

COUNCIL OF STATES

Monday, 19th May 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Somnath S. P. Dave (Bombay).

Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh (Madhya Pradesh).

Shri Ram Chandra Gupta (Uttar Pradesh).

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I take up the next item, a question of privileges has been raised by Mr. Bimal Comar Ghose. He says :

It appears that under powers conferred on him under Article 118 (2) of the Constitution, the Chairman has modified the practice obtaining in the old Council of State relating to asking of questions by Members to the disadvantage of the rights of such Members.

It is not a question of privilege. The House is a Sovereign body and it will have its own Rules Committee which can consider the whole question. In the meantime, you have the right of putting short notice questions and questions on two days in the week. In the Rules Committee which will be constituted, all these matters can be considered.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): I would like to ask on a point of information, Sir, Rule No. 30 says :

Unless the Chairman otherwise directs, not less than ten clear days' notice of a question shall be given.

This House will be sitting only for a short time and if we are to give ten days' notice, there can be no question being put and no answer being received from the Government. I would therefore request you to change the period from ten days to a shorter period, if possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will consider this question.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH (Madras) : I trust that the Chairman will be pleased to change this ten days' rule and, if that is not possible, he can suspend that rule from operation. Secondly, with regard to oral questions, have we to send oral questions for the week or for the whole session ? That is not clear, Sir. It would be better if this point is clarified. Thirdly, with regard to Resolutions, no non-official day has been allotted. We request that the Chairman may be pleased to consider allotting a day for non-official Resolutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these questions will be considered.

MESSAGES OF GOODWILL FROM FOREIGN PARLIAMENTS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Some messages of goodwill have been received from the Parliaments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The message of goodwill from the Swedish Parliament runs :

On behalf of the Swedish Riksdag we beg to offer our best congratulations on the opening day of the Indian Parliament.

The message from the Danish Parliament runs :

On behalf of the Danish Parliament we send the Parliament of India our warmest congratulations and good wishes for the future of the people of India.

[Mr. Chairman.]

The Norwegian Parliament says :

On occasion of the opening of the first Constitutional Parliament of India the Norwegian Parliament conveys its respectful greetings and hearty wishes for the future of the people of India.

I am sure you would all like me to convey to the respective Parliaments our deep thanks for their kindness in sending the messages.

MOTION OF THANKS ON ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

MR. CHAIRMAN : The next item in the List of Business is the motion on the Address by the President. Diwan Chaman Lall is the mover of the motion.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Punjab): Sir, I beg to move :

That the Members of the Council of States assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th May 1952.

Sir, on such an historic occasion as the meeting of the first Parliament of free and independent India, it was meet and proper that the President of the Republic should indicate the road along which we have been travelling since the arduous days of our bondage when our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, roused the passion of our people for the achievement of freedom, and that freedom, Sir, we have realised now, under these new surroundings here where we formerly received orders from a foreign power but where we today function under the guidance of your most distinguished leadership.

Now, Sir, the President has wisely indicated the various land-marks along this road to which reference has been

made by him. What are those various land-marks ? The first and foremost, as stated by the President, is the question of the unity of India. It is well-known that in the pageant of the history of our country, whenever our nation has been divided, that moment in our history has been a moment of weakness. In fact, division has often destroyed this great and noble and ancient land of ours, but when unity has been observed, it has been a source of strength and greatness for this nation. And it is significant, Sir, that today, after five years of freedom, we can legitimately claim that that particular unity which we have always found in the diversity of the various peoples that inhabit our land is the one basic principle running through our civic life, and that that unity has been achieved in a large measure under the leadership of our two great men, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru.

The second land-mark that has been indicated by the President is that we must not shun but follow the usual democratic processes which have been sanctified now by the holding of a colossal electoral experiment unknown in the history of the world, when a hundred million people or more marched to the polling booths in peace and decided upon the future of their own Government in this country. Now, with that democratic process comes the desire for continued co-operation on the part of everyone in India and, as the President has said, in choosing the methods of co-operation, it is necessary to realise that the means must equally be as righteous as the ends are righteous.

The third land-mark that emerges from the President's speech is that the Government and those who are in charge of the destinies of this nation are fully aware of the fact that they must realise the ideals of social and economic justice and equality. Those are the basic principles and we must strive our level best to develop an economic basis of progress for ourselves in order that we may achieve in