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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 21st November, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

— [MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

STATEMENT RE KOREAN SITUATION

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister wanted to make a statement?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I intervene, Sir, to say a few words about a matter which is not on the agenda of Parliament, but which, nevertheless, is exercising the minds of all of us here as well as in the country and indeed in a great part of the world. At this moment momentous issues affecting the peace of the world are being debated in the United Nations. In furtherance of India's policy to serve the cause of peace, our delegation in the United Nations has put forward, with our full concurrence, a resolution relating to the Korean situation. In this resolution we have endeavoured to the utmost of our ability, to suggest an honourable way out of the difficulties that have thus far come in the way of a settlement. This resolution does not settle everything. It is a step, we hope, in the right direction which, if accepted in the spirit in which we have put it forward, might well lead to a lightening of the tremendous burden that is oppressing humanity. We have offered this resolution in all humility of spirit, and I am happy that the distinguished representatives of the nations assembled in New York are viewing it with favour.

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A moment comes in the life of a nation, and sometimes of the world, when the future hangs on a decision that might be taken. That moment is here, and on the United Nations has been cast the great responsibility at this critical juncture of seizing this moment with courage and determination and thus justifying the great purpose for which it was started. The noble words of the Charter of the United Nations ring in our ears and we remember the great hopes that those words raised in the minds of the peoples of the world. Since then some adverse fate has pursued us and baffled our best endeavours, and instead of achieving the peace that was sought, the world struggles with the shadow of war. Fear and hatred and violence raise their ugly heads and tortured humanity looks helplessly on these tragic developments. The lights have grown dim.

Yet, the light is there which can disperse the shadows that threaten to overwhelm us and it is given to the United Nations today to light up that bright flame afresh and bring back to people's minds the great purpose for which it was founded. At this crisis I would earnestly appeal to the nations represented at the General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as those nations who are not present there but who are so intimately concerned with this matter, to justify the hopes that the peoples of the world place on them, and, by a joint effort, to exercise the spirit of war and raise up the banner of peace in the world. Thus will the United Nations prove true to its ideals and to its purpose; thus will the present generation justify itself.

I am sure that in this matter I speak with the full concurrence of every Member of this House to whatever group or party he or she might belong, and indeed with the full and ardent approval of the millions of our people.

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[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

On our delegation in the United Nations is cast a heavy responsibility. I should like this House to send them a message of encouragement and goodwill which would strengthen them in the difficult task they have undertaken.

I speak these words not only with anxious hope but with a prayer in my heart that we of this generation might prove worthy of our inheritance, of the passionate hopes and aspirations of innumerable people who hunger for peace, and of the future that we claim to build.

STATEMENT RE ESTATE DUTY BILL

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Tyagi wanted to make a small correction.

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): The House will recall that Shri Chintaman Deshmukh when replying to the debate on the motion to refer the Estate Duty Bill to the Select Committee said that there were three dissenting States, namely West Bengal, Travancore-Cochin and Saurashtra which had not agreed to authorise the Centre to legislate on their behalf in respect of estate duty on agricultural land. Regarding Saurashtra, he had said that the State Government felt that perhaps conditions had not improved and the taxation measure of this type was not suitable. This view had been expressed in the State Finance Minister's letter dated the 18th July, 1951 to me. Since then, the Finance Ministry had received no further communication from the State Government. After Shri Deshmukh's statement in the House, the State Government brought to our notice that they had since changed their view and had agreed with the principle of estate duty and had recently passed the necessary resolution under article 252 of the Constitution copies of which had been sent to the States Ministry and the Law Ministry. When Shri Deshmukh made the statement he was unaware of the latest position as the State Government's communications sent to the States, and the Law Ministries did not reach the Revenue Division of the Finance Ministry before the 10th November. They were actually received on the 12th November. I have therefore thought it fit to inform the House of the correct position. The name of Saurashtra State will now be included in the Schedule to the Estate Duty Bill.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and to make special provisions in respect of certain high denomination bank notes.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and to make special provisions in respect of certain high denomination bank notes."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. C. Shah: I introduce the Bill.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION BILL.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the readjustment of the representation of territorial constituencies in the House of the People and in the State Legislative Assemblies and for matters connected therewith, be extended upto Friday, the 28th November, 1952."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the readjustment of the representation of territorial constituencies in the House of the People and in the State Legislative Assemblies and for matters connected therewith, be extended upto Friday, the 28th November, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

FORWARD CONTRACTS (REGULATION) BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri