same type of residence to all Members of Parliament. The Committee understand that recently Government have taken in hand the addition of one bed-room to A and B type flats in North and South Avenues, so that every flat will have a minimum accommodation of two bed-rooms and one drawing-cum-dining room.

14. It was suggested by one of the members of the Committee that every member should be provided with a free furnished A-type flat, with a servant quarter and a garage. Some members desired

¹The monthly rent payable by a Member in respect of a residence allotted to him from the M.Ps. Pool is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 105 per month. Extra rent is payable for any addition or alteration made in the residence allotted to a Member.

²See Appendix II, p. 37.

that one room in this rent-free accommodation should be air-conditioned to enable members to function efficiently, having regard to the climatic conditions of Delhi. In the case of members who are allotted or are already occupying B, C, D, E and F type flats and bungalows, it was suggested that they should pay the rent for the appropriate type of accommodation reduced by the rent payable for an A type flat with 25 per cent usual remission.

Recommendation

15. After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 10; Noes: 5), that the following housing facilities should be provided to Members of Parliament:—

- (i) Members should be provided with a free furnished A type flat, with a servant quarter and a garage;
- (ii) Members who are allotted or are already occupying B, C, D, E or F type flats or bungalows should pay the difference between the rent payable for the appropriate type of accommodation in their possession and the rent payable for an A type flat with 25 per cent usual remission; and
- (iii) Air-conditioning facilities should be provided in one of the rooms of a Member's residence, on specific request on payment of additional rent.

(b) *Water and electricity charges*

16. A member of the Committee suggested that, in addition to the above housing facilities, an allowance should be paid to every member on account of water and electricity charges.

Recommendation

The Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 10; Noes: 5), that an allowance of Rs. 600 per annum on account of water and electricity charges should be paid to a Member in respect of the residence allotted to him in Delhi or New Delhi.

(2) TELEPHONE FACILITIES

17. Under the Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956, as amended, no charge¹ is payable by a Member in respect of the installation and rental of one telephone installed either at his residence or at his office in Delhi or New

¹See Appendix II, p. 38.

Delhi, and a Member is not liable to make any payment in respect of the first three thousand six hundred¹ local calls made from the telephone during any year.

18. It was suggested by some members of the Committee that these facilities should be further extended. In respect of the telephone installed at a member's residence or office at Delhi or New Delhi, a member suggested that all local calls made from such telephone should be free. Another member suggested that members should also be provided with a telephone either at their residence or their office in their usual place of residence or any place in the constituency, subject to the existence of telephone facilities in that area, and that a member shall not be liable to make any payment in respect of the first 5400 local calls made from such telephone during any year. Apart from local telephone call facilities, a member of the Committee suggested that Members should be allowed one free trunk call during a week from Delhi to their constituency or to their usual place of residence to enable them to maintain contact with their constituency. It was also suggested that Members' trunk calls should be dealt with on "Priority" basis by the P. & T. Department.

Recommendation

19. After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend unanimously that—

- (i) In addition to the free telephone facilities provided to members in Delhi or New Delhi under the Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956, members should also be provided with a telephone either at their residence or at their office in their usual place of residence or any place in the constituency subject to the existence of telephone facilities in that area, and a member shall not be liable to make any payment in respect of the first 5,400 local calls made from such telephone during any year;
- (ii) The limit of free calls made from a telephone installed at the residence or the office of a member of Parliament at Delhi or New Delhi should be increased by 50 per cent, i.e. from 3,600 to 5,400 per year; and
- (iii) Members' trunk calls should be dealt with on "Priority" basis by the P. & T. Department.

¹The limit of free local calls was raised from 1800 to 3600 per year with effect from 13th March, 1965.

The Committee also recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 8; Noes: 4), that one free trunk call during a fortnight should be allowed to Members of Parliament during session periods from Delhi to their constituency or to their usual place of residence.

(3) MEDICAL FACILITIES

20. Under the Medical Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1959, Members of Parliament are, during their term of office, entitled¹ to the same medical facilities as are available to officers of the Central Civil Service, Class I, having their headquarters in Delhi or New Delhi, under the Contributory Health Service Scheme (now known as the Central Government Health Scheme) for Central Government employees, as in force from time to time. A compulsory monthly contribution is levied from every Member of Parliament on the basis of his salary at the same rate as is payable by a Government servant drawing pay equal to the salary of a Member and such contribution is recoverable from the monthly salary bill of the Member. At present, the monthly contribution recovered from a Member is Rs. 4 per mensem.

21. There are three dispensaries functioning in New Delhi at (i) North Avenue, (ii) South Avenue and (iii) Constitution House (Curzon Road Barracks), catering mainly to the medical needs of the Members and their families. Allocation of a dispensary for those Members who reside outside the areas covered by these dispensaries is made according to their residential addresses. The Committee note that, in addition to the medical facilities provided to Members at their place of duty, Members are also entitled to reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by them on their own treatment or on the treatment of their family while they are away from Delhi or New Delhi according to the rules applicable to Class I officers of the Central Civil Service.

22. One of the Members of the Committee suggested that under the Health Scheme (Central Government Health Scheme), Members of Parliament should have the benefit of medical care as out-door and in-door patients, including investigations pertaining thereto, at any medical institution in the country which is run or aided by the Government of India, excluding private Nursing Homes.

23. It was also urged before the Committee by another Member that under the existing rules reimbursement of expenditure incurred by Members outside Delhi or New Delhi involved a lot of pro-

¹See Appendix II, p. 38.

cedural difficulties. It was, therefore, further suggested that the existing procedure for claiming reimbursement should be changed in the case of Members of Parliament and they should be given free medical treatment, including hospitalisation, in any medical institution run by the Central Government or the State Governments.

Recommendation

24. After full consideration of the matter, the Committee unanimously recommend that Members of Parliament should be provided free medical treatment in any medical institution in the country which is run or aided by the Government of India or the State Governments and the charges on this account, if any, should be recovered by the medical institutions direct from the Government.

