

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 25th March 1953

The Council met at two of the clock in the afternoon, MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI THAKUR DAS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had a letter from Shri Thakur Das:

"I am suffering from an attack of Thrombosis in throat since 7th February 1953 and am unable to move from the bed and will not be able to attend this Session of the Council of States beginning from 25th March 1953 to 8th May 1953 or any extension thereof."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Thakur Das for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council from the 25th March till the end of the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

RESOLUTION ON PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION RE PEPSU

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Katju to move the Resolution on PEPSU.

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU):

MR. CHAIRMAN, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 4th March 1953 under article 356 of the Constitution, assuming to himself all the functions of the Government of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union",

23 C.S.D.

and, with your permission, I shall add to this Resolution a few consequential points.

"declaring that the powers of the Legislature of the said State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament and making certain incidental and consequential provisions detailed in the said Proclamation."

Sir, I do not propose to make any lengthy speech in commending this Resolution to the approval of the House.

The facts are now well known. They have been discussed on the platform and in the press and are common knowledge. They were discussed at great length at another place some time ago. I should like to make it clear at the very outset, as I have done it already, that this assumption by the President is directed only by one consideration and no other, namely, that the conditions in the States in this Union should be restored to an equilibrium and, secondly, that a general election, whenever it takes place—I hope it will take place as early as possible—(Interruption) is held in an absolutely free atmosphere and that the people of this State have an abundant opportunity of exercising their votes in a free, unfettered and impartial manner without influence of any kind whatsoever from any party in so far as the official machinery can possibly manage it. The House would recollect that in this State there had been some very extraordinary features. The General Elections were completed about the middle of March last year, just twelve months ago and the result was that no party seemed to have a clear majority. If I may say so, in the House of 60 in the State Legislature there probably the only persons who were happy were my friends, the Communists. There were a number of Congressmen, about 26; there were a number of Independents, about 12; there were a number of Akalis, 21 and there were 3 Commu-