

Date.....27/1/54

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE**

*Thursday, 15th April, 1954*

*The House met at Two of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(See Part I)

2-49 P.M.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform hon. Members that the House will sit from 8-15 A.M. to 1-15 P.M. with effect from Tuesday, the 20th April, 1954.

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

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RE: APPLICABILITY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TREATIES TO GOA**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice under Rule 215, from Shri Raghuramaiah and Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and to request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The statement of the Prime Minister of Portugal made on the 13th of this month that the North Atlantic and Anglo-Portuguese treaties apply to Goa.”

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The Government have seen references in the Press to a statement reported to have been made by the Prime Minister of Portugal purporting to state his view that the North Atlantic Treaty extends to, and covers, the Portuguese possessions in India. In this statement reference has also been made to treaties of remote date between Portugal and England. The Government further denies the right of any gorical terms that they are not parties to any of these treaties under reference, new or old, and are in no way bound by them directly or indirectly, and that as a sovereign State, India cannot be bound by any international or regional agreement to which she is not a party. The Government have also seen reports and references to aerodromes' about to be constructed in Goa, and allied matters. They have no direct information of this. The Government of India reaffirm their view in the most categorical terms that they regard the foreign colonial enclaves in India as anachronisms which should come to an end and that their existence is inconsistent with the historic developments that resulted in the termination of imperial rule in India itself. The use of these enclaves as bases by foreign powers will meet with opposition from us. The Government further denies the right of any foreign power to establish such bases in these enclaves on the ground that they are the territories of a colonial power with which it is in alliance, as the Government do not recognize

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]

the right of the colonial power itself to continue there and to impose its rule on our people.

The Government of India have further noted that the views alleged to have been expressed by the Prime Minister of Portugal have not been endorsed or supported by any of the leading participants in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Government are glad to note that the Government of Canada have expressed their views to the contrary. Statements have been made on behalf of other Governments also to this effect.

The Prime Minister of Portugal has referred to his country's religious and cultural mission in the East. I have stated repeatedly, on behalf of the Government of India, that we propose to maintain the special cultural and religious position of Goa and it is not India's intention to affect in any way the cultural traditions of Goa. Christianity is one of the major and respected religions in India which has full freedom to function. Its association with a foreign power does not add to its prestige in India.

It is the continuance of the present colonial rule with its suppression of all civil liberties and the continuance of conflict that endangers these cultural traditions which we seek to continue in Goa. A peaceful settlement will ensure the continuance in an atmosphere of freedom of the cultural and religious traditions of Goa. Such a settlement can only be brought about by Goa becoming a part of the Indian Union which will enable it to develop economically and otherwise. We have, therefore, suggested that there should be a *de facto* transfer of authority in Goa to the Government of India to be followed later by *de jure* changes.

The Prime Minister of Portugal has stated that he is prepared to give guarantees that the Portuguese territories shall not be used as bases against India. I would suggest to

him that an immediate step to this end would be the withdrawal of Portuguese troops from Goa. This itself will ease the tension and prepare the way for peaceful negotiations.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East) *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** No questions.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In the House of Commons it is the practice to allow questions after a statement is made.

**Mr. Speaker:** My ruling is quite clear on that point.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta** (Calcutta-South-East): May I make a submission? I wish to refer to another matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member may give me notice of that: I shall consider.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** I have sent the notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then, it will be considered. And if I permit him he will get an opportunity.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** But I have given notice of it for today: what will happen?

**Mr. Speaker:** If it is admissible, the statement will be made on any day convenient to the hon. Member and the Prime Minister, both.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Regardless of the hon. Member's notice, may I be permitted to make a statement now?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would have gladly permitted it. The difficulty is that our rule does not permit making of two such statements on the same day.

The question having been referred to, the statement cannot be made as if it was made *suo motu* by the Prime Minister. Let us wait till tomorrow.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I will not be here tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. the Prime Minister may make the statement whenever he comes.