

13.52½ hrs

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER
Notice from Registrar, Delhi High Court

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that on 2 November, 1995 a notice was received from the Registrar, Delhi High Court requiring me to show cause as to why *rule nisi* be not issued in connection with the Civil Writ Petition No.1569/95 under Articles 226 & 227 of the Constitution of India praying inter-alia for declaring constitution of the committee under section 5(2) of the press Council Act as *ultra vires*.

As per well established practice and convention of the House, I decided not to respond to the notice. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs was requested to take such action as he might deem fit to apprise the High Court of Delhi of the correct constitutional position and the well established conventions of the House.

13.53 hrs.

VACATION OF SEAT BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that under the provisions of clause (1) of Article 158 of the Constitution, the seat of Shrimati Sheila Kaul, Member from Rae Bareilly constituency of Uttar Pradesh has become vacant with effect from 17 November, 1995 consequent upon her assuming the office of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

13.53 ½ hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Fifty-fifth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

13.54 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1995, and the Election

Commission (Charging of Expenses on the Consolidated Fund of India) Bill, 1994. respectively.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri S.B. Chavan to make to statement regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

13.55 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
Re. Jammu and Kashmir

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. Development relating to Jammu & Kashmir during the last one month or so, specially the Government's decision to hold elections to the State Assembly during December, the Prime Minister's Statement of 4th November, the subsequent decision of the Election Commission, and the public interest litigation on this issue filed in the Supreme Court, have been matters of extensive debate in the country. The Government, therefore, felt that it would be timely and appropriate to make a statement on these issues at the earliest opportunity before the Parliament.

Hon'ble Members are aware that the State of Jammu and Kashmir had to be brought under President's Rule over five years ago on 18 July, 1990 in the wake of large scale violence and terrorism unleashed in the State from across the border, which had led to a breakdown of the normal Constitutional and administrative machinery there.

It is apparent from the present debate and discussions during the last few months regarding elections and the other related development in the State, that we have come a long way since then, and there is a visible change and improvement in the overall environment.

The steadfast efforts of the security forces, and increasingly of the local law and order machinery have enabled us to very substantially contain the so-called "militancy", notwithstanding the desperate efforts of the extremist elements, inspired from across the border, to keep violence at a high level, and keep the situation in ferment. I say this with utmost responsibility. Sizeable sections of the local militants have seen through the game of Pakistan and the futility of continuing violent activities, at its behest, upon their own people. During this year alone, over 500 militants have surrendered before the authorities. These aspects of the situation are also clearly visible in the fact that Pakistan is now increasingly resorting to infiltration of its own and other foreign national into the State to try and take direct control of the so-called "insurgency", since the local militancy is clearly on the wane. Sneak attacks against soft targets, abductions and kidnappings, explosions in market places and hit and run attacks by random firing, which do take place