

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers) Dated..... 27.2.29/

3035

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 20th March, 1956

*The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

1-30 A.M.

### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

#### CLASH BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTANI ARMY UNITS AT HUSSAINIWALA HEADWORKS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy. The matter is coming up in the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. The subject of the adjournment motion is:

"The situation arising out of the clash between the Indian and the Pakistan Army Units at Hussainiwala headworks in Ferozepore district and the consequent infringement on the security and territorial sovereignty of India."

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** If you permit me and the House so desires, I am prepared to lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the facts in this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** May we take this up after the election is over?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have just called it because it has to be called in that order.

Then this will stand over till after the election of the Deputy-Speaker is concluded.

3036

### ELECTION OF DEPUTY-SPEAKER

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I beg to move:

"That Sardar Hukam Singh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to second this motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That Sardar Hukam Singh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

It has been proposed and duly seconded. I will now put the question to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Sardar Hukam Singh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare that Sardar Hukam Singh has been duly elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this House.

I have great pleasure in inviting Sardar Hukam Singh to the office of Deputy-Speaker of this House.

I held this office for eight years. I know the duties and responsibilities of this office. I am personally confident that from the manner in which he has been discharging the duties of the office of Chairman, being a member of the panel of Chairman, he will give entire satisfaction to the hon. Members of this House. I am equally confident that with his age and experience, though he is an active politician, he will hold the scales even while he is discharging the duties of his high office.

I have always seen, and hon. Members are aware, that an amount of legal talent will enable a person sitting in this Chair to dispose of various points

[Mr. Speaker] of order and other legal matters that are raised from time to time. Sardar Hukum Singh was an able advocate and later on rose to the Bench in the State of Kapurthala as one of the Judges of the High Court. With that experience he will certainly be able to discharge his duties very well.

He has also been a parliamentarian. He came into the Constituent Assembly in 1948. Thereafter he was continuously in the provisional Parliament, and since 1952 he has been a Member of this hon. House.

On behalf of the Members here and on my own behalf, I welcome him once again to the office of the Deputy-Speaker-ship.

**Sardar Hukum Singh** (Kapurthala-Bhatinda) : I am overwhelmed with gratitude at this moment. I know that the responsibilities of this office are very great. I also know that I have failings and shortcomings in me. That makes me nervous as to whether it will be possible for me to discharge the duties and responsibilities of such a high office which has been held, as you yourself said, for eight long years by you, an eminent scholar and parliamentarian having so many gifts. But I have full faith in the generosity of this House and the keenness and desire of this House to see that parliamentary practices prove successful in our country. With that hope I have given my consent and I take up those responsibilities.

Since I came here, I have been a Member of Opposition. I hope to continue in that position as a Member of the Opposition unless I am pushed out by my friends who are not here today. Certainly I have been put in a very embarrassing position at this moment. I should say that I was in a dilemma. I consulted some of my friends here. I am saying it on the floor of the House. I told them that the Government was proposing to take some one out of the Opposition. If they had any Member to offer or if they could get it, I could stand out; I was not anxious for that. It is all the more, what shall I say, creditable—or what better term can I use for the Government—that I had never gone to anybody, I had never requested any high dignitary, and it has come to me unasked for. I do not know what was there that struck the Government party to select me.

**Shri Algu Rai Shastri** (Azamgarh Distt.—East cum Bhalia Distt.—West) : Your ability.

**Sardar Hukum Singh** : It is the eye that catches that matters. There is an adage in the Punjab:

“साईं दे मन इनी तों कमली बी सिघानी”

If the master takes a girl to his house, then, even a fool is acceptable. If these hon. Members who are here masters have accepted me, then whatever I might be, I am here accepted by them. But certainly I feel embarrassed when I do not find my friends here.

**Shri Khardekar** (Kolhapur cum Satara) : There are some here.

**Sardar Hukum Singh** : It would be only fair for me to disclose that I told them frankly that if they did not want me, I would not come, but that they would not say, and they have put me in such a position that it might be interpreted that I am coming against their wishes. But they conveyed to me I have their good wishes quite all right. Anyhow, I belong to a party that has only two Members in this House. I hope this House would permit me to continue in that Party because I desire to continue.

**Hon. Members**: Yes.

**Sardar Hukum Singh** : But this much I can assure that when I am in that Chair I will try to do even justice to every Party and Member. My professions might not be accepted, it would be my conduct that would show whether I am sincere in that or I am able to discharge my duties.

There is a greater responsibility cast on the Government by this. It is a new experiment that they have made in choosing one of the Opposition Members. If I fail perhaps their selection might not be justified. There is another suggestion that I have specially to address to my brothers who are absent and who are present also, that when they say that I carry with me their good wishes, if I fail, that experiment fails and perhaps no Opposition Member might ever be selected for this post in future. If I succeed perhaps I would have done them service and carried their cause further.

I thank all the authorities, particularly our Prime Minister and other Ministers perhaps who have thought it fit

that they should select one of the Opposition this time and I consider myself so fortunate that the choice has fallen on me. I can assure every one of my brethren that I will try my best to discharge those duties that have been cast upon me conscientiously and sincerely to the best of my ability.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this motion for the election of the Deputy-Speaker was made by me, it is obvious what my views were on this subject. Nevertheless, I should like to welcome the hon. Member opposite, Sardar Hukam Singh, to this high office.

We have ventured to propose his name chiefly because we have full experience of him in this office, when he has been acting as chairman. We thought of this matter not from any party line, not even, if I may say so, because we were specially anxious to have a Member of the Opposition, although we would welcome a Member of the Opposition for this Chair, but simply because we wanted a person who was suited and who had already shown his high ability in this work.

