

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI R. P. JAIN

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter dated the 10th December, 1964, has been received from Shri R. P. Jain:—

"I am unable to attend the present session of the Rajya Sabha as the hearing of an election petition against me is continuing before the Election Tribunal, Patna. Kindly excuse my absence."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri R. P. Jain for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

(No hon Member dissented)

Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT RE STARRED QUESTION NO. 613 ANSWERED ON THE 16TH DECEMBER 1964

ATAL KOTNIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Tara Chand will now make a statement.

DR. TARA CHAND (Nominated): Sir, with your permission, may I make a statement in connection with Starred Question No. 613 by Shri Abid Ali to the Ministry of Works and Housing?

The question related to the Atal Kotnis Memorial Library and some statements were made in the House which were, to my mind, entirely out of place. It was in connection with that question that I wanted to place the statement before you.

The Atal Kotnis Memorial Library was founded in memory of two brave and self-sacrificing Indians, Dr. M. L. Atal who fought in Spain against

General Franco in the International Brigade and Dr. S. K. Kotnis of Bombay. The two doctors together with three others were sent on a medical mission by the Indian National Congress to China in 1936 when China was at war against Japanese aggression. Dr. Kotnis was killed in the field of battle in China. Dr. Atal died in 1957. On the death of Dr. Atal it was resolved that the memory of these two brave men should be perpetuated. Funds were collected in order to establish a library which was registered in 1961. A request was made to the Government to allot accommodation for the library and the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, at the instance of the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, placed at its disposal a two-roomed quarter in Ramakrishna Puram, New Delhi, where a number of dailies and weeklies are placed on the table.

The Library was opened in May 1963. The Committee which originally founded the library, consisted of the following:—

Dr. Tara Chand, Chairman, late Shrimati Uma Nehru and Pt. Sunderlal as Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Brahma Prakash and Shri Dwijendra Nandi as Secretary, Chaudhury Raghavendra Singh as Treasurer, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, Chairman, Legislative Council, West Bengal, Member. Shri Ramniwas Mirdha, Speaker, Rajasthan Assembly, Jaipur, Member.

The present Committee consists of the following:—

Dr. Tara Chand, Chairman, Chaudhuri Brahma Prakash and Pt. Sunderlal as Vice-Chairmen, Shri Dwijendra Nandi, Secretary, Shrimati Shyam Kumari Khan, M.P., Dr. Shrimati Phulrenu Guha, M.P., Shri Indra Kumar Gujral, M.P., Shri M. S. Kotnis, M.Sc.,

[Dr. Tara Chand.]
of Bombay, and Shri R. K.
Agrawal of Delhi.

The object for which the library has been established is to open and maintain a library and a reading room and for this purpose to raise funds and subscriptions and secure help and co-operation of Government and other authorities.

Since the opening of the library in May 1963, till December, 1964, about 5,000 readers have made use of the library. Besides papers and journals, several hundred books have been collected by donations, and more papers, specially provincial ones are expected to be subscribed.

The library has nothing to do with the Peace Council or any other political organisation and the premises were allotted to the library in the name of its Chairman. The allegation made by some Members concerning the propagation of Chinese or pro-Communist views is entirely baseless.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI
(Uttar Pradesh): Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no debate on it.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: When you allow them to make a statement, we should be permitted to put questions. I know it is not a debate. He said that the allegations made on the floor of the House are incorrect . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ansari, I am sorry I will not allow questions.

RESOLUTION RE LEGISLATION TO LIMIT THE FAMILY—continued

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very auspicious day today that we are resuming the discussion because 18th of

December has been the day earmarked for the propagation of this good cause of family planning throughout the country, and today, I am quite sure, at thousands of places this cause is being promoted through the various media of meetings, exhibitions and the like. It is only in the fitness of things that this House also discusses this very important problem.

Sir, when I concluded on the last occasion, I was dealing with some of the points raised by our friend, Mr. Arora, who opposed this Resolution. One of the points that he mentioned was that the fourth child should be taxed. That does not prevent the fourth child being born nevertheless. If you tax the child after its birth, it does not help anybody. In fact, this fear of the fourth child being taxed may precipitate the fourth child being born because every day the man and woman will consider that the fourth child is being born and he will be taxed, he will be taxed. Therefore, it is much wholesome, apart from its impracticability, that we do not put a threat on the people that if another child is born, some very penal consequences will follow.

Then, the hon. Member said something about right and liberty. It is, of course, every man's right to go on having as many children as possible. It is his liberty also. And under the Constitution there is nothing that can touch that liberty. But, Sir, as I was saying this thing, what you call, a cause that arises, or a plea that arises on a *priori* consideration, it is particularly so in the present conditions of the country. There was a time when India was sparsely inhabited, when our Vedic seers called, let us become *Suvira*, let us have as many sons as possible. We wish that the time may come again when this voluntary restriction may disappear. But at the present moment, both from the individual point of view as well as from the collective point of view, it is no use making it a national cause with-