

1859

Minutes of the Seventh meeting of the
Jawaharlal Nehru Portrait Parliamentary
Committee.

The Committee met in the Speaker's Chamber at
15.30 hours on Thursday, the 18th November, 1965.

Present

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| 1. Sardar Hukam Singh | - Chairman |
| 2. Shri Raghunath Singh | - Member |
| 3. Shri H.N. Mukerjee | - Member |
| 4. Shri B.P. Maurya | - Member |
| 5. Shri Mehr Chand Khanna,
Minister of Works &
Housing | - By special
invitation |
| 6. Shri H.V. Kamath | - -do- |
| 7. Shri B. Mishra | - -do- |

Secretariat

- | | |
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| Shri S.L. Shakhder | - Secretary |
| Shri R.P. Kaushik | - Deputy Secretary. |
| Shri M.S. Sunderesan | - Under Secretary |

Ministry of Works & Housing

- | | |
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| Shri R.F. Isar | - Joint Secretary. |
| Shri S.K. Joglekar, | Chief Architect & Town Planner |

At the outset Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, Minister of Works & Housing explained that the Government of India had set up a Committee on installation of statues in Delhi. The Committee consisted of himself as Chairman, three Members of Parliament, Mayor of Delhi, Sr. Vice President of New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi. The Committee had selected many suitable places in Delhi for installation of statues of some National Leaders. Among the selected places, two places - one on the right hand side of Parliament street corresponding to that where Motilal Nehru's statue was installed and the other on the pedestal in the Parliament Library Sector wherefrom Lord Reading's Statue was removed, were proposed to be earmarked for the statues of Lala Lajpat Rai and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad respectively. Since these two places fell within the Parliament House Estate, which was under the jurisdiction of the Speaker, he had come to seek permission of the Speaker before the Committee could submit their proposals to the Government. He made it clear that Government was not going to incur any expenditure on the installation of the statues. Government's intention was only to reserve suitable places in the capital for the statues of various National Leaders. It was then for the public or Institutions and bodies to offer statues of acceptable artistic standard. He disclosed that he had received many suggestions in this behalf and while selecting the names of leaders whose statues are proposed to be installed, he was guided by their national importance.

2. The Speaker said that at present the Committee was concerned only about the statues proposed to be installed in the limited space available in the Parliament House Estate. He also explained that in order to have an overall picture of the suitable places in Parliament House Estate and to facilitate consideration of offers of statues from time to time, he had requested the Minister to furnish us with the plans showing suitable places for statues, busts, etc. in the Parliament House Estate. He had since got these plans. There are 15 places in all - 4 for life-size statues including the one of Motilal Nehru already installed, 3 for decorative type statues including that of Chandra Gupta Maurya already installed and 8 for busts. The Speaker also recalled that some time back he had received an offer of installing one statue of Lala Lajpat Rai in the Parliament House Estate from the Servants of the People's Society. The then Prime Minister and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, who were also consulted had given their consent provided the statue was a good one and a work of merit.

3. The Members felt that they could have no objection in installing the statues of Lala Lajpat Rai and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the Parliament House Estate but they argued that as the space available in the Parliament House Estate was limited to a few statues and busts it would be better not to rush through such an important matter. Some Members felt that ours was a vast country with a long history, culture and heritage. It was, therefore, difficult to make a choice of Leaders whose statues should be installed in the Parliament House Estate. Some Members felt that while selecting the statues for Parliament House Estate priority should be given to great Parliamentarians or those who had long association with Parliament. In this connection among others the names of Vithal Bhai Patel, Bholu Bhai Desai, S. Satyamurthi and Dr. Ambedkar were also mentioned. They felt that the statues in Parliament should give an inspiration about Parliament and its history.

4. Taking into consideration the views expressed by Members, it was decided that consideration on the matter may be postponed till the Committee give a careful thought to it and prepared a list of National Leaders whose statues or busts should be installed in the Parliament House Estate within the framework of the plan indicating the suitable places for the purpose.

The Committee then adjourned at 16.15 hours.