

# RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 25th April 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

## MEMBERS SWORN

Maulana M. Tayyebulla (Assam)

Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy (Mysore)

## RESOLUTION REGARDING ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

SHRI PRITHVI RAJ KAPOOR (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This House is of opinion that Government should appoint a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament and other persons having special knowledge of the subject to examine the question of the abolition of capital punishment in India and submit a report thereon."

Sir, while moving this Resolution, I do not presume to know more than other people know, the wiser people, the elder people, the experienced people, people who have dealt with the life of the nation for such a long time. I do not presume that I know better in this matter; nor do I presume that their attention is not drawn towards this subject, a very great subject, a very important subject; nor do I presume that it is not there in the hearts of the people to do away with this stigma from the face of humanity; nor do I presume that statesmen and elders and the wiser people, people who are leading the nation today, do not realise the importance of this factor that this is something which should be done away with and if our nation, our country takes the first step, so much the better—first in the sense that there are countries, there have been countries who have abolished capital punishment and then recalled that Act, gone back on that step on

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some grounds, on some fears. I know that. We all know about their fears, but the fears of one man may not be the fears of others, the circumstances of one man may not be the circumstances of another man, the circumstances of one country may not be the circumstances of another country, the ambitions, hopes and dreams of one country may not be the hopes, ambitions and dreams or ideals of another country. Ours is absolutely a different case and hence it is that most humbly I am moving this Resolution in that humble spirit that we have turned a page, not only a page, but a very big chapter in the life of our nation. After centuries—I will not be wrong at any rate if I say that—in the history of our country perhaps this is the first time that we are leading a life in which all that has to be said and all that has to be done is to be done by the people, by the chosen of the people, the chosen leaders of the people. Hence whenever we take any step or we want to take any step, the past should not frighten us nor the history or the acts or the deeds or opinions of other countries and what has happened in other countries should frighten us or deter us in any way from taking any bold step. From taking a step in the right direction when we feel that we are right, when once we are convinced that we are right, nothing should hinder us, nothing should stop us from taking that step.

Sir, in that spirit I am moving this Resolution. I have got statistics before me. So many friends have written to me, so many young students have written to me from different parts of the country and they have pointed out, they have given facts and figures. I will not like to take the time of the House with these facts and figures because I know, I am fully convinced, that the people sitting here, all of them, know those facts and figures. They are fully conversant with them and they have not got to be taught and their attention is not to be drawn towards them because it is already there, it is in the heart of everybody here that this stigma should be