I have no doubt that his choice has the unanimous consent of this House, of even those who unfortunately are not present here. In fact, I know it; they have told me so. They have not, I am sorry, come here, perhaps because they did not quite like the procedure adopted in this matter; it is not the same, but it is the procedure. I had occasion only yesterday to discuss this matter with some hon. Members opposite, and I told them that this had not struck me previously.

We all believe that the Speaker, and the Deputy-Speaker, should be persons who function in that high office with complete impartiality and without any bias towards any party. We believe also that in the selection of the Speaker or the Deputy-Speaker, wherever possible, and to whatever extent possible, consultation should take place with representative Members of the House and of the parties.

Naturally, in this and other matters, the chief responsibility necessarily lies with Government, which represents the major party. But it should be the business of Government and the leader of the major party in such cases to consult others too, in order as far as possible to arrive at a unanimous choice. It may be, of course, on occasions that there

is no unanimity—that will be unfortunate,—and the decision will have to be by a majority. So, there is no doubt, in my opinion and my colleagues' opinion, about the desirability in such cases of previous consultation.

The other question arose—I heard it later—whether the proposal or the motion for this purpose should be made by me or by some hon. Members opposite. It was not a very major question. Both could have made it. What I would have liked personally, if it had struck me at the time, was that while the motion was to be made by me—and I wanted to make it, because I considered it a privilege to make such a motion proposing Sardar Hukam Singh as the Deputy-Speaker—I should have liked—and I would have invited them to do so, if I had thought of it at the time—some hon. Member in the Opposition to second that motion, while I proposed. But it did not strike me, and nobody mentioned it to me. And I put in this motion.

At the last moment, yesterday it was suggested to me that I should withdraw it, and that another motion might be put in, that is, a proposal by me seconded by an hon. Member opposite. I had no objection to that. But since this motion had already come in the Order Paper, I did not think it proper to suggest that I should take your permission to withdraw it, and go through this tortuous procedure.

But I do wish to make it clear that there is no question of any major difference of opinion about these matters. We are all agreed about the hon. Member who has been chosen as the Deputy-Speaker. I would have gladly welcomed the association of a Member from the opposite benches in the proposal made, but unfortunately, our friends opposite thought it best in these circumstances to keep away. I regret that.

**Shri S. L. Saksena** (Gorakhpur Distt.—North) : May I have a minute....

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary, I think. It will lead to controversies.

I am now sure that with the affable manners which Sardar Hukam Singh will bring to bear upon the work that he has to do here, he will get the unanimous support of all Members who are here, and even of those Members who are not here. The House will absolutely

[Mr. Speaker]  
fully co-operate with him. The election is unanimous. There is no other proposal here.

Therefore, I wish him a safe tenure of office here, and I am sure the House agrees with me.

#### STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the past few months, as the House is aware, we have had the pleasure and privilege of welcoming to India many eminent visitors from abroad. These visitors came from many lands, as messengers of goodwill from nations with widely differing cultures and systems of thought and organisation. To all of them we extended a warm and cordial welcome in that spirit of friendliness towards all, which distinguishes our foreign policy, as indeed it does the traditions of our country and our people. I had long and detailed conversations with all of them, both on the major problems of the world, in their many aspects, and on matters of mutual interest to the particular country concerned and ourselves. I should like to take this opportunity of saying how valuable have been these talks and how much I have profited by them. It was, of course, not to be expected that, as a result of these talks, there would be sudden changes in the foreign policy of our country or of any of the other countries concerned. Foreign policies are not made and changed in that way. All the same, these talks at a personal level, held in a frank and informal atmosphere, have enabled us, and I hope our visitors too, to appreciate better each other's point of view. They have helped us to obtain a better understanding of the minds of those who in their respective countries, are directly concerned with the formulation and direction of policy. Where we have been unable to agree, we have agreed to differ.

It is not possible for me to cover all the ground of these talks or to refer, in this statement, to the many problems that afflict the world and are a matter of concern to us. Perhaps, at a later stage, I might refer in this House to some of these international problems. For the present, I should like to mention some important matters which were

recently discussed by us with our distinguished visitors.

Of these visitors, the three recent ones have been Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Dulles, Secretary of State of the USA, and M. Pineau, Foreign Minister of France. We welcomed them as representatives of three leading countries in the world, and with each of them I discussed the international situation and also how best tension could be relaxed and peace, which is the objective of all countries, could best be promoted.

The occasion which brought these statesmen to this region of the world was the meeting of the SEATO Council in Karachi. To our great surprise, the Council at this meeting thought it fit, at the instance of one of its members, to discuss the question of Kashmir and include a declaration on this question in its final communique. In doing so, the Council confirmed our worst apprehensions about the organisation which it represent. The declared purpose of the South East Asia Treaty is to increase the defensive strength of the parties to the Treaty against aggression from outside and against internal subversion. How the question of Kashmir could come within the scope of the SEATO Council is not clear to us. Its reference to Kashmir could only mean that a military alliance is backing one country, namely, Pakistan, in its disputes with India. For any organisation to function in this way to the detriment of a country, which is friendly to the individual countries comprised in the organisation, would, at any time be considered an impropriety. In the present case, however, there is a further aspect. We have noted with regret that three other Commonwealth countries have associated themselves with the offending declaration. We have communicated our protest to all the countries concerned at the unusual procedure adopted by the Council.

I had talks with Mr. Dulles about the US military aid to Pakistan. I told him how this aid has been causing us serious concern. The atmosphere in Pakistan seems to be one of threats and menaces towards India. India continues to be the subject of bitter attack in sections of the Pakistan Press, and bellicose statements appear from time to time even from responsible leaders. More recently, there has been a recrudescence of border incidents which have, by their frequency and dispersion over a