

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY FIRST REPORT

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 5.8.2003)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2003/Sravana, 1925 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shri Basudeb Acharia - *Chairman*

Members

2. Shri S. Bangarappa
3. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
4. Shri Ram Rati Bind
5. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
6. Shri Anant Gudhe
7. Shri Babubhai K. Katara
8. Shri P.R. Khunte
9. Shri P.R. Kyndiah
10. Shri G. Mallikarajunappa
11. Shri Sis Ram Ola
12. Shri Shriniwas Patil
13. Shri Sunder Lal Patwa
14. Dr. Bikram Sarkar
15. Shri C. Sreenivasan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri John Joseph - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.C. Ahuja - Joint Secretary
3. Shri Brahm Dutt - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Neera Singh - Under Secretary
5. Shri V.P. Gupta - Committee Officer

THIRTY FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty First Report of the Committee to the House on the following matters:-

- (i) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Ninth Report on representation regarding discrepancy in electricity and water bills in respect of the residence of Shri Manabendra Shah, MP.
- (ii) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Fifteenth Report on the representation regarding flow of rainy water from Railway area into village Palaskhola of district Purulia in West Bengal.
- (iii) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Seventeenth Report on the representation submitted by Shri Harishi Kesh Mondal, Secretary Balrampur Nagrik Committee and others requesting for extension of Railway facilities to improve the Barabhum Railway Station.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Thirty First Report at their sitting held on 31st July, 2003.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
31st July, 2003.
9 Sravana, 1925(Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

CHAPTER - I

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR NINTH REPORT ON REPRESENTATION REGARDING DISCREPANCY IN ELECTRICITY AND WATER BILLS IN RESPECT OF THE RESIDENCE OF SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH, M.P.

1.1 The Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in the Ninth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 24th July, 2001 had dealt with a representation regarding discrepancy in electricity and water bills in respect of the residence of Shri Manabendra Shah, M.P.

1.2. The Committee had made their observations/ recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Home Affairs were requested to implement those recommendations and furnish their action taken notes for the consideration of the Committee.

1.3. The Ministry of Home Affairs furnished their action taken notes in respect of all the recommendations contained in the Report. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies thereto furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

1.4. In paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 of the Ninth Report, the Committee observed as follows:-

The Committee have been informed by the petitioner, Shri Manabendra Shah, M.P., that the electricity and water bills in respect of his residence, 5, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi for the period October, 1996 to September, 1997 including arrears of Rs.47,910/- were received from NDMC. These arrears apparently related to the period for which no bill had been issued by NDMC. Further bills received included the arrears and surcharge on compound basis. In his further letter dated 12 December, 2000, he informed that he had paid the undisputed amount in full but not the disputed amount which had been carried forward by NDMC as arrears after adding surcharge. He therefore, requested to urge NDMC to waive surcharge and dual surcharge and stop adding the surcharge.

(para 3.15)

According to NDMC, as per their Rules, once the payment is not received by the due date, a surcharge is added and it goes on to the next billing cycle. This money, then, gets added with the current bill and then the total is sent as bill to the consumer. In case this is not paid, again a surcharge gets added to the current bill as well as to the past bill. The current bill has a surcharge of 3% and the past bills

have a component of surcharge which is also on the earlier surcharge. The outstanding bill in the name of the petitioner came to Rs.3.22 lakh (February, 2001). At the instance of the Committee, a meeting was held between the Hon'ble member and Chairman, NDMC on 4 April, 2001 to resolve the issue. However, the meeting could not apparently break the deadlock.

(para 3.16)

1.5.. In paragraph 3.17 of the Ninth Report, the Committee recommended as follows:-
“After considering all aspect of the case in detail, the Committee urge the Government to take a sympathetic view. They recommend that in order to settle the issue, at least the surcharge on surcharge should be waived altogether. For the rest of the amount, he may be allowed to make the payment in six monthly installments.”

1.6. The Ministry of Home Affairs in their action taken notes dated 26th April, 2002 submitted that the matter was considered by the New Delhi Municipal Council in its meeting held on 27th March, 2002 and it was decided to permit the Hon'ble Member of Parliament to deposit the outstanding dues in twelve equal monthly instalments. The Council, however, noted that it was not permissible under the relevant tariff structure to waive off the surcharge and the surcharge on surcharge levied in case of delayed payment of dues.

1.7. Meanwhile, the petitioner in his communication dated 23rd April, 2002 informed that he had made the payments of arrears excluding the surcharge on surcharge in six installments along with current dues in the bills. He, however, contended that NDMC in its latest bill had again included arrears amounting to Rs.1,86,597/- which was the disputed amount i.e. surcharge on surcharge.

