

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Dated.....25.11.2014

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 17th August, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-22 A.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri Dasaratha Deb:

"I could not attend this session of Parliament from the beginning, owing to my serious illness.

So I request you to allow me to remain absent from the House from the 3rd August."

If it be the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Dasaratha Deb for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the present session?

Leave was granted.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME
MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Three months ago, on May 15th, I made a statement on foreign

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affairs in this House. I referred then to the many evidences of a new approach to the solution of international problems, and, in particular, to the desire shown on all sides for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The long drawn-out negotiations at Pan Mun Jon, with all their ups and downs, appeared gradually to be moving towards some settlement. There were set-backs again, but ultimately the major hurdle in the way, that relating to the prisoners of war, was crossed. On June 8th an agreement was signed between the parties in regard to the prisoners of war. This agreement, in all its main features, bore a close resemblance to the Indian resolution which has been adopted by the General Assembly some months earlier.

In this agreement a heavy responsibility was cast upon India. For any country, and more especially for us, this was a novel experience. We were reluctant to assume new responsibilities, especially in an international theatre of operations. But the circumstances were such that it would have been improper for us to evade this heavy responsibility. The cause of peace, to which we are devoted, as well as the faith placed in us by other countries, demanded this service from us. We accepted these duties, therefore, in a spirit of humility and in the faith that we would continue to receive the generous cooperation of other countries in the tasks that were being entrusted to us.

Almost everyone thought that the final armistice agreement would be signed soon after. But, unexpectedly,