

12.47½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES

FOURTH REPORT

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

12.48 hrs.

RE. CENTENARY OF
SHRI GOKHALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : ता० 7 को नहीं
होना चाहिये ।

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

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

Some hon. Members: Yes.

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

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

But I am surprised that I get a letter just before I come that Government has decided to observe 9th in his memory and whether I will be a member of the committee. Just four days before they set up a committee: (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: It is not my business.

Shri Nath Pal: It is relevant because in that the question of this holiday has been raised. Is this the only way in which Government can honour great sons of India, just stopping work? I think the time has come when we must find something more constructive and befitting to honour them than suspending work. I hope, the Government will take a lead in this matter. (Interruption).

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): I believe, Sir, that the ideas and sometimes which have been expressed here are certainly in harmony with the needs of the country, that is, we do more work and pay our homage to our great men in a suitable way. I think, some scheme should be worked out on that basis which can do adequate honour to our great men and yet enable the nation to move forward with production and work. As to this particular occasion, I would not be able to say anything except that some message has been sent as to what the intention was.

Mr. Speaker: Under these circumstances, when there is difference, I would rather stick to the old programme, whatever it is. If I were to have my say, certainly I would say that only Saturdays and Sundays should be holidays and there should be no further holidays. But it is for the Government to see.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I wanted to say something on Government assurances.

Mr. Speaker: Now that is finished. I will give him some other opportunity on Friday.

FINANCE BILL, 1966—contd.

12.53 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri on the 29th April 1966, namely:—

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1966-67, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Lahtan Chaudhry may continue his speech.

Shri M. E. Masani (Rajkot): When will the hon. Minister be called?

Mr. Speaker: 5 hours and 35 minutes remain. It is 1 o'clock; so, it cannot be concluded today.

Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi): Sir, we want to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. Minister like to reply today?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): On Thursday, if I could possibly do so.

Mr. Speaker: I was told that the Leader of the House said that it has to be passed by the House on the 5th.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: 5th will be all right. I will reply on the 5th.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Shri M. E. Masani: The time allotted for the clause-by-clause considerations and the third reading, 7½ hours, should not be reduced. It need be, we should sit longer.

Mr. Speaker: But what to do then? They should have the reply today then.