1.8. After perusing the action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations made by the Committee in its Report, the Committee decided to examine the issue further. Accordingly, the Committee took the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs at their sitting held on 22nd October, 2002.

1.9. During the course of evidence, the Committee desired to know whether the Government of India had taken any steps for waiver of surcharge on surcharge on pending bills. To this, the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs informed that the NDMC had decided some time in August last year (2002) that the tariff structure needed to be revised and an important modification was made.

1.10. Subsequently, in a written note dated 25th June, 2003, the Ministry of Home Affairs have informed that:-

“The New Delhi Municipal Council in its meeting held on 8th August, 2002, inter alia, decided to allow its consumers a rebate of 50% on the outstanding tariff surcharge arrears for the period extending from January, 1997 to November,

2001. The Council had earlier in August, 2001 reduced the monthly rate of surcharge from 3% on compoundable basis to 1.5% on simple rate basis in respect of the domestic consumers.

In pursuance of the aforesaid decisions of the Council, Shri Manabendra Shah, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, was given a rebate of Rs.1,85,251/- by which the amount outstanding against him was reduced to Rs.18,906/-.

The aforesaid outstanding amount of Rs.18,906/- was duly paid by the Hon'ble Member. The New Delhi Municipal Council have further reported that he has since been making payment of current dues on regular basis.

It would, therefore, appear that the grievance of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament stands suitably addressed.”

Observation/Recommendation

1.11. The Committee note with satisfaction that with their intervention, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the New Delhi Municipal Council have redressed the grievances of the petitioner.

CHAPTER-II

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR FIFTEENTH REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION REGARDING FLOW OF RAINY WATER FROM RAILWAY AREA INTO VILLAGE PALASKHOLA OF DISTRICT PURULIA IN WEST BENGAL.

2.1 The Committee on Petitions in their Fifteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) presented to Lok Sabha on 15th April, 2002 had dealt with a representation regarding flow of rainy water from railway area into village Palaskhola of District Purulia in West Bengal.

2.2 The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) were requested to implement those recommendations and furnish their action taken notes for the consideration of the Committee.

2.3 Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies thereto furnished by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

2.4 In paragraph 2.7 of the Report, the Committee had observed as follows:-

“The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry of Railways is going to take up the work to provide a long drain connecting two culverts to facilitate better/quicker drainage of the up stream accumulated rain water from village Palaskhola and complete this work before the onset of monsoon season of 2002. The Committee, desire that the necessary construction work to provide culverts and drain the accumulated water in the railway land should be initiated without any loss of time and completed before the onset of the monsoon season of 2002 as assured.”

2.5 In their action taken note, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated that necessary draining arrangement has been made for free flow of excess rain water from culvert No.1 to culvert No.2.

Observation/Recommendation

2.6 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry of Railways that necessary draining arrangement for free flow of rainy water through the culverts has been made. The Committee are, however, informed by the petitioners that work has not been completed. The Committee, therefore, would like the Railways to

complete the work early and to ensure for proper maintenance of the culverts in future so that Palaskhola village is not affected due to accumulation of rainy water.

CHAPTER - III

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS IN THEIR SEVENTEENTH REPORT (13TH LOK SABHA) ON THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY SHRI HRISHI KESH MONDAL, SECRETARY BALRAMPUR NAGRIK COMMITTEE AND OTHERS REQUESTING FOR EXTENSION OF RAILWAY FACILITIES TO IMPROVE THE BARABHUM RAILWAY STATION.

3.1 The Committee on Petitions, in their Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), presented to Lok Sabha on 20th November, 2002 had dealt with the representation submitted by Shri Hrishikesh Mondal, Secretary, Balrampur Nagrik Committee, Post Office Rangadih, District Purulia, West Bengal and others requesting for extension of railway facilities to improve the Barabhum Railway Station.

3.2. The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Railways were requested to implement these recommendations and furnish their Action Taken Notes for the consideration of the Committee. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Ministry of Railways in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report.

3.3. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on their recommendations.

3.4. In Paragraph No. 3.10 of the Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:-

“ The Committee note that certain amenities required by the passengers from Balrampur area in Purulia district have not been provided by the Railways at the Barabhum Railway Station. In this respect, the petitioners have raised certain demands, viz. raising of the platform level at Barabhum Railway Station; adequate light and water provision at the station; extension of the rain shed on both sides of the platform; construction of waiting rooms, and construction/renovation of the Foot-over-Bridge at the platform which should cover all the side lines at the Station. They have requested to provide these facilities at Barabhum.”

