

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 16th March 1956

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

REFERENCES TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the business, I should like to mention that 74 of our Members are retiring this month. While we ^{will} have many of them back with us, some of them may not be returning. I wish to assure them that we will miss them very much and I hope they will remember with pleasure their connection with our House. We are setting up standards so far as parliamentary discussions and debates are concerned and generally we maintain a very high level of dignity and decorum. Strong viewpoints are expressed with vigour and ability without any illwill or bitterness. Strength of conviction is not to be confused with violence of expression. Sometimes even good causes suffer from bad advocacy. We have had in this House on the whole a very high level of debate and discussion and those who come later will remember the traditions that are being established now. I wish to assure those who are not coming back to us that there are many ways in which service to the country can be carried out and membership of Parliament is not the only way and I hope they will utilise all those opportunities because the country is in a condition when it cannot afford to waste any talent. Wish you all good luck.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): May I, Sir, associate myself respectfully with your remarks? It is always somewhat sad to part with colleagues and those with whom one has worked. As you said, Sir, we do not quite know who might come back to this House and who might not. As you also said, after all, the region of work is not limited to

this House or the other House and I doubt if there is any country in the world today which demands so much work from every individual in innumerable capacities and fields of activity as India does today. It may be that sometimes there is some difficulty in fitting in particular work to a particular person. That gradually comes. We of this generation, or I may say of the past decade, who have been working in Parliament and Assemblies and have been endeavouring not only to serve the cause we had at heart but to build up this parliamentary structure of Government have, I think, done something basically important from the point of view of building up that structure of Government. Now, much may be said about the parliamentary system of Government and many criticisms can also be offered about it and some people rather doubt if it is really suited to the modern speed of development, if it is not slightly slow-moving. Others think that in the long run it is not only desirable in itself but it achieves better results. For my part I hold to the latter opinion completely. But apart from going into the merits of the parliamentary system of Government, there is one aspect of it which is not included in any Constitution but which I think is very important—that aspect to which you, Sir, indirectly referred. We meet here, we express our opinions freely and strongly but I hope with restraint and behind all that we try to do so without personal rancour or illwill and therefore a sense of camaraderie begins to grow up even among those who may differ very much, among those who may be on the Government side or the Opposition side or some side in between. That, I think, is very important; this sense of camaraderie and co-operation that grows up gradually in parliamentary work ought to grow up. I think we may say without undue exaggeration that that has gradually, slowly, imperceptibly grown up in the working of our parliamentary structure, because the parliamentary system of work requires not only stout opposition, not only forcible expres-

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]
sion of opinions and views but an essential basis of co-operation between the Opposition and the Government. Not in regard to any particular matter but the whole basis of approach is after all a co-operative basis to carry the work of parliament forward and in so far as we succeed in doing that, we succeed in laying the foundations of parliamentary work firmly.

I should like, Sir, to associate myself with your remarks in extending my good wishes and the good wishes of all those who are not going out to those who are going out and many of whom, I hope, will come back here.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): Sir, I do not think anything is called for from me after the eloquent speech that you have made and the weighty remarks that have come from the Prime Minister. I, however, owe a special duty to the hon. Members of this House and I wish to offer those colleagues who will not be here again with us when we meet in the next session my grateful thanks for the co-operation which we, sitting on these benches, have invariably received from them. In this House there is that atmosphere of dignity combined with firmness which conduces towards the success of the reasoned expressions of opinion. We have dealt with matters of a ticklish character and sometimes we had to apply our minds to controversial issues but there was never any outburst even in the form of words which sometimes lacking in sense, hurt the minds and which cause irritation and provocation. I hardly remember any such occasion. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is not here. He has tenaciously stuck to his opinions and also to his seat, occasionally jumping up, being unable to repress and suppress himself. But in spite of that all of us have been able to carry on our work in a spirit of friendliness and there has never been any lack of goodwill. It is a matter of regret to me that those colleagues who may not be returned

to this House or who may not like to be returned to this House will not be in our midst hereafter, at least for some time. But having been relieved of the burdens that they have been carrying here they will be in a position to devote their time and energy to perhaps even better causes, and through their contribution public life will be enriched and I hope it will also be ennobled. So, they carry the best wishes of each and all of us with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We get back to the Railway Appropriation Bill. Dr. Kunzru.

KASHMIR ISSUE IN SEATO CONFERENCE AT KARACHI

SHRI H. C. MATHUR (Rajasthan): Sir, before we come to the Railways, may I invite your attention to the notice of motion for papers which I gave in respect of the SEATO conference at Karachi at the conference's reference to the Kashmir affair. This matter has been found to be important enough even to be raised and discussed in the House of Commons and the Under Secretary when making the reply almost found himself in a defenceless position. From the accounts that we have received in this connection from various sources it is obvious that the reference to the Kashmir affair was most unfortunate. Even other Parliaments are taking interest. There is no reason why this Parliament should not be taken into confidence and a statement made or a discussion permitted on this very important matter with which we are vitally connected and about which we all feel so much concerned. I might submit that Mr. Dulles has come and he has gone. We have read certain press reports, but we have heard absolutely nothing from our own Prime Minister and Parliament has not been taken into confidence in this matter. As I have just said, even in the House of Commons this question was raised. So, I would most earnestly request you, Sir, either to permit a discussion or at least—now that this House is to