

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri R. B. Raut for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

I have to inform the hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Nanabhai Bhatt:

"As I have been pre-occupied with certain fundamental problems of my new village University—Lok Bharati, I shall not be able to attend this session of the Council.

I request, therefore, our worthy Chairman and Members of the Council to grant me leave of absence and oblige."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Nanabhai Bhatt for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

#### PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

##### MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS NOTIFICATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Communications Notification No. 10-A/34-50, dated the 6th September, 1952, together with an explanatory note, under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934. [Placed in Library, see No. S-151/53.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We take up further consideration of the Employees Provident Funds Act.

#### DISCUSSION RE. DISALLOWANCE OF SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

SHRI V. S. SARWATE (Madhya Bharat): Sir, before that begins, may I put one matter before you? During the last session I put a short notice question enquiring whether the contemplated strike and lock-out at Indore could be prevented. The question was disallowed on the ground that the Minister did not agree. I wish to point out that in the Rules there is no doubt provision that if the Minister concerned does not agree, a short notice question should not be allowed, but as you know, Sir, this only gives a discretion to the Minister and generally it is common ground that discretion is always governed by reasonable grounds. It is to be used on reasonable grounds. In this particular case there seem to have been no reasonable grounds because there was sufficient time for the Minister to make enquiries. So I wish to know whether you, Sir, would not interfere in such cases and use your good offices to persuade the Minister to agree in such cases where there are about 7,000 people whose interests are affected and enquiries could have been made very easily and necessary steps could have been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We always do it, Mr. Sarwate. Even when the Minister says that it is not possible for him to answer, we try to persuade him to reconsider. That is the line we adopt with regard to these matters. I don't disallow questions automatically.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Thank you. Do the Ministers give reasons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They do give reasons sometimes.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: May I know.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell you now. Shri Abid Ali.

#### THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953—continued.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Sir, yes-