(4) RAIL TRAVEL FACILITIES

25. The Committee noted that under the existing¹ provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), Members are entitled to the following rail travel facilities:—

(i) *Free Pass*—

One free² non-transferable pass which entitles a member to travel at any time by any railway in India during his term of office.

[Section 6(1) and (2)]

(ii) *Rail T.A.*—

Forward and Return Journeys

One I Class fare plus one III Class fare, irrespective of the class by which the member actually travels.

[Section 4(i)(a)]

Intermediate Journeys

One I Class fare or daily allowance for the days of absence, whichever, is less.

[Section 5(a) read with proviso 1]

26. It was suggested by one of the members of the Committee that without prejudice to the existing rail travel facilities provided

¹See Appendix II, pp. 35-36.

²The cost of the journeys performed by a Member by using the railway pass provided under Section 6 is borne by the respective Secretariat of the two Houses. Necessary payment is made to the Railways, who raise a debit against the two Secretariats on the basis of the railway journey forms surrendered by members, as provided under Rule 17(1) of the Members of Parliament (Travelling and Daily Allowances) Rules, 1957.

to Members, every Member should be provided with a First Class A pass which, according to him, would enable a member to travel by air-conditioned class by paying one-third of the difference between the first class fare and the A.C.C. fare. The same member also suggested that Members should be entitled to P.T.O. facilities for their families and one free III Class pass for an attendant at all times. Another member of the Committee suggested that ex-Members of Parliament who have served as Members for two or more terms should be allowed free rail travel.

27. Out of these suggestions, the Committee found that the suggestion regarding provision of free rail facilities to ex-Members relates to a subject that is beyond their term of reference, which relate to the amenities and facilities to be provided to sitting members. In considering the other suggestions, the Committee were conscious of the fact that the further facilities proposed might involve an amendment of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. They also noted that suggestions had been made from time to time by some members that the same concession of travel by air-conditioned class as is admissible to Government Grade I officers should be made available to Members of Parliament, by their paying one-third of the difference between the A.C.C. and 1st class fares, and the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament appointed under Section 9 of the Act *ibid* at their sitting held on the 28th June, 1967 desired to discuss this matter *de novo* even though the matter had been considered by them once in 1965 and twice in 1966 and in the context of the economy drive it had been decided to drop the matter. At their sitting held on 8th December, 1967, when the matter was last considered by the said Joint Committee, they felt that they were justified in demanding the A.C.C. travel facilities similar to those available to Government Grade I officers viz. by paying a nominal difference. However, as extension of this facility would need recourse to an amendment of the Act, which Parliament might not favour in the existing economic conditions, the said Joint Committee decided that this matter might be dropped. It was urged by some of the members of the present Committee that the extension of the facility to travel by air-conditioned class to Members of Parliament was justified in view of the long distance which many of them had to travel by rail under adverse weather conditions. It was also urged that Members of Parliament should be entitled to stay in the retiring rooms at Railway stations for a maximum period of two days on payment of service charges only.

Recommendation

28. (i) After careful consideration of all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes 8; Noes 3), that every Member should be provided with a free first class non-transferable pass which should entitle him to travel at any time by any railway in India with one attendant in third class. The First class pass should also entitle the holder to travel by A.C.C. on payment of one-third of the difference between A.C.C. and first class fares.

(ii) The Committee unanimously recommend that the travelling allowance admissible to the Members of Parliament at present under section 4 of the Act should continue.

(iii) The Committee also unanimously recommend that every member should be entitled to stay in the retiring rooms at railway stations for a maximum period of two days on payment of service charges only.

(5) AIR TRAVEL FACILITIES

29. Under the present¹ provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act 1954 (as amended), Member of Parliament are entitled to the following air travel facilities:—

Forward and Return Journeys	One and one-fourth air fare. [Section 4(I)(b)]
Intermediate Journeys	One air fare (if the Member visits his usual place of residence performing the journey by air not more than twice during a session or sitting of a committee lasting more than seventy-five days, or not more than once in any other case). [Section 5, Proviso 2] One air fare or the D.A. for the days of absence, whichever is less, in other cases. [Section 5 read with Proviso 1].

The Committee noted that in the case of journeys by air performed under the second proviso to Section 5 of the Act *ibid*, no air fare is payable if the member does not visit his usual place of residence, and no D.A. is payable.

30. It was suggested by a member of the Committee that the present air travel facilities should be further extended and some of the existing restrictions abolished. He proposed that—

- (i) a Member should be allowed to perform intermediate journeys by air to any place of his choice during a session;
- (ii) a Member should be allowed to perform intermediate

¹See Appendix II, pp. 35-36.

journey by air under the second proviso to Section 5 once in a fortnight during every session;

- (iii) a Member should be allowed D.A. in respect of intermediate journeys by air under the second proviso to Section 5 as now proposed, provided his absence during such a journey does not exceed 7 days; and
- (iv) a Member should be allowed to travel by air during inter-session periods by paying the difference between the First Class A Pass and the air fare.

31. The Committee were conscious that the further extension of the air travel facilities provided to Members could be effected only by amending the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended).

Recommendation

32. After due consideration, the Committee unanimously recommend as follows:—

- (i) In place of the existing facilities available under the second proviso to Section 5 of the Act, every Member should be allowed:
 - (a) in the case of a session of either House, four intermediate journeys by air to any place in India during a session lasting more than 75 days and two such journeys during any other session, and
 - (b) in the case of a sitting of a Committee, one such journey.
- (ii) Daily allowance should be paid to Members when the absence during an intermediate journey as now proposed under the second proviso to Section 5 does not exceed seven days.
- (iii) During inter-session periods, Members should be allowed to travel by air by paying the difference between the First Class and the air fares.

