

of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th May, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 ¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (ALIGARH): I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Minutes

12.03 ½ hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASHMUNSI (HAWRA): I beg to lay the minutes of the sittings related to rules of procedures of committee on Public Undertakings (1996-97) and miscellaneous matters.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Third Report

12.03 ¾ hrs.

[English]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (AMRELI): I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Second Report and Minutes

12.04 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (PURI): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (1996-97) and minutes relating thereto.

12.04 ¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Fifty-first and Fifty-second reports

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): I beg to lay the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Departments of Biotechnology and Scientific and Industrial Research, respectively.

12.04 ½ hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: THIRTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): I beg to move:-

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th May, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th May, 1997."

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Madam Chairman, The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has given minutes of next agenda. The minutes reflect that the Govt. do not have any legislative business. The Govt. is wasting its own time as well as the time of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

Madam Chairman, to discuss the policy on sports is good, but we should not make a joke of this House. When

the Parliament session started, it was said that Women's reservation Bill would be introduced in the House. The efforts would be made to pass the Lokpal Bill. After making amendments in the bill, it would be introduced in the House.

No such business have come up in the House. This Session will conclude in two days. What have we done in this Parliament session except passing of the budget? If an account of work done is considered it would be disappointing. It seems that the Govt. is not able to conduct the proceedings of the House properly.

Madam, you know that the demand of separate Uttaranchal has been overdue since 1991. In this regard the Legislative Assembly of U.P. has passed resolutions many times. Earlier, it was said that Presidential rule is going on in U.P., Vidhan Sabha is not constituted. So, no 'step could be taken for separate Uttaranchal State'. Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly is functioning and recently has passed a resolution. That has been sent the Union Govt. Now, the Union Govt. will have to bring a bill under section 3 of the Constitution. Sh. 'Bachi Singh Rawat who is an M.P. from Uttaranchal asked a question on the 6th of May and reply of the Home Minister shows that the Govt. is keeping the matter pending deliberately. The reply of the Home Minister is as under:

[English]

"Necessary action is being taken to refer the Bill for the creation of separate State of Uttarakhand, Uttaranchal to the State Legislature of Uttar Pradesh for expressing its views thereon as required under Article 3 of the Constitution of India. As there are various legal and constitutional formalities involved in that issue, it will not be possible to introduce the Bill in Parliament during this current session which is expiring on the 16th instant."

[Translation]

Madam the people of Uttaranchal are hopeful, their future is in abeyance, development activities has come to a stand still nil and if this Govt. can not bring about a bill carefully how the Govt. would solve other complicated problems of the country. Decision has been taken on the Constitution of Uttaranchal. The motion has been passed by the newly constituted U.P. Legislative Assembly and the Union Govt. have to introduce the bill. Hon'ble Home Minister is not present in the House. He says that we want time. How much time does he want? The demand of separate Uttaranchal is continuing from 1991 and the people ask us as to what are we doing in the Parliament. We have only one answer that we are at the mercy of Jena Sahib.

Madam Chairman, it is a serious problem and our friend of Bihar will also agree with this as to how this House will conduct the legislative business. As, I told that the discussion on the policy on sports is good and the crisis on textile sector should be discussed but what happened about the bills? The Prime Minister has announced to pass the Lokpal Bill. We are ready to pass the bill. All are agree but where is the bill?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MADAN DEV (SILCHAR): All Prime Ministers are saying that.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a serious matter for us. At the moment you are in the Chair, this House can not function like this.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Thirteen days are not sufficient.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Again and again you refer to 13 days.

[Translation]

Madam, You find out some solution of this problem. The sitting of the House may be extended for a day or two if necessary. We want that we go out from here with some achievements, not empty handed. Let us assume that no other business would be transacted in this session except budget. Perhaps, the Prime Minister would come in the evening. Madam, you see that in regard to the reservation for women, Paswan ji has said that a meeting has already been held in this regard and the second meeting would be called. Your new Minister told in the Rajya Sabha yesterday that the bill is likely to be introduced in this session. The ministers are giving contradictory statements. Whether Govt. has made up its mind in this regard or not. The House should be taken into confidence and every thing should be made clear.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (MUKUNDAPURAM): Madam, Chairperson, I fully share the concern expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition on the issue of Uttarakhand. The question of statehood of Uttarakhand is still remaining a distant ray. It is very unfortunate that the Government is not finding time to present the Bill on the statehood issue in this House. When we are discussing some of the issues everyday, sufficient time could also be found out for presenting this Bill. Three times, the State Legislature passed the resolution—in 1991, 1993 and 1996. Never before this has happened that three times a State Assembly had passed resolution demanding the statehood. The Government has also agreed to it.

As said by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the other day that there are certain issues eluding consensus but here is an issue where there is already a consensus. All parties—opposition parties and the ruling parties—in U.P. have unanimously passed the resolution for the statehood of Uttarakhand. Even the Congress party had also included this issue in their manifesto in the last Assembly election.

So, the constitutional obligation is that the Government move a Bill before this Parliament and it is sent to the

[Sh. P.C. Chacko]

State Assembly for eliciting the opinion of the House. So, that should be done. Who is objecting to it and what is standing in the way, we want to know.

