

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 11th July, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

STATEMENT BY SHRI A. K.
GOPALAN

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gopalan will
now make a Statement.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore):
The hon. the Prime Minister on 4th
July, 1952 made a speech on the floor
of the House. In the course of the
speech, he remarked:

"I do expect, if I may say so,
a modicum of intelligence in the
Opposition."

I submit that these remarks contain-
ed in the speech were derogatory to
the dignity of the House, the Prime
Minister himself, the whole Opposition
and the electorate. Such remarks con-
stitute a bad precedent.

STATEMENT BY SHRI MEGHNAD
SAHA

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta North-
West): I am thankful to you for giv-
ing me this opportunity of making a
Statement. In the course of a debate
on July 4th, the Prime Minister made
some personal references to me, say-
ing that I did not understand the mean-
ing of the word Fascism, and had de-
graded 'Science' by using this term
in the course of the debate. He said
that I have lost all touch with Science.

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I had been to Italy in the year 1927
(again in 1936), being a delegate to an
International Scientific Conference in
honour of the centenary of the death of
Volta, the discoverer of electricity and
had first hand opportunities of study-
ing Fascism at close range. I was also
invited along with other delegates to
an evening party at his residence given
by the Duce Mussolini, and had oppor-
tunities to observe at close range the
attitude of very famous Italians,
Scientists and public men, towards the
Duce. There is no greater intoxicant
than power, as our old Kautilya says,
and this intoxication of power which
does not allow one to see the other
man's point of view, gathering round
one, large bonds of 'yes-men' is Fasc-
ism. I have not said that our Govern-
ment has become fascist, but I
simply said that it is drifting towards
Fascism. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Let him finish.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I may add that
I am in close touch with my Science
as anybody in India, (Some Hon. Mem-
bers: Not at all) and the International
World of Science does not yet consider
me as a back number. The Govern-
ment of India cannot be ignorant of
this, because just a month ago an appli-
cation for giving air passage to myself
and one of my colleagues and co-
workers, Prof. B. N. Srivastava of
Lucknow to attend an International
Conference on low temperature to
which we had been invited at the in-
stance of the sponsors of the Interna-
tional Conference itself was recom-
mended by the Ministry of Education
and Scientific Research, but passage
was refused to us by the Ministry of
Finance presumably because they
wanted to conserve foreign currency.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister and Leader of
the House (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):
Sir, I seek your indulgence to say a few
words, because the two statements that
have been read out relate to what I
said on a previous occasion. May I
first deal with the somewhat longer