

12.05½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS**

Fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Fifth Report. (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Privatisation of Basic Telephone Services relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

12.06 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
AND WELFARE**

Third Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the third Report (English and Hindi Versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes" and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.07 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Fifty-second Report

[English]

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad-South) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the functioning of the National Library, Calcutta.

12.08 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS**

Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Reports

[Translation]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy (Hindi and English versions)

each of the Thirty eight and Thirty-nine reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests- (i) on demonstration by Shri P. Raman on 'herbal fuel; and (ii) on the action taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on Committee's ninth report on Demand's for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, respectively.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

12.09 hrs.

**Ban on Collection of Sea Sand and Stone
Quarrying in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I request the Minister of Environment and Forests to make a statement on the problems relating to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has made a specific demand. So, I have asked the hon. Minister to make a statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully apprised and agree to the concern of Hon. Member. We will try our best to wipe out the difficulties and as soon as possible, we will be able to do something about the problems, which are being faced by the people of Andaman and Nicobar, certainly. Hon. Member knows that we had a meeting with them on 29th Oct. 1996, and the officials of Andaman and Nicobar Administration were also present there. As per the decision taken in that meeting, we have already constituted an expert committee on Dec. 5. Father J.C. Saldhana is the Chairman of this Committee. This Committee comprise of the representatives of Central Ground Water Board and Geological Survey of India. We have given 6 weeks time to the committee and I assure that this Committee will submit its report in the stipulated time i.e. by 31 January. It has been clearly indicated to this committee that they should tell us the areas, from which sand can be extracted and from which area permission can be given for extracted/under ground water. As soon as the report of the Committee is received, we will take necessary decision and problems of the people will be solved. I request to the Hon'ble Minister that he should keep the patience for one month i.e. till the report is received and if they desire, they may put their point before the Committee.

So, we have constituted an expert Committee and a least possible minimum time is to be given to them. We will take necessary decision as and when the report is received. We have to see that there will be no adverse effect on environment and the problems of the people may be resolved, as soon as possible. Simultaneously we have to observe that our order may be as per the process of law. We would not like that amendment may be done without any basis or study, as was done in 1994 which may not be found valid by the court. Once due to hurriness. The problem which we are facing today, we do not want to repeat it.

The problem, which the people are facing there is due to issuance of a notification of CRZ in 1991, in which it has been banned to extract Underground Water in any way from coastal area up to 200 metres and water can be extracted from 200 to 500 metre, but extraction should be by manual way i.e. not by using machines. Supreme Court had directed the compliance of all provisions of this notification and for this time was given upto 30th Sep., 96. This problem has come up that when notification was issued in 1991, people did not pay attention towards all practical aspects. Provisions of notification were not followed. Consequently when the Govt. amended the notification in 1994, the Supreme Court rejected it. We had to compliance the order of Supreme Court by the 30th Sept. According to that, CRZ plan had to be passed by each and every State and the Union Territory. We had followed it. But, certain States and U.Ts. like Andaman and Nicobar about which the honourable member is raising the issue, put their problems, get apprised through affidavit to honourable Supreme Court.

That is why, we have constituted an expert Committee and the least possible time is given to them. We will take necessary decision as soon as the report is received. We have to see that there will be no adverse effect on environment and what are the problems of the people may be resolved as soon as possible. Simultaneously, We have to observe that our order may be as per the process of law. We would not like that amendment may be done without any bases or study, as was done in 1994. Which may not be found valid by the court. Once due to hurriness, the problem, which we are facing to day, we do not want to repeat it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, I have to repeat only one thing before you, whether people of that area should not drink water for one months, till committee submit its report. Whether the people may be thrown away in the sea, and by that there will be no expenditure out of the budgetary allocation. After that next year we will say to Planning Commission what is your contribution. What amount of work have you done. It is not so. Whatever

the present circumstances may be, which are in force from September. These have put to many time earlier. Why did the case of Andaman and Nicobar be put before the Supreme Court by the Govt. Perhaps not repeating that we try that, automatically this case may forwarded from that side.

Sir, I want to put before you and get apprise to whole House that Andaman and Nicobar is far flung area, this is a such backward area, where there is no Vidhan Sabha, nothing of that sort. In this Lok Sabha I want to request you as I belong to that area.

The problem, which has arised, you please take some steps to resolve it by which people of Andaman and Nicobar may feel that they are not alone and weak but whole country is with them in this difficulty. I want to request the whole House that what is said about the report we are not agree with that. We don't know when the report will come, when this problem will be resolved as per the recommendations of that report? Whether these islands can survive by that time after stopping all the work we are not ready to accept it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not waste time, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, you agreed to have a full discussion. But the time is not there.

MR. SPEAKER : The time is not there. That is why I have allowed only Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. I think, the whole House is with the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We are very much concerned about their development.

I would like the Government to look into it very seriously. As the hon. Member has suggested, I think, the Government can bring this problem to the notice of the Supreme Court and you take whatever measures that are required. I cannot give you a ready-made suggestion. I think, the Government will know better. Please look into it and not let the people suffer.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one month's time has already been allotted for the finding of this Committee. Till then, there must be some arrangement to see that water supply is given to the people. That direction should go immediately from the Chair. They should not suffer.

MR. SPEAKER : The people are not having drinking water. It is a very serious thing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, let me finish my point in two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you a little later. Is it on the same subject, Andaman?

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is a separate subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : It is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : More or less, depends on how you look at it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I finish my point in two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will certainly come to you. I have called him earlier, Shri Rupchand Pal. Please be brief.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, a very serious incident has taken place at Mumbai where the Editor of a Marathi daily, *Mahanagar*, has been physically assaulted. His face has been blackened. His office has been ransacked by a group of hooligans...*(Interruptions)*

The only fault for which this Editor had been subjected to such torture and humiliation was that his Daily had carried some critical reports about the Shiv Sena Chief. It is nothing but an attack on the freedom of the Press and the Editors' Guild has condemned this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, please allow me to react.

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody heard who said what.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sarpotdar, you do not have to worry. Nobody heard who said what.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Jaswant Singh. Let him make his point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, this is an unfortunate incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

12.19 hrs

RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE
ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT
REGARDING IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S
RULE IN UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, the leader of the opposition Honourable Shri Atal ji raised a point before the question Hour. The High Court has delivered a judgement. We were expecting that considering the constitutional and the political situation in U.P. arising out of the Government's position in the state, till then it would not be clear about the constitutional crisis in U.P., it would not be difficult to state the position of the Government in that State?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, this is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no: you do not have to make noise about that. Please sit down. In today's Agenda, at Item No. 17, there is a Bill for consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : It is not required now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you understand it?

This Bill is before the House. I have received a notice from Mr. Lodha to raise a Constitutional issue, that is when the High Court has quashed the President's Rule, whether the House can Constitutionally take up this Bill.

I will have to go into the provision of the Constitution and also the rules. At the time when this Bill will be before the House I am sure the Government will come out with its version. Let me also go into the provisions of the Constitution. At that stage, I think we will consider this matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Sir, this is your ruling with regard to the Bill only. What about the judgement?

MR. SPEAKER : That is the time when it will come.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : These two questions are not related to each other...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Government should follow your example. You were so prompt in your