(6) ROAD TRANSPORT FACILITIES

33. Under the provisions¹ of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), Members are entitled to the payment of road mileage at the rate of eight annas per mile of the journeys performed by road from their usual place of residence to the railway stations, port or aerodrome and *vice versa* during their forward and return journeys [Section 4(1) and (2)]. The

¹See Appendix II, p. 36.

same road mileage is admissible to Members in respect of intermediate journeys (Section 5).

34. It was brought to the notice of the Committee by a member thereof that a lot of inconvenience was being experienced by members in touring their constituencies by road, and some facilities in this matter should be provided to members by Government. He therefore suggested that members should be entitled to free Government road transport for touring their constituencies. He proposed that the District Magistrate/Collector/District Commissioner should place a vehicle at the disposal of a Member at a maximum notice of seven days and in case of urgency such as fire or other natural calamities at a short notice. This facility should be made available to a Member for not exceeding 60 days in a year, and it should be withdrawn two months before the general elections.

35. Another member of the Committee suggested that the existing road mileage allowance at fifty paise per mile admissible to a member at Delhi or New Delhi should be raised to the actual taxi fares obtaining at present at Delhi or New Delhi.

Recommendation

36. The Committee recommend unanimously that Members of Parliament should be provided with road transport facilities to tour throughout their respective States, and for this purpose they should be provided with a free pass entitling them to travel by State transport as well as by private buses plying in their respective States. The Committee also recommend unanimously that the road mileage allowance admissible to them should be increased from 0.50 p. to Re. 1.00 per mile.

(7) POSTAL FACILITIES

37. Under Section 8 of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), a member shall be entitled to such postal facilities as may be prescribed by rules under Section 9¹. The Committee noted that so far² no postal facilities have been provided to members and hence no rules in this behalf have been made.

¹See Appendix II, p. 37.

²The Joint Committee constituted under the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 at their sittings held on 25th August, 1956 and the 23rd September, 1958 considered the question of providing free postal facilities to Members of Parliament for official correspondence. As the volume of correspondence which Members had to undertake with the Secretariats of Parliament was considered to be meagre and the benefit of the proposed facility was likely to be a limited one, the Committee dropped the matter. This subject came up once again before the said Joint Committee for consideration at their sitting held on 5th May, 1961. The Committee decided that no such facilities should be asked for "at present".

38. A member of the Committee suggested that members should be allowed free postage up to a limit of Rs. 1200 per annum towards letters and telegrams sent by them.

Recommendation

39. The Committee unanimously recommend that free postage should be given to Members up to a limit of Rs. 1200 per annum. They further recommend that this free postage should be given in the form of service postage stamps and not in cash.

(8) STENOGRAPHIC/SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

40. Under the existing¹ provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), members are not entitled to any stenographic/secretarial assistance. In order to assist members in their immediate parliamentary work while in Parliament House, such as the tabling of notices of adjournment motions/calling attention, amendments etc. and communications addressed to the Speaker or the Ministers of Government on issues engaging the attention of Parliament, a small pool of English and Hindi stenographers has been provided by the Secretariats of both Houses. The Committee noted that these arrangements afforded only a very limited assistance to members, and for dealing with the extensive correspondence from their constituents which many members had to cope with, they had to make their own private arrangements.

41. A member of the Committee suggested that all members should be provided with stenographic assistance, and for this purpose members should be given an allowance of Rs. 2,400 per annum, subject to the production of a certificate by every member regarding the utilisation of a stenographer's services to the extent of the allowance claimed. The Committee discussed this suggestion at their First sitting held on the 6th June, 1968, and postponed the consideration thereof to a future meeting, to enable members to consult their respective parties/groups regarding the manner in which stenographic assistance should be provided.

42. The Committee resumed the consideration of this subject at their Third Sitting held on the 1st July, 1968. They heard the viewpoints of members, which differed in regard to the manner in which stenographic assistance should be provided to members. A number

¹See Appendix II, p. 37.

of alternative suggestions were made, and these fell into the following two broad categories:—

- (i) Payment of a cash allowance to members towards stenographic assistance on the production of a certificate by a member.
- (ii) Appointment of a pool of stenographers—of varying strengths suggested by different members—to serve Members of Parliament.

It was emphasised that the assistance provided should not merely be stenographic, but also secretarial, that is to say, inclusive of the maintenance of the files and papers of members. It was also pointed out that the assistance provided should also cover correspondence received and dealt with by members in their regional languages.

43. On the question of payment of a cash allowance, the member who originally suggested Rs. 2,400 per annum had no objection to the quantum of allowance being reduced, if considered necessary. Some members expressed their objection to the principle of giving a cash allowance against a member's certificate.

44. The Committee considered the following alternative proposals with regard to the appointment of a pool of stenographers:—

- 1 Stenographer for every 2 members.
- 1 Stenographer for every 5 members.
- 1 Stenographer for every 10 members.
- 3 Stenographers for each Group having a strength up to 50 members; the number of stenographers to be increased in case of bigger groups according to their strength.

It was emphasised that the stenographic/secretarial assistance suggested should be available to members at their residence, and the same should be arranged in such a way that the timings and convenience of different members did not clash. One view placed before the Committee was that, as the different parties/groups would like to keep their correspondence confidential, the power to appoint the stenographic/secretarial staff should be given to the parties/groups. The majority of the members felt, however, that the appointments should be made by Government.

45. The Committee considered this subject further at their Fifth Sitting held on the 23rd July, 1968, with reference to the manner in which the stenographic/secretarial assistance should be provided.

Recommendation

46. After careful consideration of all aspects of this matter, the Committee unanimously recommend that stenographic/secretarial assistance should be provided to each Member of Parliament, and for that purpose, they recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 11; Noes: 2), that an allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem be given to each Member.

