

Copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance sheet of the Department of Communications.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on Accrual Basis) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1994-95 (Hindi and English versions).

(Placed in Library, See No. LT-513/96)

13.05 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

[English]

Standing Committee on Railways

First Report and Minutes

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Railways on 'Budgetary Support to Railways' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

13.05 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests

Thirty-seventh Report

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (JALPAIGURI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirty-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

13.05 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SPEAKER

(i) Constitution of a House Committee to Inquire into Alleged Misconduct of Member

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Shri Ram Naik had given on 26 August, 1996, notice of a motion for constituting a special House Committee to inquire into the alleged misconduct of Shri Sukh Ram, a Member and former Union Minister.

The notice given by Shri Ram Naik rests broadly on two grounds, viz., (i) that the Central Bureau of Investigation recovered huge amount of cash in raids conducted at the residence of Shri Sukh Ram which

according to Shri Naik is presumably unaccounted money (ii) that Shri Sukh Ram failed to intimate the Lok Sabha Secretariat about his foreign visit.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, I caused copies of Shri Ram Naik's notice to be forwarded to Shri Sukh Ram for furnishing his comments for my consideration. I also called for a factual note from the Department of Personnel and Training.

I have since received a factual note from the Department of Personnel and Training intimating that two criminal cases under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the Indian Penal Code have been registered against Shri Sukh Ram and the same are under investigation.

The Department of Personnel and Training have also invited my attention to the observations of the hon. Supreme Court in ISRO Spy Case, SLP (Crl.) No. 942/1995 that interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralise the investigation.

A fax message from Shri Sukh Ram from London has also been received on 11 September, 1996, confirming the receipt of our communication and intimating : "I am still not keeping well and therefore I will be sending my reply in due course of time. Please bear with me."

As regards the observation of the Supreme Court, to which the Department of Personnel and Training have invited our attention that interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralise the investigation, I feel that discussion in the House on any matter may not be termed as interference in investigation. Moreover, as per the well established Parliamentary convention, in criminal cases, the rule of *sub-judice* has application only from the time a charge sheet is filed. That stage has not yet reached in this case.

In view of the gravity of the matter and the far reaching implications it has for the Member as well as for the dignity of this House, I am of the considered opinion that the principles of natural justice should be conformed to and we should not proceed hastily without considering the comments of Shri Sukh Ram. I am, therefore, inclined to keep the matter pending for the present.

(ii) Seating of Breakaway Group of Samata Party

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have another small announcement to make.

Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that on 2 August, 1996, I received a jointly signed letter from Sarvashri Chandra Shekhar, Ram Bahadur Singh and Bhakta Charan Das, Members of Parliament intimating me that at a meeting of Samata Party held on 2nd August, 1996, the said three members had

"unanimously decided to constitute a group representing a faction which has arisen as a result of split in the Samata Party."

The hon. Members had requested me to give recognition to their faction which has arisen as a result of split in the original Samata Party.

I caused a copy of the said letter to be forwarded to Shri George Fernandes, M.P. and Leader of Samata Party in Lok Sabha.

After giving a careful consideration to the matter, particularly in the light of the provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and the Rules made thereunder, I have decided to seat the said three hon. Members separately in Lok Sabha for the purposes of functioning in the House. This breakaway group of Samata party shall be known as Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya).

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, I would like to raise a matter concerning the arrest of two hon. Members of Parliament, namely, Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary and Shri Karia Munda.

[*Translation*]

They were arrested yesterday during a bandh organised in Chhota Nagpur Area for pressing the demand of statehood for the Jharkhand region. The House has not been apprised of the same.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order ? What is the rule you are quoting ? No point of order can be raised like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is for the information of the House ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, two hon. Members have been arrested ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not got any information. I do not remember whether any Member been arrested.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot take cognizance of what is reported in the newspaper. I have no official intimation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is a very important matter ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : How are you going to dispose of the Business. I do not know ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please bear, we have very serious Business to conduct today. Please cooperate with me today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue pertaining to Vananchal. Just as the Prime Minister has made an announcement about creation of Uttarakhand state ... (*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.* Nobody is allowed to speak on this.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record now.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker had given an assurance that I would be allowed to speak on the Vidarbha issue on behalf of Bhartiya Janata Party.

MR. SPEAKER : Which matter are you talking about?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (BHANDARA) : Yesterday it was agreed to.

[*English*]

Yes, Sir. I was given an opportunity yesterday but I could not complete my submission during Zero Hour. I sincerely request you, since I was interrupted and the House was adjourned, I be given an opportunity to speak on this ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. How can a matter be raised everyday.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, This cannot be allowed.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Injustice is being done to the people of Vidharbha. Vidharbha is a backward area.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of injustice. It is a question of business.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Injustice is being done for years together. Hence I would like to make a demand that the notice submitted for formation of a separate state of Vidharbha should be considered seriously. This is a historical issue.

* Not recorded.