

18.11 hrs

RULING BY THE SPEAKER

RE : PRESENTATION OF PAC REPORT

RELATING TO SHORT LEVY OF CUSTOMS DUTY

Title : Ruling of the Speaker regarding presentation of Report of Public Accounts Committee relating to Short Levy of Customs Duty.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware, the Report of the Public Accounts Committee headed by Sardar Buta Singh relating to "Short levy of customs duty due to incorrect classification of goods -- beddings, mattresses etc.", was not listed in today's business of the House. Therefore, it could not be presented to the House.

I have since gone into the relevant records. I find that the Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 30th January, 2004 are yet to be circulated to the Members. Thus, the Minutes remain "Confidential". I would, therefore, not like to go into the proceedings of the Committee at this stage.

As you are all aware, there is divergence of views among the Members of the Committee with regard to the adoption of the Report. The time available at my disposal being very short, it will be neither fair nor feasible to resolve the issue right now. Since the subject matter is very important, I would suggest that the matter may be taken up for consideration again by the PAC of the next Lok Sabha and the valuable work done by the present PAC may be utilised by the succeeding Committee. Under the Rules, there is no bar on the subject matter of the Report in question being taken up by the PAC of the next Lok Sabha.

If you all agree, the matter should be allowed to rest here.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, if you permit, I want to make one submission.

Sir, we bow to your ruling and we ought to. But the only submission that I want to make is that it is not mandatory that till the time the Minutes of the Committee are not circulated, you do not present the Report. It is not like that. The Report to the House can be presented once the Members of the Committee present at the sitting authorise the Chairman to present the Report, lay it on the Table of the House. It can be laid on the Table of the House irrespective of the fact whether the Minutes have been circulated or not.

MR. SPEAKER: I would consider this point also when I go into the details.

Now, the hon. Minister to reply on the discussion under rule 193.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since in the morning I had already taken your permission, I had mentioned that I have laid it on the Table of the House. Now, it is available to the Press, and I am not responsible for it.

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