

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 5th August 1952

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

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI) : Sir, on behalf of my hon. colleague the Health Minister, I lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegation to the Fifth World Health Assembly held in Geneva in May 1952. [Placed in Library, see No. IV E. O. (27)/52.]

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS BILL, 1952— *concluded.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Further discussion on the motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Council on the 4th August 1952 :

That the Bill to provide for the salaries and allowances of Ministers, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA (Hyderabad) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Bill. Let me inform the House that to my mind the salaries fixed for the Ministers and Deputy Ministers are very inadequate. After all, what will the Ministers and Deputy Ministers get after income-tax has been deducted ? I think they will get Rs. 1,800 and Rs. 1,400 respectively. Does anyone think that it is a high and huge salary ? I say, not at all. The Ministers have to maintain two houses—one at Delhi and one at their own place. Some hon. Members referred to Mahatmaji's suggestion at the Congress Aession at Karachi in 1931 that Ministers must not get more than Rs. 500 a month. If you consider the value of the rupee which prevailed in 1931 and which prevails today, you will agree that today the rupee is worth only four

annas compared to 1931. So, the Ministers will get only Rs. 450 and Rs. 350 on that basis, which is even less than what was suggested by Mahatmaji in 1931. If Mahatmaji were alive today, he would have suggested even a higher salary than what is proposed to be fixed today. After all, the Ministers have to maintain their dignity, prestige, their honour and live a comfortable life. Many of the hon. Members know that some of the managing agents and managing directors of companies get more remuneration than the Ministers get. Some of them get Rs. 5,000 and even Rs. 6,000 a month. It was very good of the Ministers to have voluntarily come forward to forego 25 per cent. of their salaries. We are grateful to them. If they had not done that I would have suggested that they must get at least half of the salaries which the Councillors used to get in the British regime, that is, Rs. 40,000 a year or Rs. 3,333-5-4 per month, a free furnished house and also a free motor car or at least a motor car allowance.

Some hon. Members complained about the inadequate salaries which police constables and third-grade clerks are getting. According to my calculation, they are getting four times what they were getting 20 years ago. I do not mind if the salaries of constables and third-grade clerks are increased. Lastly we must not degrade our Ministers in the eyes of people outside India.

With these words, I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Madras) : Mr. Chairman, I also rise to support this Bill. I am of opinion that the Ministers when they draw their salary should feel that they are above want, that their daily needs are met adequately. As the previous speaker has said, they have to maintain two establishments—one in their own place and one in the city of Delhi. And we know what the cost of living is nowadays. Most of us know how much it costs for a person to live in Delhi. I feel sure that this Rs. 2,250 without