3.5. In their action taken replies, the Ministry of Railways have stated as follows:-

- “1. **Raising of PF level:** The station is having two Nos. of low level (45 cm. height above rail level) platforms which is in accordance with the prescribed norms. Bituminous surface has been provided to improve the platform surface.

2. **Watering & light arrangements:** The station is already electrified. There are 3 Nos. of taps, 1 hand pump and 1 water hut on PF No. 1 and 1 hand pump and 1 water hut on PF No. 2 at this station against the requirement of 4 Nos. of taps in total. The present arrangements are adequate for the current level of passenger traffic (609 per day).
3. **Extension of sheds:** At present 93 sqm. of PF shelters on PF No. 1 and 186 sqm. on PF No. 2 are provided as against the 28 sqm required as per norms.
4. **Construction of waiting room:** This Railway Station is having 150 sqm of waiting hall against the prescribed norms of 63 sqm. There is no need for additional waiting room.
5. **Construction/Renovation of FOB:** The FOB has been recently repaired and is in good condition now. However, both sides of the civil areas of this Station can be connected by FOB, if the State Govt./Local Body sponsors such a proposal.”

3.6. In Paragraph No. 3.11 of the Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:-

“The petitioners have also contended that around ten trains pass through the Barabhum Railway Station without any of them having a stoppage at this Station. More than six lakh residents of Balarampur, Baghmundih, Barabazar, Bardwan and Singbhum areas utilize the Barabhum Railway Station for rail services. This station also provides rail terminus for reaching the Ajodhya Hills and the nearby Hydro Electric Projects. Balarampur is known for lac exports and production. Around 150 units of lac industry exist in Balarampur.

Due to non-extension of railway facility to Barabhum Railway Station, the growth of lac industry has come to a halt. Even the residents of Balarampur area are unable to obtain the medical facilities at Bankura Medical College as direct trains to Bankura from Barabhum Railway Station move only in the morning. Students do not get train facilities to reach Burdwan for attending Burdwan University courses. Other mode of transport between Purulia-Barabhum-Chandil is bus service which is also very scarce. The petitioners have, therefore, requested for stoppage of Purushottam Express at Barabhum Railway Station, extension of Purulia-Howrah Express and Rupasi Bangal-Burdwan-Purulia, MEMU trains to cover Barabhum and introduction of a MEMU train from Tatanagar to Bankura.”

3.7. In their action taken replies, the Ministry of Railways have stated as follows:-

“ 1. Stoppage of 2801/2802 Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express at Barabhum: Barabhum Station is being served by 8 pairs of trains including 4 pairs of Mail/Express trains. These are considered adequate for the level of traffic offering at Barabhum. 2801/2802 Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express is a long-distance super-fast train primarily serving the through passengers. Provision of stoppage of 2801/2802 Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express at Barabhum will create similar demands from other stations of equal or more importance which will be difficult to resist. This will not only decelerate the train but also cause overcrowding therein, which will not be in the overall interests of the through passenger. However, passengers of Barabhum desirous of travelling by abovesaid trains can do so with change over at Purulia, where 422 Chakradharpur-Gomoh passenger connects 2801 Purushottam Express at Purulia on following timings:-

		422
<u>Barabhum</u>	D	0703
Purulia	A	0800
		2801
Purulia	D	0827
New Delhi	A	0440

2. Extension of 8017/8018 Howrah-Purulia Express and 8023/8024 Howrah-Purulia Rupasi Bangla Express upto Barabhum: Extension of 8017/8018 Howrah-Purulia Express, 8023/8024 Howrah-Purulia Rupasi Bangla Express upto Barabhum is not feasible due to operational constraints.

3. Extension of Barddhaman-Purulia MEMU upto Barabhum: Two pairs of MEMU viz. 1 PA/018 and 2 PA/005 Purulia-Asansol-Barddhaman MEMU and 3 PA & 008/4PA & 13 Purulia-Asansol-Barddhaman MEMU are running between Barddhaman and Purulia.

The lie-over of the rake of 1 PA/018 and 2 PA/005 Purulia-Asansol-Barddhaman MEMU at Purulia is only 60 minutes whereas running time between Purulia and Barabhum is 45 minutes in one side. Therefore, it is not possible to extend the above MEMU upto Barabhum by utilising existing lie-over at Purulia.

