

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Date 25.11.2.51

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

3967

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 9th April, 1953

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The House met at Two of the Clock.
[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HOURS OF SITTING

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that the House will sit from 8-30 A.M. to 1-15 P.M. with effect from Tuesday, the 14th April, 1953.

The hours for which the office will remain open for receiving notices etc. and for other work will be notified in the Parliamentary Bulletin.

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Rt. Rev. John Richardson:

"I beg to submit my application for permission to remain absent from the meetings of the House. Owing to great pressure of work in my Diocese I am prevented from attending the Session of the House of the People which has already commenced on Wednesday, the 11th February, 1953. Most regretful."

The Member has so far completed 57 days of continuous absence from the sittings of the House. He was granted leave of absence on two occasions previously—once on the 25th June 1952 and the second time on the 5th November, 1952.

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Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Rt. Rev. John Richardson for remaining absent from all the meetings of the House during this Session?

I judge by voices that there is a greater number of voices for granting permission than against.

Leave was granted

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hereafter I will see if the reasons for leave of absence can be given in the Order Paper. If the hon. Member feels that his work in his Diocese is more important than Parliament, he must as well be interested in the other work.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I may say a word in regard to Mr. Richardson. Hon. Members do not realise that it is not easy for him to get here. He lives in a part of the Andamans and it is exceedingly difficult—it seems he has to wait for weeks to get a boat. It is not merely a question of doing some other work. There is the actual difficulty of getting here—and partly it is our fault for not having been able to arrange proper services from the Andamans by air or sea.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HOURS OF SITTING

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): You were, Sir, good enough to mention the time of sittings from next Tuesday. I would submit that if we sit for less than five hours a day, it will be difficult; it is difficult enough to carry on the work as it is. The new time you announced is less than five hours. I submit five hours is the absolute minimum, and if we can make it six hours, it is better.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would only remind the Prime Minister that the last time we sat in the morning, at least thrice a week we were sitting in