

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS
OF THE HOUSE****SEVENTH REPORT**

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House, presented to the House on the 22nd December, 1954."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House, presented to the House on the 22nd December, 1954."

Shri Gidwani (Thana): I oppose the motion. Last time also I had raised this question. I find from the list of fourteen Members who have been absent and given leave, one has been given leave for 173 days during this year, another for 123 days, a third for 92 days and so on. And in the case of the third Member he applied for leave after remaining absent for 65 days, and that leave has been granted.

As I said last time, after the introduction of the salary system we should be very careful about granting leave. We should not be over-generous and over-solicitous to our brotherhood. We have abolished absentee landlordism. We should not encourage absentee membership.

With these words I oppose the motion.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): The observation made by the hon. Member is wide of the mark. The hon. Member concerned has been ill, and most of the cases of absence from the House are cases due to illness. I think we may discourage absentee landlordism—there is no doubt about it—but I do not see any reason why we should practise cruelty on those who are ill and who cannot come to

the House because of illness. I think the suggestion put forward by the hon. Member should be ruled out.

Shri Altekar: As far as the absence of Mr. Muchaki Kosa is concerned, his mother died, he himself was ill, his wife was also ill. And he is in a place where communications are very difficult. Even the letters sent by the Deputy Commissioner of the place were received very late. Under these most difficult circumstances and he being an illiterate person as well, the Committee thought it was quite desirable and quite humane to grant him leave.

So far as the pay is concerned, it is a matter for the House to consider. The Salary Committee may be moved in that respect. But when leave has been asked for owing to the illness of the Member as also illness of the members of his family and owing to death in the family, and in view of the fact that he is residing at a place where communications are very difficult, I beg to submit that the Committee was right in granting him leave.

Furthermore, only in a case wherein leave has been refused by the Committee this House can be asked to grant the leave. But if the leave is granted, according to the rules it cannot be opposed.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): Recommending leave and not granting leave.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me myself be clear about it. Is it the contention of the hon. Member that if the Committee recommends leave, the House ought to accept it?

Shri Altekar: Generally, you can see in the Rules.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): In the long list of persons for whom leave has been recommended by the Committee I find Members absent for thirty-five days and thirty days have also been recommended leave like that. I want to know whether a Member can remain absent without permission for fifty-nine days, or is it

necessary for him to apply to the Speaker and get leave?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not apply there. Under the Constitution more than sixty days ought not to elapse.

Shri Damodara Menon: But the Committee here have recommended leave for Members who have absented themselves only for thirty-five days. Is it necessary to make a formal application?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: My own feeling is hon. Members if they are absent continuously for thirty-five days and are not sure that they may return within sixty days, by way of abundant caution apply saying they are not able to attend; God knows whether they would be able to attend just immediately before the 25th day next time; and therefore to be on the safer side they say "this may be condoned". There may be various reasons.

The procedure that may be adopted is if in any particular case any hon. Member thinks there is abuse of the privilege he must table an amendment that so far as the particular hon. Member is concerned the leave ought not to be granted. General opposition does not lead anywhere.

Shri Gidwani: Next time I will do so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the rule referred to by the hon. Member. Does it say it is obligatory?

Shri Altekar: Rule 290. I will read it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no need to read the whole thing. Does the rule say that the Committee can take away the power of the House to consider it?

Shri Altekar: Not taking away of the power of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only commendatory. Therefore, the hon. Member need not say that it ought to be accepted.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Neilore): Suppose a Member has absented himself for 25 days and it has been recommended by the Committee. Can that Member absent himself for another 60 days with impunity?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is so. I am not in a position to interpret. If the difficulty arises, let us see.

The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House, presented to the House on the 22nd December, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMPANIES BILL

The Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Pataskar): I beg to move:

"That Sarvashri N. M. Lingam and Narendra P. Nathwani be appointed to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to companies and certain other associations vice Sarvashri Khandubhai Kasanji Desai and Nityanand Kanungo resigned."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this Sarvashri? I will call them Shri N. M. Lingam and Shri N. P. Nathwani.

Shri Pataskar: I was told that Shri is applied to an individual and Sarvashri means more than one. I am not an expert in Hindi.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not well acquainted with technical expressions in Hindi. Sarvashri corresponds to Messrs. The question is:

"That Sarvashri N. M. Lingam and Narendra P. Nathwani be appointed to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to companies and certain other