

COUNCIL OF STATES

Friday, 7th May 1954

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO KUNWARANI VIJAYA RAJE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter has been received from Kunwarani Vijaya Raje:

"Since the last month I have been indisposed and am undergoing medical treatment which necessitates my presence here. I request the House, therefore, to kindly grant me leave from attending the present session of the Council."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Kunwarani Vijaya Raje for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council commencing from 19th April 1954 till the end of the current session?

(No hon Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT ON RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN ON EVACUEE PROPERTY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A. P. Jain to make his statement.

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI A. P. JAIN): Sir, I would like to take this opportunity briefly to explain to the House the background to the recent negotiations in regard to the vexed problem of evacuee property so that the full significance of the latest developments may be appreciated better.

25 C.S.D

Following upon the meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan at Karachi last July, discussions on evacuee property and claims of evacuees took place between the representatives of the two Governments during July-August 1953, for the first time since June 1950. While decisions were taken regarding implementation of some of the items of the Movable Property Agreement, no decisions were taken either in respect of immovable evacuee property, both rural and urban, or the more important items of movable property. Before the discussions concluded, the representatives of the two Governments agreed that the talks should be resumed in September 1953. Subsequently, when the two Prime Ministers met again at Delhi in August, they reviewed the progress of talks at Karachi, and in the joint Press Communiqué issued after their meeting on August 20, 1953 the hope was expressed that a meeting of the representatives of the two Governments would be held within a month for a further consideration of the problem.

While ratifying the decisions taken at Karachi, the Government of India in a letter dated September 4, 1953, formally extended an invitation to the Pakistan Government to resume discussions at Delhi some time in the third week of September 1953. No reply was received to this invitation. About a dozen reminders were sent thereafter, but our repeated suggestions for a meeting drew no response from the Pakistan Government. A communication was eventually received in February this year in which it was suggested that a meeting might be held for a discussion of the unresolved items of the Movable Property Agreement.

As regards discussion on the problem of immovable evacuee property, an objection was raised in this communication against the interim compensation scheme announced by the Government of India last November, and it was alleged that the quasi permanent allotment of urban evacuee property contemplated under the scheme had creat-