(9) GENERAL FACILITIES

47. Apart from the facilities and amenities provided to Members under the provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), suggestions were made to the Committee to recommend to Government certain facilities to Members of Parliament keeping in view their special position. These are dealt with below:—

(i) Facilities for journeys abroad

48. A member of the Committee suggested that in order to facilitate journeys abroad by Members of Parliament at their own expense, the following facilities should be provided to them:—

- (a) Members should be exempted from the production of P forms;
- (b) the foreign exchange allowance should be raised from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000; and
- (c) Members of Parliament should be provided with a special passport over stamped "MP" to avoid undue detention and inconvenience at customs posts.

Recommendation

49. The Committee recommend that Government should take necessary steps for the implementation of the above suggestions.

(ii) Income Tax

50. A member of the Committee suggested that the expenditure incurred by a Member on the residence maintained by him at Delhi or New Delhi and the water and electricity charges paid by him should be treated as legitimate expenditure and deduction should be

¹Where a Member performs a journey outside India in the discharge of his duties as such Member, he is entitled to such travelling and other allowances in respect of such journey as is provided for in the Members of Parliament (Allowances for Journeys Abroad) Rules, 1960.

allowed for purposes of income tax. The Committee were informed that this matter had already been referred by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to the Central Board of Revenue at the instance of another Member of Parliament.

51. One of the Members suggested that facilities should be provided to Members in the Parliament House for the submission of their income tax returns etc.

Recommendation

52. The Committee recommend that for the convenience of Members of Parliament assessable to income tax, an Income Tax Cell should be opened in Parliament House.

(iii) *Air-lifting of dead bodies of M.Ps.*

53. It was suggested by a member of the Committee that in the event of death of a Member or his wife at Delhi or any place other than his/her home while on parliamentary duty, Government should arrange for flying/transporting the dead body of the deceased, as may be desired.

54. The Committee found that this matter had already been considered by the Joint Committee constituted under section 9 of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. That Committee had recommended to the Government that in the case of a scheduled flight, the whole expenditure of air-lifting the dead body of an M.P. should be borne by the Government and in the case of a chartered flight, the difference between the cost of the chartered flight and the scheduled flight should be borne by the family of the deceased. Subsequent to the discussion of this subject by the present Committee at their sitting held on the 1st July, 1968, the Chairman brought to the notice of the Committee at their sitting held on the 2nd July, 1968, the following reply which had been received from the Central Government through the Department of Parliamentary Affairs with reference to the recommendation made by the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament:—

“.....the actual cost of airlifting by commercial flight should be met by the Government and in case of special chartered flight arranged at the request of the family of the deceased, Government would pay actual cost by commercial flight, the balance being borne by the family. Orders to this effect will be issued in due course.”

Recommendation

55. The Committee are not satisfied with the decision of the Government in this respect and recommend that the dead body of a Member should be airlifted by commercial flight or chartered flight, as may be necessary, and transported without any charge falling on the family of the deceased.

(iv) *Foreign mail of Members*

56. The Committee also considered a suggestion by a Member thereof that Members' mail such as journals and books from foreign countries should not be tampered with or withheld by the customs authorities.

Recommendation

57. The Committee see no objection to the checking of the foreign mail of Members by customs authorities. They recommend, however, that Government should issue instructions to the customs authorities that after scrutiny, such mail should not be destroyed but should be delivered to the Member concerned.

(v) *Catering facilities for Members in Parliament House*

58. The Chairman drew attention of the Members to the fact that in addition to the other facilities and amenities considered by the Committee, they might also like to go into the question of catering arrangements for Members in the Parliament House. It was pointed out to the Committee that in view of the unsatisfactory service rendered by the previous private caterers, the catering arrangements in the Parliament House have since been entrusted to the Railway Board with effect from the 15th July, 1968. The Ministry of Railways had undertaken the catering service through Northern Railway (Catering Department) on the condition that the losses that might be incurred by them in running the Refreshment Room for Members in Parliament House would be borne by the Secretariats of Parliament.

Recommendation

59. The Committee are of the view that it is necessary to provide efficient and satisfactory catering service to Members of Parliament in Parliament House and appreciate the present arrangements made therefor through the Railway Board. The Committee recommend that every endeavour should be made to run the Members' Refreshment Room in Parliament House on 'no profit no loss' basis, and in

case there is any reasonable loss, the same should be subsidised by the Secretariats of Parliament.

(10) DAILY ALLOWANCE

60. Several members desired, at the First Sitting of the Committee held on the 6th June, 1968, that the existing¹ rate of daily allowance payable to members under Section 3 of the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (as amended), viz. Rs. 31 for each day during any period of residence on duty, might be increased. The Chairman pointed out that according to the terms of reference as embodied in the motion appointing the Committee, the Committee were not empowered to discuss the question of daily allowance. There being two opinions on this point, the Committee postponed the consideration of this subject to their next sitting.

61. The Committee took up this subject again at their Third Sitting held on the 1st June, 1968. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had since sought and obtained clarification regarding the terms of reference of the Committee from the Speaker, under whose directions the Committee functioned. He had invited the attention of the Speaker to the following observations² made by the Chair:—

“.....from the speeches made, it is clear that some facilities are necessary. That is the theme. We do not want pension; we do not want travelling allowance for families and all that. But some facilities—whether it be postal facilities and so on—are required. But these cannot be discussed and considered on the floor of the House. Which facilities are necessary; which are not—I do not think it will be possible to consider that here. If all of you are agreed some facilities—not salaries or allowances or anything—and what those facilities are can be considered by a small committee as suggested. . . .”

Again, after the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had moved³ the motion for the appointment of the Committee and a member (Shri

¹The Act *ibid* came into force with effect from the 1st June, 1954, and entitled Members to receive a salary of Rs. 400 per mensem plus an allowance of Rs. 21 for each day of residence on duty. The Act was amended on 1st June, 1964, and entitled Members to receive a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem plus an allowance of Rs. 31 for each day of residence on duty (see sec. 3 of the Act, *vide* Appendix II, p. 35).

