

12.06 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION**

[English]

First Report

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.07 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS**

[English]

Third Report

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.08 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

[English]

**Reported Anchorage of some warships
belonging to the United States
Seventh Fleet off Karachi
Harbour**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Ever since Ramoo-waliaji has started sitting on the seat which used to be occupied by Shri Harikesh Bahadur, his notice for Calling Attention is being admitted. His name always appears in the ballot. Shri Harikesh Bahadur also used to sit on this seat and his notices also used to be admitted.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported anchorage of some warships belonging to the United States Seventh Fleet including the world’s largest aircraft carrier ‘US Enterprise’ off Karachi Harbour”.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the USS Enterprise accompanied by 5 US Naval vessels anchor 5 miles west of Karachi on 15th March, 1986 and departed on 19th March. Pakistan media reports indicated the presence amongst them also of a Nuclear submarine. Other reports indicated 2 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers and another vessel. Nearly 4,500 U.S. military personnel were believed to be on these ships. Government is aware of an agreement between Pakistan and U.S. permitting visits, Naval activities and ports services to each other. This is, perhaps, the large contingent to have visited Pakistan in recent times. The U.S. Ambassador in Delhi had, without giving details, informed us in advance of the visit of these ships.

Our concern about the continuing and significant U.S. military assistance to Pakistan which, in future, is likely to be on more concessional terms, has been conveyed to both the Government at various levels from time to time. We have been consistently against Big-Power presence in our neighbourhood and our stand on the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has been consistent and steadfast. In addition to such Naval visits, we have also taken note of the increasing U.S. assistance to the Pakistan Navy which has no connection with the situation in Afghanistan and reports of facilities in Gawadar and other ports being made available to other countries by Pakistan. In this connection, Hon'ble Members are aware that in a testimony before the Senate Budget Com-