Further, lie-over of 3 PA & 008/4PA & 013 Purulia-Asansol-Barddhaman MEMU is available to extend this train upto Barabhum but this station has only 4 lines with 2 platforms on looplines. If 3 PA/4PA is extended upto Barabhum it will occupy one of the main lines and the goods trains will have to pass over via loop throughout the night. Therefore, it is operationally not feasible to extend the MEMU upto Barabhum.

4. Introduction of trains from Bankura to Tatanagar: Following connections are available at Adra for the Tata bound passenger of Bankura and vice-versa:

433				466
0830	D	Bankura	A	1450
0945	A	Adra	D.	1350
439				440
1000	D	Adra	A	1150
1335	A	Tata	D.	0825

Introduction of train from Bankura to Tata has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints; besides above introduction is also not commercially viable.”

3.8. In Paragraph No. 3.12 of the Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:-

“ As regards the passenger amenities at Barabhum Railway Station, the Committee are informed by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) that Barabhum is an “E” category station. A 150 sqm. Waiting hall; 279 sqm. Platform shelter; 8 numbers of water taps; 4 numbers of lavatories; 198 seats and low-level platform are presently available in Barabhum Railway Station. The Committee are, however, not fully satisfied by the amenities provided at Barabhum Railway Station. Although as per norms, the Barabhum Station has to be provided with a Rail level platform, the Committee are unhappy to learn that it has been provided with only a low-level platform. The Committee recommend that a thorough review may be carried out regarding the actual requirements of the various amenities of waiting rooms, drinking water, lighting arrangement, etc. at the Barabhum Railway Station. The Committee also recommend that all required passenger amenities at the Barabhum Railway Station may be provided and the platform may be raised to Rail level within two months.”

3.9. In their action taken replies, the Ministry of Railways have stated as follows:-

1. Provision of all required amenities: Stations have been categorised into six (A to F) categories based on the passenger traffic offering and annual earnings therefrom. Barabhum is an ‘E’ category station and all passenger amenities required as per prescribed norms for such category of stations exist at the Barabhum Station. The existing amenities are considered adequate to cater to the present passenger traffic.

2. Raising of platform to rail level in two months: There are 3 standardised heights prescribed for platform levels as given below:

- (i) Rail Level (at level with the rails),
- (ii) Low Level (45 cms above the rail level),
- (iii) High Level (84 cms above the rail level)

As per the norms, rail level platform is to be provided at Barabhum station. However, the higher level of platform, i.e., low level exist at this station. The Committee are hereby informed that Barabhum station is provided with low level platforms which are higher than rail level platforms by around 45 cms.”

Recommendation/Observation

3.10. The Committee have been apprised that passenger amenities are being provided at Barabhum Railway Station as per the category of the Railway Station. The Committee would like the Railways to maintain the facilities like water, sheds, lighting, etc. at the required standard.

3.11. Considering the requirement of large people of the area, the Committee reiterate that there should be a stoppage of Purushotham Express at Barabhum Station.

3.12. The Committee regret to note that Committee’s recommendation for introduction of new trains/links has not been taken by the Railways seriously. They strongly recommend that their recommendations for introduction of new trains including train from Burdwan/Bankura to Tatanagar should be reconsidered with a view to redress the grievances of large public.

3.13. In Paragraph No. 3.13 of the Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:-

“ As regards the construction of Foot-over-Bridge (FOB) covering all side lines at the Barabhum Railway Station, the Committee are informed that Railways do not provide FOBs for crossing the railway tracks, etc. from one side to another. Such FOBs could be constructed, if such works are sponsored by Municipal Bodies/State Government. During the on-the-spot study visit of the Committee to Adra on 7th November, 2001, the petitioners apprised the Committee that the existing Foot-over-Bridge at the Station is damaged. The Committee strongly urge that the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) should examine the condition of the existing Foot-over-Bridge at Barabhum Station and do the needful repair work at the FOB. The Committee also recommend that the State Government of West Bengal should be consulted for the extension of the FOB across the newly constructed sidings at the Barabhum Railway Station and Railways should renovate and extend this FOB with a positive perspective in mind.

3.14. In their action taken replies, the Ministry of Railways have stated as follows:-

- “1. **Renovation of existing FOB:** The FOB of this station has recently been repaired and is now in good condition.
2. **Extension of FOB from outside to outside the station:** Both sides of the civil areas of this station can be connected by the FOB, if the State Government/ Local Body submits a proposal for the same. Railway can execute this work, on deposit work terms, at the cost of State Government or Local Body. The petitioners may like to approach the State Government/Local Body for submitting a proposal for the same.”