²L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. dated 26-4-1968, pp. 31110-31111.

³L.S. Cyclostyled Debs. *ibid*, p. 31120.

Uma Nath) objected¹ to the wording of the motion, that it should refer only to "amenities and facilities and the words "salaries and allowances" should be deleted, the Speaker had observed²:—

"Only the name of the Committee is 'Committee on Salaries and Allowances'..... It will go into the amenities for members."

The Speaker, having taken note of the view expressed by some members of the Committee at their sitting held on the 6th June, 1968 that they could also discuss the question of daily allowance, had directed that the wording of the motion was clear: the Committee had to consider the question of amenities and facilities only.

62. The Committee, however, were of the view that it was open to them to make recommendations with regard to the revision of Salary/Daily Allowance also.

63. One of the members of the Committee, therefore, suggested that the daily allowance should be raised to Rs. 51 per day. Some of the members pointed out that after the provision of further amenities and facilities as recommended by the Committee, they had to exercise caution in regard to the proposed increase in the rate of daily allowance.

Recommendation

64. After carefully weighing the pros and cons of an increase in the rate of daily allowance, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 9; Noes: 3), that the rate of daily allowance should be raised from Rs. 31 to Rs. 51 per day. Those Members who may be unwilling to draw daily allowance at the revised rate need not do so.

BIBHUTI MISHRA,
Chairman,

NEW DELHI;
August 3, 1968.

Sravana 12, 1890 (S).

Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances
and Other Amenities to Members
of Parliament.

¹L.S. Cyclostyled Deb. dated 26-4-1968, p. 31121.

²L.S. Cyclostyled Deb., *ibid.*

III MINUTES OF DISSENT

(1)

मेरी सम्मति में प्रत्येक संसद सदस्य को इतनी सुविधायें दी जानी चाहिए जिससे कि यह संसद का काम सुचारू रूप से कर सके। इसलिए जो सुविधायें संसद सदस्यों को इस प्रतिवेदन में दी गई हैं, मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ। समिति ने जो यह सिफारिश की है कि प्रत्येक संसद सदस्य का भत्ता 31 रुपये से बढ़ा कर 51 रुपये कर दिया जाय, मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ। मेरी राय में जब हम लाखों सरकारी कर्मचारियों का इस कमर तोड़ मंहगाई में उचित वेतन और भत्ता नहीं बढ़ा सकते और करोड़ों मजदूरों को पेट भर रोटी भी नहीं दे सकते तो ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमारा अधिक वेतन या भत्ता लेना उचित नहीं होगा। हमें वेतन तथा भत्ते की वृद्धि के बारे में तभी सोचना चाहिए जब हम देश के सभी लोगों को कम से कम खाना, रहने के लिए मकान और तन पर पहनने के लिए वस्त्र दे सकें।

नई दिल्ली ;

कंवर लाल गुप्ता

24 जुलाई, 1968।

(English translation)

In my opinion, each Member of Parliament should have sufficient facilities to enable him to discharge his duties efficiently. I support the facilities as listed in the Report. But I oppose the Committee's recommendation regarding increasing the daily allowance of Members from Rs. 31 to Rs. 51. In my opinion, when we cannot grant adequate increase in the pay and allowances of lakhs of Govt. employees in these days of back breaking price-rise and crores of labourers cannot be provided two square meals, it would, therefore, not at all be proper for us to receive more pay or allowances. We should think of raising our Salaries or allowances only when we could provide basic amenities to the common man viz. food, clothing and shelter to all.

NEW DELHI;
July 24, 1968.

KANWAR LAL GUPTA.

(2)

I consider it my duty to attach a note of dissent to the Report of the Joint Committee on Salaries, Allowances and other Amenities to Members of Parliament.

There was a feeling among many members that in order to facilitate the discharge of their duties more effectively, it was necessary to have a few more amenities and facilities. Actually the Joint Committee was appointed to examine and report on this question.

In spite of the definite opinion given by the Hon'ble Speaker that the Committee can only consider amenities and facilities, the Committee by a majority chose to reopen the question of daily allowance also. And it is recommended that the daily allowance should be increased from Rs. 31 to Rs. 51.

I want to make it very clear that I am against this enhancement of D.A. As a matter of fact I am against any enhancement of salary and allowances. As the reasons for the objection are obvious, I don't want to go into them here. They can be explained when a discussion takes place on this question. Enhancement of D.A. is all the more unjustified in view of the fact that there was an increase both in salary and allowances four years back.

As far as amenities and facilities are concerned, I could not agree with many of the recommendations such as Rs. 100 per month for Stenographer, First Class Pass with P.T.Os and Attendants' Passes and still further concession in House Rent, Water and Electricity Charges.

I am convinced that there is justification only for such amenities and facilities which are absolutely essential to help members discharge their public duties more effectively.

NEW DELHI

P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR.

July 25, 1968.

(3)

यह बात निर्विवाद सत्य है कि देश में मंहगाई बढ़ती चली जा रही है उस दृष्टि से संसद सदस्यों को भी कठिनाइयां आ सकती हैं तब भी इन सुविधाओं की भी एक सीमा होनी चाहिये।

हमारी राय में संसद सदस्यों के वेतन अथवा एलाउन्स की अभिवृद्धि होना उचित नहीं है। क्योंकि अंततोगत्वा इसका भार भारतीय कोष पर ही पड़ेगा। दूसरे जनमत पर भी इसका प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा। इसी भांति रेलवे पास में भी 'ए' क्लास होना समुचित नहीं है। यदि यात्रा में संसद सदस्य के साथ एक नौकर को रखे जाने की व्यवस्था हो जावे तो वह यथेष्ट है।

इसी प्रकार भवन-सुविधा में वातानुकूलित सुविधा की मांग भी उचित नहीं कहा जा सकती। हमारे मत से जो सदस्य अच्छे और ऊँचे बंगलों में रहना चाहें उन्हें उसी दर से किराया देना ही चाहिए। ऊँचे बंगलों का कम किराया देने की प्रवृत्ति ठीक नहीं है।