I, therefore, request that the Government may come before this House before this Session is over, with the Bill to make the dream of the people of U.P. a reality i.e., Uttarakhand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, only two days back, we raised the issue of reservation for women. We were told that another meeting would be held soon after the hon. Prime Minister comes back from his visit. Now, only two days are left for this Session to be over and we do not know as to when such a meeting will take place and how there could be a consensus on that issue. The United Front Government is committed to bring this Bill and pass it. It was told by the hon. Prime Minister that he would not only bring this Bill but also see that it is passed in this Budget Session itself. Now, only two days are left and nothing is there. We are kept in dark.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister would you like to respond?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, I have also another submission to make.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a Zero Hour going on.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not a Zero Hour. In the Zero Hour also, I have to make some important point ... (Interruptions) We are kept in dark. Even in the Business of the House, this Bill is not included. The Joint Select committee deliberated and presented its Report...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. I am asking the hon. Minister to make a reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is it not coming? What attempts are being made to arrive at a consensus? Even if there is no consensus, whether that Bill will come and the Government will try to get it passed.

Madam, it was also told by the Government that they would bring a Bill on agricultural labourer in this Session. But it has not been brought so far. There are lakhs and lakhs of agricultural labourers in our country who are the most exploited class of our society. In this regard a delegation of all the agricultural labour unions headed by our hon. friend, Comrade Hannan Mollah, who is present in this House, met the Labour Minister. The hon. Labour Minister told them that the Bill was ready.

So, when that Bill is ready, why is it not coming before the House? When that delegation met the hon. Prime Minister, he also told them that the Government was intending to bring the Bill on agricultural labourer, which is long pending...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please allow the Minister to make a reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: As there is a demand from all sections of the House that there should be a comprehensive Bill to protect the rights of lakhs and lakhs of the agricultural labourers, we want to know from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as to when that Bill will come. Please tell us, whether within these two days, it will come or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs want to give a reply?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): On this point of Women's Bill I also want that the Government should bring this forward in this session itself. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the Zero Hour. Let this business be finished first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jenaji, would you like to reply?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jenaji, please, reply.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. Please do not make a noise like this. Please take your seats.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT): A mention has been made about two important Bills; one is regarding the reservation for women and another is regarding the agricultural workers. I have talked to the Prime Minister and everybody knows that every party, every organisation is committed for the reservation of women in the Parliament and the State Assemblies. There cannot be any reason for opposition to that. May I know from the Government what stands in the way of pushing the Bill? If some people object to it, let them object to it. If some people want to oppose it, let them oppose it. But the House has got the right to reflect the opinion of the country on the Women's Bill.

So far as Agricultural Labourer Bill is concerned, I have got some report to suggest that the Bill which has already been prepared has been by and large accepted by all the trade unions of the agricultural workers. There cannot be any reason to delay the introduction of the Bill and the passage of the Bill.

If these things are not done, this House will give a wrong signal to the people and I think the Government would take note of it. I request Shri Jena, when he replies

to it, not to ignore it and give a proper signal to the country.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Madam Chairperson, we are taken aback to see the report of the Business Advisory Committee. At present several parts of our country are drought affected. Kalahandi district in Orissa is reeling under severe famine. People are facing starvation. Epidemics have broken out in many parts of the country but this issue for discussion has not been included in agenda. The Government had assured us that discussion would be held on this issue but it was not included in the agenda. An assurance was given that a Bill regarding electoral reforms would be introduced here but it was not introduced. The Government had given assurance to introduce Bills regarding Lok Pal, Reservation for Women, Creation of separate States for Uttaranchal and Varnanchal but no Bill has been introduced in this regard. It seems that the Government is deliberately ignoring the vital issues. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): Madam Chairperson, I also want to say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given Notice for it?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Government reply first. This is not the Zero Hour. Please resume your seats. Let this business be finished first.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Do you want to have a debate? What is going on in the House? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House cannot go on like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given any notice? Who have given notices are being allowed first.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Before the Parliamentary Affairs Minister replies to it, you cannot take up other business. So, let the Minister give the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing the Members who have given notice to make their point.

Shri Srikanta Jena, would you please reply now?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please first listen to the reply to the points raised by you.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not interested to hear the reply of the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not behave like this.

[Translation]

Please let the Minister reply to your points.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised very important issues. Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am on my legs, you should take your seat. This is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the way to behave? Please sit quiet and bear with me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): We also have to put forth our points ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You have not given any notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep quiet and take your seat. None of you has given notice. I have allowed only those who have given notice. Please sit peacefully.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House cannot go on like this. I am not going to allow it. Please take your seat. Please do not test my patience.

[Translation]

Mr. Minister, please ask your Members to be keep quiet.

(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (GULBARGA): A provision for reservation to women belonging to O.B.Cs should be made in the Women Reservation Bill ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you. You have not given notice. I have allowed him only. Shri Jena, please give your reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (SHAHABAD): Please wind up this matter. There would should be no further discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Madam, the issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition and other senior Members are very vital issues like the Bill on electoral reforms, the Bill to provide for reservation for women, the Agricultural Workers' Bill, the Lok Pal Bill and the Uttarakhand Bill. These are all very important Bills and the Government attaches very serious importance to all these Bills. The time available in our hands is very short.

