

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**RESIGNATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF
THE JABALPUR CANTONMENT BOARD**

Sardar A. S. Salgal (Janjgir): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The resignation of five elected members of the Jabalpur Cantonment Board and the situation arising therefrom.”

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Sir, the information the Government have at present is that, on the morning of the 19th August 1957, which was a holiday on account of Janmashtami, a deputation of about 25 to 30 people called at the residence of the President of the Cantonment Board. They wanted to represent against the “show-cause notices” served by the Cantonment Executive Officer for the erection of stalls on the platforms over the Cantonment drains in contravention of the Bye-laws. The President told them that as it was a holiday he could not do very much in the matter on that day. However, noticing that one of the elected members, Shri N. C. Agarwal, was also among the deputations, the President agreed to discuss the case with him and took him inside his bungalow and discussed the matter. The President states that he requested Shri Agarwal to stay further proceedings in the matter, if it was possible, and to put it up at the emergent meeting which had been fixed for the 24th August 1957. It appears that Shri Agarwal in answer to his question told the President that he was satisfied. On the same day 5 of the elected members of the Cantonment Board intimated to the President that they were resigning from membership on the ground that the President had behaved “in an ungentlemanly and discourteous manner” towards the elected members of the Board and also towards the public of that Cantonment who had gone in deputation to

represent against the “autocratic and unsympathetic attitude” of the Cantonment Executive Officer, Jabalpur.

The G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, has been directed by Government to make detailed inquiries into the incident and submit his report to Government for orders at an early date. Decision regarding the acceptance or otherwise of the resignations tendered by the 5 elected members, and such further action as may be necessary, will be taken by Government after receipt of his report.

The elections in the Jabalpur Cantonment are due to be held in October, 1957.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Second Report have recommended that leave of absence may be granted to the following members for the periods indicated in the Report:—

1. Shri Balasaheb Salunke,
2. Shri Lachman Singh,
3. Shri Uma Charan Patnaik,
4. Shri S. C. Choudhury,
5. Shri Joginder Sen-Mandi,
6. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani,
7. Shri S. C. Balakrishnan,
8. Shri Chapla Kanta Bhattacharya,
9. Thakor Shri Fatesinhji Ghodasarsar,
10. Shri Chowkhamoon Gohain,
11. Shri Bishanchandar Seth,
12. Shri T. R. Neswi.

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Sir, I want to seek one clarification in this connection. Supposing a Minister is absent, should he not also apply

[Shri T. B. Vittal Rao]

for leave of absence from the House, because I see that one of the Ministers never attends the House at all; it is only once in a way that he attends?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that, so far as the House is concerned, under the Constitution if any Member is absent for consecutive meetings of the House for 60 days or more his name can be removed and a motion can be made by any Member in this House that his seat may be declared vacant. So, when, hon. Members take leave, though hon. Members may not lose their seats for the simple reason that once in 60 days they may attend and do not attend for another 59 days, the House loses the benefit of their presence. Therefore, naturally we expect that all hon. Members who would not be here for more than a week or so—one or two days does not matter much—would intimate us, and they are expected to do so. But the Government work is carried on though a particular Minister is absent.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I do not mind if they are absent, there may be pretty good reasons for that. But I have been here for five years now and I have not seen any Minister applying for leave at any time though they are absent on many days. They should set an example.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has entirely misunderstood the position. Absence from Delhi is one thing and absence from the House is another thing. So far as absence from the House is concerned, many hon. Members sit in the hall there and do not come here at all. I do not worry myself about that. Therefore, I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Members will be informed accordingly.

MOTION RE: INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up consideration of the motion regarding international situation for which 5½ hours have been allotted. The time-limit of speeches will as usual be 15 minutes for the Members and 20 to 30 minutes, if necessary, for leaders of groups. We will just conclude by 5.30 or 5.45. I shall call upon the Prime Minister to reply at 5.00 P.M.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto be taken into consideration.”

I am afraid, this has become rather a stock motion which I move regularly and periodically before the House. The international situation naturally changes somewhat from time to time. The present one is not quite the same as it was yesterday and yet, fundamentally it is more or less the same. In the same way, as regards the policy of the Government of India, as this House is aware, we have tried to follow the same basic policy adapting it to changing circumstances.

The two questions that directly affect us in regard to international policy are our relations with Pakistan and with that, of course, is inevitably included, more especially, the question of Kashmir, and secondly, the question of Goa. These two, I say, affect us directly, because they affect the integrity and sovereignty of India; of course, the other questions which are really much bigger in their world significance affect us very greatly, for the simple reason that whatever happens there affects us as it affects the world. In fact, almost all our problems are affected directly or indirectly by what happens elsewhere in the world. If the Suez Canal is closed, we are affected; our Five Year Plan is