विमान-यात्रा में वर्तमान में जो सुविधाएं हैं वे पर्याप्त हैं। इसी प्रकार डाक-सुविधा में 100 रुपये प्रतिमास के व्यय की व्यवस्था भी ठीक नहीं कही जा सकती, इतना अधिक व्यय मतदाताओं के कोष से नहीं दिया जा सकता।

स्टेनोग्राफर के लिये नकद धन नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। एक दल अथवा एक मनोवृत्ति के कुछ सदस्यगण एक स्टेनोग्राफर रख सकते हैं। इससे व्यय में काफी कमी हो जायेगी।

सदस्यों की आवास सुविधा में केवल इतनी सुविधा पर्याप्त होगी कि उन्हें बिजली बचकर पानी का व्यय न चुकाना पड़े। उनके भवनों के लिये विधान सभाओं की भांति सामूहिक नौकर रखे जाने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये।

नई दिल्ली ;

निरंजन वर्मा

25 जुलाई, 1968

(English translation)

This point is incontrovertible that the prices have been rising continuously in the country and the Members of Parliament can also be put to difficulty as a result thereof. Even then there should be a limit to these facilities.

In my opinion, it is not proper to effect an increase in the pay and allowances of the Members because ultimately its burden would fall on the public exchequer. Secondly, it will have an adverse effect on the public opinion also. Similarly, it is not also proper to provide 'A' Class Railway pass. It will, however, be desirable if arrangements for the travel of a servant with the Member of Parliament are also made.

Similarly, the demand for air-conditioning of the houses allotted to Members is not also proper. In my opinion, Members who like to put up in good and bigger bungalows should be charged rent on the same very rates. The tendency to seek less rent for bigger bungalows is not good.

The facilities provided at present in regard to air-travel are sufficient. Similarly, provision of Rs. 100 per month in regard to postal facilities can also not be termed as correct. The voters cannot be taxed to meet such huge expenditure.

Cash Allowance should not be given to M.Ps. for stenographers. One group or Members of the same views can keep one stenographer. This will reduce the expenses to a large extent.

In regard to the housing facilities to the Members, it would be enough if the Members are exempted from payment of electricity and water charges. There should be a provision for a common servant for the houses of the Members as in the case of Legislative Assemblies.

NEW DELHI;
25th July, 1968.

NIRANJAN VARMA.

(4)

I think it my sacred duty to give my note of dissent to the report of the Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances and Other Amenities to Members of Parliament.

I am of the opinion that following three criteria should be borne in mind when the majority recommendations of the Committee are taken into consideration:—

- (a) The amenities and allowance should not aggravate the disparity that has already existed between a Member of Parliament and a citizen of the country.
- (b) No room should be given for the misuse of those amenities by the Members;
- (c) These amenities should have direct relevance to the performance of the Member's duties as a Member of Parliament.

I am sorry to note that these three basic criteria have been lost sight of by the majority members of the Committee. Hence I am quite opposed to the recommendations of the majority members regarding free furnished A type flat, allowance of Rs. 600 per annum on account of water and electricity charges, first class 'A' railway pass, daily allowance of Rs. 51 and granting one hundred rupees cash for the stenographer.

Let me recall that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha suggested that only those recommendations which are unanimous would be accepted by the House. As a matter of fact, there are certain recommendations which have been agreed to unanimously by the Committee. I hope and trust that in deference to the wishes expressed by the Speaker on the Floor of Lok Sabha, the Parliament would accept only those recommendations which were agreed to unanimously by the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
25th July, 1968.

RABI RAY.

(5)

I would like to place on record that I do not approve any increase in the rate of salary or allowance.

NEW DELHI;
26th July, 1968.

JYOTIRMOY BASU.

I am not in favour of the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs, 64, 46 and 28. Though in some other countries of the world the amenities extended to Members of Legislatures are greater than those in India, I feel that in a poor country like ours where each member of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha gets approximately between Rs. 17,000 and Rs. 14,000 per year (all allowances and concessions like rebate in house rent, free railway pass, telephones and medical facilities included), it is unfair to throw a heavy financial burden on the Exchequer by these proposals particularly when the wage-earning classes in the country have constantly complained that they have not received a square deal in regard to the increase of their emoluments from Government.

I am opposed to Rs. 51 daily allowance being given to Members of Parliament. There is certainly a case for an increase in daily allowance on account of high transportation charges in Delhi. But these charges can be covered if the daily allowance is raised to Rs. 41 per day.

The proposal that each Member of Parliament should be given Rs. 100 p.m. as allowance for his stenographic work would lead to various unnecessary allegations about the *bona fides* of Members of Parliament in respect of such expenditure. It is necessary that Members of Parliament should be free from controversies of a personal character. I am of opinion that the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Secretariats should expand their existing stenographic staff in order to serve Members of Parliament in regard to their Parliamentary work.

I am not in favour of the new proposal regarding members' railway passes under which a member will be entitled to take a servant with him in third class, whenever he travels. This is again likely to be a subject of controversy in respect of alleged abuse of such privilege by Members of Parliament. Further, the first class A Pass under the new proposal entitles an M.P. to travel in air-conditioned class on the payment of one-third difference between 1st class and A.C. Class. As far as I can understand, this Committee is concerned with amenities and not with luxuries. In a country where millions are homeless and are sleeping on pavements, travel in air-condition-

ed class by an M.P. on a concessional basis would certainly look strange. The question arises who is going to bear the remaining 2/3rd of the difference between 1st class and A.C.C. The answer is "the country will have to bear it." I submit it is not proper to do anything under this head which will be a financial burden to the Exchequer and Parliament.

In a country like ours which has a low *per capita* income, it is necessary that Members of Parliament should set an example in respect of austerity. These privileges which have been recommended by a majority of the Joint Committee will give an unfortunate picture of Members of Parliament enjoying luxury and many privileges when millions are living in poverty.

