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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### (Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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#### LOK SABHA

Monday, 5th December, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 Noon

#### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

**Secretary:** Sir I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Hindu Succession Bill, 1955, which has been passed as amended by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1955."

#### HINDU SUCCESSION BILL

**Secretary:** Sir, I lay the Hindu Succession Bill, 1955 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the Table of the House.

#### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, FOR 1955-56

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** On behalf of the Minister

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of Finance I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1955-56.

#### DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 1950-51

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** On behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1950-51.

#### STATEMENT RE JOINT STATEMENT BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF PORTUGAL

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I seek your indulgence to say a few words about a matter which, I believe, has gravely exercised the minds of hon. Members of this House as well as others. This is the press report thus far of a joint statement which is said to have been issued by the Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, of the United States of America and the Foreign Minister of Portugal. It is said to have been issued in Washington two days ago. I have already had a copy of a Short Notice Question. Other Members also have approached me in this matter and desired that Government should make their position clear. I entirely agree with those hon. Members who think that this is a very important matter. It is important. It is a matter of far-reaching consequences. Because

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

of its importance, it is right that we as a Government should await formal confirmations and take other formal steps before I refer to this matter in this House. That is all I wish to say.

CITIZENSHIP BILL—*Contd.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume further discussion on the Citizenship Bill, 1955. Out of nine hours allotted for the general discussion on the Bill, about seven hours and 15 minutes have already been availed of and one hour and 45 minutes now remain. Thereafter clause by clause consideration of the Bill will be taken up for which five hours have been allotted.

I understand that the hon. Prime Minister wishes to intervene in the debate after Sardar A. S. Saigal. I do not know what time will be left and what time will be taken up by the Home Minister for reply. We have to consider the time allotment of one hour and 45 minutes. After Sardar A. S. Saigal, I shall call upon the Prime Minister.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I hope Sardar A. S. Saigal will be short.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur):** Let the hon. Prime Minister speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** What time will the hon. Minister take for reply?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** Half an hour.

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** When the Prime Minister speaks, he need not reply.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Let the Prime Minister speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** I can call upon the Prime Minister if the hon. Member

gives up his right to continue his speech.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** I will give it up.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I wish to deal with only one aspect of this Bill on which some comments and criticisms have been made. The other aspects will be dealt with by my colleague, the Deputy Minister. This aspect is in regard to the references in this Bill to Commonwealth citizenship. They are in clause 2(1) (c), clause 5(1) (e), clauses 11 and 12 and the First Schedule.

I do not wish to discuss at any length the whole question of the Commonwealth relationship though I should refer to it briefly. I should like to refer, first of all, to certain statements made in the minute of dissent of some hon. Members to the effect that there are, because of this relationship, obligations on us which are irksome, repugnant and derogatory. I do not think that is a correct statement. I speak now not theoretically, but from the practice of the last few years. I should like the hon. Members who have put in this minute of dissent to point out anything which has been irksome, derogatory or repugnant, anything that has limited in the slightest our independent sovereign status or freedom of action, internal or external. I submit that there has been no such thing, and that in fact, we have exercised, because of it, a certain greater freedom of action in regard to external matters than we might perhaps have done.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore):** May I know whether the hon. Prime Minister is aware that in the British Nationality Act we are considered as British subjects?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am not aware of that. I think, if the hon. Member will read that, he will see it is not quite so. But, what the