

- (2) A copy of the Registration of Elections (Second Amendment) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1128(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 29th December, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No.LT-5728/88]

12.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS  
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

**Eleventh Report**

[English]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is making a statement. If you shout like this, you cannot hear him. Afterwards don't blame me. If you are interested, listen to the Minister's statement.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): We are very much interested in the Minister's statement.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: BANDH ON 15TH  
MARCH, 1988

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Mr. Buta Singh. (Interruptions) Order, please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: I rise to inform the House about the factual position with regard to Bandh on 15th March. The call for Bandh was given jointly

by some political parties to be observed on 15th March, 1988. This call also coincided with the call for 3-day strike given by some Unions in Central Public Sector Undertakings from 14th March. I am happy to inform the House that in spite of the call given by these parties, life generally in the country was normal on that day.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please.... order. (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH: I am happy to inform the House that in spite of the call given by these parties, life generally in the country was normal on that day except for the States of West Bengal, Kerala and to some extent in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Impact would have been negligible, had the call for strike by the Central Public Sector Undertakings not been given.

State Government offices did not function in West Bengal and Kerala and were partially affected in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to the stand taken by these State Governments. In the remaining States, the attendance of the State Government employees as well as the Central Government employees was normal (Interruptions)...

Kindly listen. You should listen to facts... (Interruptions) Even in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the attendance in some of the Central Government offices was reported to be 40 to 50 per cent. In West Bengal, about 10 to 15 per cent of the Central Government employees attended offices by staying overnight in their offices. Had these State Governments made arrangements for providing adequate public transport facilities, it is more than likely that the attendance in Central Government offices as well as in State Government offices in these States would have been much higher. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please... order.

S. BUTA SINGH: Please listen now; these are the facts. (Interruptions) ..... As the hon. Members might have noticed, life