I feel very strongly that these proposals should not be accepted by Parliament.

NEW DELHI;

A. D. MANI.

3rd August, 1968.

APPENDIX I

Summary of recommendations of Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances and Other Amenities to Members of Parliament

Sl. No.	Para No. of Report	Recommendations
1	2	3
		(1) HOUSING FACILITIES
1	15	(a) <i>Rent-free accommodation:</i> After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 10; Noes: 5), that the following housing facilities should be provided to Members of Parliament:— (i) Members should be provided with a free furnished A type flat, with a servant quarter and a garage; (ii) Members who are allotted or are already occupying B, C, D, E or F type flats or bungalows should pay the difference between the rent payable for the appropriate type of accommodation in their possession and the rent payable for an A type flat with 25 per cent usual remission; and (iii) Air-conditioning facilities should be provided in one of the rooms of a Member's residence, on specific request on payment of additional rent.
2	16	(b) <i>Water and Electricity Charges:</i> The Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 10; Noes: 5), that an allowance of Rs. 600

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per annum on account of water and electricity charges should be paid to a Member in respect of the residence allotted to him in Delhi or New Delhi.

(2) TELEPHONE FACILITIES

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19

After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend unanimously that—

(i) In addition to the free telephone facilities provided to Members in Delhi or New Delhi under the Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956, Members should also be provided with a telephone either at their residence or at their office in their usual place of residence or any place in the constituency, subject to the existence of telephone facilities in that area, and a Member shall not be liable to make any payment in respect of the first 5400 local calls made from such telephone during any year;

(ii) The limit of free calls made from a telephone installed at the residence or the office of a Member of Parliament at Delhi or New Delhi should be increased by 50 per cent i.e. from 3600 to 5400 per year; and

(iii) Members' trunk calls should be dealt with on "Priority" basis by the P. & T. Department.

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19

The Committee also recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 8; Noes: 4), that one free trunk call during a fortnight should be allowed to Members of Parliament during session periods from Delhi to their constituency or to their usual place of residence.

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(3) MEDICAL FACILITIES

5

24

After full consideration of the matter, the Committee unanimously recommend that Members of Parliament should be provided free medical treatment in any medical institution in the country which is run or aided by the Government of India or the State Governments and the charges on this account, if any, should be recovered by the medical institutions direct from the Government.

(4) RAIL TRAVEL FACILITIES

6

28

- (i) After careful consideration of all aspects of the matter, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes: 8; Noes: 3), that every member should be provided with a free first class non-transferable pass which should entitle him to travel at any time by any railway in India with one attendant in third class. The first class pass should also entitle the holder to travel by A.C.C. on payment of one-third of the difference between A.C.C. and first class fares.
- (ii) The Committee unanimously recommend that the travelling allowance admissible to the Members of Parliament at present under Section 4 of the Act should continue.
- (iii) The Committee also unanimously recommend that every member should be entitled to stay in the retiring rooms at railway stations for a maximum period of two days on payment of service charges only.

(5) AIR TRAVEL FACILITIES

7

32

After due consideration, the Committee una-

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nimously recommend as follows:—

(i) In place of the existing facilities available under the second proviso to Section 5 of the Act, every Member should be allowed:

(a) in the case of a session of either House, four intermediate journeys by air to any place in India during a session lasting more than 75 days and two such journeys during any other session, and

(b) in the case of a sitting of a Committee, one such journey.

(ii) Daily allowance should be paid to Members when the absence during an intermediate journey as now proposed under the second proviso to Section 5 does not exceed seven days.

(iii) During inter-session periods, Members should be allowed to travel by air by paying the difference between the First Class and the air fares.

(6) ROAD TRANSPORT FACILITIES

8

36

The Committee recommend unanimously that Members of Parliament should be provided with road transport facilities to tour throughout their respective States, and for this purpose they should be provided with a free pass entitling them to travel by State transport as well as by private buses plying in their respective States. The Committee also recommend unanimously that the road mileage allowance admissible to them should be increased from 0.50 p. to Re. 1.00 per mile.

(7) POSTAL FACILITIES

9

39

The Committee unanimously recommend that free postage should be given to Members up to

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		a limit of Rs. 1200 per annum. They further recommend that this free postage should be given in the form of service postage stamps and not in cash.
		(8) STENOGRAPHIC/SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE
10	46	After careful consideration of all aspects of this matter, the Committee unanimously recommend that stenographic secretarial assistance should be provided to each Member of Parliament, and for this purpose they recommend, by a majority (Ayes : 11; Noes : 2), that an allowance of Rs. 100 - per mensem be given to each Member.
		(9) GENERAL FACILITIES
11	49	(i) <i>Facilities for journeys abroad:</i> The Committee recommend that Government should take necessary steps for the implementation of the following suggestions:— (a) Members should be exempted from the production of P forms ; (b) the foreign exchange allowance should be raised from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000 ; and (c) Members of Parliament should be provided with a special passport overstamped "MP" to avoid undue detention and inconvenience at customs posts.
12	52	(ii) <i>Income Tax:</i> The Committee recommend that for the convenience of Members of Parliament assessable to income tax, an Income Tax Cell should be opened in Parliament House.
13	55	(iii) <i>Air-lifting of dead bodies of M.Ps.</i> The Committee are not satisfied with the decision of the Government in this respect and

1	2	3
		recommend that the dead body of a Member should be air-lifted by commercial flight or chartered flight, as may be necessary, and transported without any charge falling on the family of the deceased.
14	57	(iv) <i>Foreign mail of Members:</i> The Committee see no objection to the checking of the foreign mail of Members by customs authorities. They recommend, however, that Government should issue instructions to the customs authorities that after scrutiny, such mail should not be destroyed but should be delivered to the Member concerned.
15	59	(v) <i>Catering facilities for Members in Parliament House:</i> The Committee are of the view that it is necessary to provide efficient and satisfactory catering service to Members of Parliament in Parliament House and appreciate the present arrangements made therefor through the Railway Board. The Committee recommend that every endeavour should be made to run the Members' Refreshment Room in Parliament House on 'no profit no loss' basis, and in case there is any reasonable loss, the same should be subsidised by the Secretariats of Parliament.
		(10) DAILY ALLOWANCES
16	64	After carefully weighing the pros and cons of an increase in the rate of daily allowance, the Committee recommend, by a majority (Ayes : 9 ; Noes : 3), that the rate of daily allowance should be raised from Rs. 31 to Rs. 51 per day. Those Members who may be unwilling to draw daily allowance at the revised rate need not do so.