So far as the Women's Reservation Bill is concerned, the Government held an all party meeting recently. The meeting was inconclusive and there was no unanimity in that meeting. The Government intends to hold another meeting on this Bill tomorrow. I hope, the Government is very sincere to see that there should be a unanimity on this important Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Is it unanimity or consensus? Kindly clarify that.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We will try for unanimity. Even if there is a consensus, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The committee had given certain suggestions. The issue regarding reservation for O.B.C. was also there ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the way to behave? You are not allowing the Ministry to answer here. By preventing him from replying you are showing disregard to the Minister. Please let him reply.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We have seen that when this issue was discussed in this House opinions were expressed not only from this side but from all sections. We want to have a consensus. The Bill has already come to the House. It had gone to the Select Committee. In the Select Committee, unfortunately, there was no unanimity. Therefore, the Government's intention is to see that a message should go not only to the country but to the entire world that this Parliament is unanimous so far as women's participation is concerned.

To bring that issue up to that level, we are trying our best; and for that, we are holding another round of meeting tomorrow itself.

So far as the Agricultural Workers' Bill is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jena, I hope you do something apart from holding meetings!

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I fully share the concern of yours and of the other hon. Members. Accordingly we are trying our best to see that there is consensus. I hope that in tomorrow's meeting there could be a consensus.

So far as the Agricultural Workers' Bill is concerned, the intention of the Government, in the past, has been categorical and the hon. Labour Minister has already said that. Regarding this, different States have put forward their objections. The Government is trying to see that other State Governments do not oppose this Bill; and we are also trying to see that there is consensus.

Electoral reforms is a bigger issue for which the Election Commission has recently called a meeting; and the Government also, in the past, had three rounds of meetings. That is also inconclusive. I agree that we could not hold a meeting during this Session. But during the inter-Session, we will certainly try for another round of meeting so that we can proceed in this matter.

On Uttarakhand, the stand of the Government is very clear. That has been said in the past also. We need to have a consensus on this also. The Prime Minister has categorically said that we will hold a meeting on this issue and we would finalise that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: I have given a privilege notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI): Madam, he has not responded to the Lok Pal Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* I think, the Minister wants to respond to the Lok Pal Bill now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Lok Pal Bill was introduced; it was sent to the Standing Committee; the report of the Standing Committee has come only very recently.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It was submitted four days ago.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The recommendations of the Standing Committee are being examined by the Government; and after the examination, the Government will formulate and will call an all party meeting. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You have said nothing about the Lok Pal Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Would you bring it in the special session of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please raise this issue during the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: During the Inter-Session, we will hold a meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th May, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

12.29 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Zero Hour. Shri Vijay Patel.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain peace in the House and let every body speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Madam, I have given a privilege notice. ... (Interruptions) I have given a privilege notice this morning. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your privilege notice is with the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: What does it mean? ... (Interruptions) The privilege notice gets the highest precedence than all other things. My privilege notice is about a very important matter. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasmunsi, your privilege notice is with the hon. Speaker and it is his under active consideration.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: It is a very serious thing. Let the hon. Speaker decide as to whether it will be accepted or not. But I must be allowed to say why I gave a notice for the privilege motion.

This is a serious matter. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please raise the matter of Privilege after getting permission of Mr. Speaker.

SHRI. P.R. DASMUNSI: When this opportunity will be provided?

[English]

Madam, the practice of the House is that privilege notice gets precedence over other things. I do not understand taking up any other business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You may make your submission

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Madam, I gave the privilege notice today. I would like to make it very clear that the Government, till the last on the issue of Bofors, on many occasions, made a categorical announcement—it was made by this Government, the previous Government headed by Shri Deve Gowda and the earlier Government of Shri Narasimha Rao—about the details to be informed to the House so far as investigations are concerned. The House is on now.

I gave the notice today about how the Director of CBI, day in and day out, being an appropriate agency of the Government who could come and take the House into confidence, has been leaking out news classified and titled as 'top secret' partially to the media and thereby bypassing the Parliament without taking the House into confidence. I would like to say about the observation of the hon. Speaker who gave the ruling on 26th February. The Speaker asked the Minister whether the names were being leaked out or not. Then the Minister said:

"There was a lot of kite flying going on. The newspapers were publishing so many things...

Therefore, the CBI thought it proper to inform the country that these were the entire set of names which they have received."

When asked to specify those names, the Minister added:

"They are before everybody."

Then the Speaker's observation was:

"It is, however, not clear why the CBI took an inconsistent stand and though it proper to disclose the names, which the Parliament, as it turns now, is not entitled to know. This is therefore a serious matter to be taken note of by the Government and appropriate action taken by them under intimation to the House."

This was the Speaker's observation on 26th February on the issue of admissibility of notice of motion under Rule 184 given by Shri Jaswant Singh in this House.

Now, the commitment given by Shri Narasimha Rao was referred by Shri Jaswant Singh again. The commitment