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Title: Announcement regarding referring to the Committee of Privileges Petition to disqualify a member.

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MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that on 25 January, 2008, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana gave a petition under rule 6 of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 against Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi praying that the member be declared to have incurred disqualification for being member of the House under paragraph 2 (1) (a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for having voluntarily given up membership of his original political party *viz* Indian National Congress.

In terms of Rule 7 (3) of the said Rules, I caused copy of the petition together with its annexures to be forwarded to the respondent and the leader of the Indian National Congress for furnishing comments in the matter.

After going through the comments and having regard to the nature and circumstances of the case, I have, decided to refer the petition to the Committee of Privileges under rule 7 (4) of the said Rules for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to me.