APPENDIX II

Extracts from the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 and the Rules made thereunder

(1)

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ACT, 1954

* * * * *

3. *Salaries and daily allowances.*—A Member shall be entitled to receive a salary at the rate of five hundred rupees per mensem during the whole of his term of office and subject to any rules made under this Act an allowance at the rate of thirty-one rupees for each day during any period of residence on duty.

4. *Travelling Allowances.*—(1) There shall be paid to each member in respect of every journey performed by him in India for the purpose of attending a session of a House of Parliament or a meeting of a committee or for the purpose of attending to any other business connected with his duties as a member, from his usual place of residence to the place where the session or the meeting is to be held or the other business is to be transacted and for the return journey from such place to his usual place of residence—

- (a) if the journey is performed by rail, an amount equal to one First class fare plus one third class fare for each such journey, irrespective of the class in which the member actually travels;
- (b) if the journey is performed by air, an amount equal to one and one-fourth of the air fare for each such journey;
- (c) if the journey or any part thereof cannot be performed by rail or air—
 - (i) where the journey or any part thereof is performed by steamer, an amount equal to one and three-fifths of the fare without diet for the highest class in the steamer for each such journey or part thereof, or, if there is no regular steamer service, such amount for each such journey or part thereof as may be prescribed by rules made under section 9;

- (ii) where the journey or any part thereof is performed by road, a road mileage at the rate of eight annas per mile for each such journey or part thereof.

Explanation.—For the purpose of sub-clause (ii) of clause (c) of this sub-section, the expression 'journey' shall include the journey from and to the railway station, port or aerodrome to and from the usual place of residence of the member or as the case may be, the residence of the member at the place where the session of the House of Parliament or a meeting of the Committee is to be held or where any other business is to be transacted.

* * * * *

5. Travelling allowances for intermediate journeys.—Where a member absents himself for less than fifteen days during a session of a House of Parliament or a sitting of a Committee for visiting any place in India, he shall be entitled to receive travelling allowances in respect of such journey to such place and for the return journey—

- (a) if the journey is performed by rail equal to one First class fare for each such journey irrespective of the class in which the member actually travels;
- (b) if the journey is performed by air, equal to one fare by air for each such journey:

Provided that such travelling allowances shall not exceed the total amount of daily allowances which would have been admissible to such member under section 3 for the days of absence if he had not so remained absent:

Provided further that nothing in the first proviso shall apply if the member visits his usual place of residence performing the journey by air not more than twice during a session or sitting lasting more than seventy-five days, or not more than once, in any other case.

Explanation.—The provisions of clause (c) of sub-section (1) and of sub-section (2) of section 4 shall, so far as may be, apply to travelling allowances payable under this section as they apply to travelling allowances payable under that section.

6. Free transit by Railway.—(1) Every member shall be provided with one free non-transferable first class pass which shall entitle him to travel at any time by any railway in India.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this sub-section, a member shall include a Minister as defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952, and an officer of Parliament as defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, other than the Chairman of the Council of States.

* * * * *

9. *Power to make rules.*—(1)

* * * * *

(3) The Joint Committee constituted under sub-section (1) may after consultation with the Central Government make rules to provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

* * * * *

(f) medical, housing, telephone and postal facilities mentioned in section 8; and

* * * * *

(2)

THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (TRAVELLING AND DAILY ALLOWANCES)
RULES, 1957

* * * * *

17(1). Whenever a Member undertakes a journey by using the railway pass provided under section 6, he shall fill in a Member's railway journey form as set out in Form 'B' before the commencement of the journey and hand over the form to the railway ticket-collecting staff on the termination of the journey at the detraining station. For this purpose a booklet containing twenty-five machine numbered copies of Form 'B' shall be supplied to each Member.

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(3)

THE HOUSING AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES (MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT)
RULES, 1956

* * * * *

2. *Remission in rent.*—With effect from the commencement of these Rules, the monthly rent payable by a Member in respect of any residence allotted to him in his capacity as such Member shall be 25 per cent less than the monthly rent payable in respect of that residence immediately before such commencement.

Explanation I.—For the purposes of this Rule, "rent" includes the rent of furniture and charges on account of the rent of servant's

quarters, motor garages, table and pedestal fans, table lamps, floor standard lamps, boilers, refrigerators, desert coolers and air conditioning units and includes also charges in respect of additional services.

* * * * *

4. *Exemption in respect of telephone charges.*—(1) No charges shall be payable by a Member in respect of the installation and rental of one telephone installed either at his residence or at his office in Delhi or New Delhi, and no Member shall be liable to make any payment in respect of the first three thousand six hundred local calls made from the telephone during any year.

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(4)

THE MEDICAL FACILITIES (MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT) RULES, 1959

* * * * *

2. *Medical facilities admissible.*—Members of Parliament shall during their term of office be entitled to the same medical facilities as are available to Officers of the Central Civil Service, Class I, having their headquarters in Delhi or New Delhi, under the Contributory Health Service Scheme for Central Government employees, contained in the Ministry of Health Memorandum No. F. 6(1)-I/54-Hosp., dated the 1st May, 1954, as in force from time to time.

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