Recommendation/Observation

3.15. The Committee note with satisfaction that the FOB at the Barabhum Railway Station has been repaired. As regards extension of the FOB, the Committee desire that instead of waiting for the petitioners to approach the State Government/Local Body for submitting a proposal for the same, the Ministry of Railways should themselves pursue the matter with the State Government/Local Body keeping in view the genuine demand of the petitioners.

3.16. In Paragraph No. 3.14 of the Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:-

“ The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have informed the Committee that Barabhum Station is being served by 8 pairs of trains including 4 pairs of Mail/Express trains. Provision of stoppage of long distance trains such as Puri-New Delhi-Purushottam Express at Barabhum will decelerate the train and cause overcrowding therein. Further, the extension of Purulia bound Express/MEMU trains to Barabhum would be resented by the passengers of Purulia who would be deprived of available originating/terminating facilities. The Committee, however, note that Balarampur is famous for lac production and the Ajodhya Hills of Purulia district which is a tourist attraction is adjacent to Balarampur. The Barabhum Railway Station also provides a railway connection to Ajodhya Hills and its nearby Hydro Electric Projects.

The Committee are, therefore, of the firm view that Barabhum Railway Station should not be isolated from the various train facilities which are available at Purulia Railway Junction. The Committee desire that a fresh survey should be carried out by Railways to assess the number of potential passengers utilising Barabhum Railway Station. The Committee recommend that additional train facilities at Barabhum Railway Station should be provided in the morning as well as evening hours for the benefit of the passengers of Balarampur. The Committee also recommend that the time schedules of stoppage of trains at Barabhum Railway Station should be made convenient for the students going to Burdwan University, the people visiting Bankura Medical College from Barabhum and the

traders/foreigners/tourists coming to Balarampur from Purulia and stoppage of Puri - New Delhi Purushottam Express be provided.”

3.17. In their action taken replies, the Ministry of Railways has stated that all the trains are running on convenient timings. No single train is passing at odd hours. Further, change in timings of trains is not feasible due to additional constraints as well as this will be resented by the passengers or existing users for whom the trains are providing convenient service.

Observation/Recommendation

3.18. The Committee would like the Railways to consider the requests for change in timings, if suggestions are received from local people/passenger associations, etc.

NEW DELHI;

July 31, 2003
Sravana 9, 1925 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman
Committee on Petitions
Lok Sabha

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) HELD ON 22nd OCTOBER, 2002 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'E', BASEMENT, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1630 hours.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
3. Shri P.R. Kyndiah
4. Shri C.Sreenivasan
5. Shri Sis Ram Ola
6. Shri Anant Gudhe

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri C.S. Joon - Deputy Secretary
2. Shri J.S.Chauhan - Under Secretary
3. Smt. Neera Singh - Assistant Director

WITNESSES

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
AND NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

1. Shri P.K. Jalali - Joint Secretary, MHA.
2. Shri Subhash Sharma - Chairman, NDMC.
3. Shri G.S. Meena - Director (Commercial), NDMC.

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**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS**

1. Shri D.C. Gupta - Secretary (Banking)
2. Shri Vinod Dhall - Secretary (Company Affairs)
3. Shri Shekhar Agarwal - Joint Secretary
4. Dr. (Smt.) Sheela Bhide - Joint Secretary
5. Shri Alok Kumar - Director
6. Smt. Mukta Nidhi Samnotra - Deputy Secretary.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee and invited their attention to the provisions contained in direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on the issues contained in the representation regarding discrepancy in electricity and water bills in respect of the residential premises of Shri Manbendra Shah, M.P.

4. The Committee, thereafter, took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs on the points arising out of the representation requesting for action against companies/Institutions/Individuals whose cheques are dishonoured/bounced by banks due to insufficient balance.

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) HELD ON 31ST JULY, 2003 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'D', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 15.00 hrs to 15.30 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

2. **Shri Ambati Brahmaniah**
3. **Shri Ram Rati Bind**
4. **Shri Bikram Keshari Deo**
5. **Shri Anant Gudhe**
6. **Shri P.R. Khunte**
7. **Dr. Bikram Sarkar**

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Shri R.C. Ahuja | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Brahm Dutt | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Smt. Neera Singh | - | Under Secretary |

3. At the outset, the Committee considered and adopted draft Thirty-first and Thirty-second Reports of the Committee on Petitions with certain minor corrections. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalise the Reports and present the same to the House.

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4. The Committee, thereafter, considered Memorandum No. 47 on the petition against the transfer of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal to Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. The Committee decided to examine the matter and to take the oral – evidence of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The Committee then adjourned.