

following Report and Minutes of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(1) Fourth Report on Extraordinarily High Expenditure on Publicity by Public Undertakings.

(2) Minutes of the sitting of the Committee relating to the above Report.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN (Seoni): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.2½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

THIRD REPORT

श्री हरि बिष्णु कामत (हाशगबाद) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस छठी लोकसभा की
राज्य सभिका का तृतीय प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत
करता हूँ।

12.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT BY CHIEF MINISTER OF KARNATAKA TO THE EXERCISE OF POWERS BY C.B.I. IN THE STATE

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): With your permission, Sir, I want to make a statement under rule 377.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Devraj Urs, has withdrawn the

State Government's consent to the exercise of powers by the Central Bureau of Investigation for criminal offences in that State. The consent was given many years back by the State Government. Thus, the Chief Minister has opened up possibility of a potentially explosive conflict with the Centre in another sensitive areas. There are reports that some other State Governments will follow in his foot steps. The Andhra Government has also withdrawn its consent. Thus, the CBI will not be able to operate in many parts of the country and thus it may pose a serious problem for the Centre.

The background for the withdrawal of the consent by the Chief Minister is that the Central Government in exercise of its powers appointed the Grover Commission last year to look into the charges of corruption and nepotism against Mr. Devraj Urs. The Commission found him guilty on four counts. It is stated that another list of charges of corruption etc. was submitted to the Grover Commission after the dismissal of the Karnataka Ministry headed by Mr Urs. The Commission is supposed to look into all these charges. By withdrawing the consent, the Chief Minister wanted the Centre to drop further proceedings against him on the plea that the people of Karnataka had given him a fresh mandate. But the Central Government has refused to agree with him. The Central Government rightly feels that any person, whosoever he may be small or big, must be punished if he has indulged in corrupt practices as everybody is equal in the eye of the law.

The Karnataka Chief Minister has refused to accept this principle and he has now retaliated by striking at the C.B.I. operation at Karnataka. The news that the Commission has been facing hostile demonstrations have also appeared in the press. This action of the Chief Minister is a crude attempt to save himself from the clutches of the Commission. If he is

innocent, he should be ready to face the Commission boldly. It happened many times in the past that many State Governments had requested the Central Government to give the help of the C.B.I. to investigate serious cases of corruption, bribery, atrocities etc. The withdrawal of the consent will amount to the destruction of a useful instrument like C.B.I. It will also disturb the Centre-State relations. It will create many complicated problems because there are many enemy agents, saboteurs and anti-social elements in all parts of the country and the Central Government is supposed to keep a watch on them. If the Central agencies like C.B.I. are checked by the State Government in this way, a peculiar situation can develop, which may pose a threat to the security of the country. It should also be presumed that the Central agencies like C.B.I. should work in the States, independent of any political influence. The withdrawal of the consent has made the conditions from bad to worse.

I demand that the Home Minister should make a statement on this issue. If the Home Minister wants to say something on this, let him say.

(11) REPORTED DELAY IN SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM BY U.S.A. FOR ATOMIC POWER PLANT AT TARAPUR

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): By your leave, I proceed under rule 377 to make the following statement: There has apparently been inordinate delay on the part of the Government of the United States in arranging for the shipment of enriched uranium needed for our Atomic Power Plant at Tarapur. There are also two statements made by the Minister of External Affairs in Lok Sabha, one on 23rd of February, 1978 that "President Carter in one of his communications to our Prime Minister, has reiterated his hope that India would see its way to accepting the comprehensive international safeguards on all of its nuclear activities," and secondly by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs on

the 2nd of March, 1978 that "Government are at present studying the legislation, meaning, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Bill passed by the U. S. Senate, the legislation in the context of its implications of Indo-US Nuclear cooperation."

The Government would do well to take the House into confidence with regard to the exact position today on this matter.

(iii) REPORTED DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN MANIPUR

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Speaker, under rule 377, I would like to raise a matter of public importance. Severe draught condition all over the State of Manipur has caused indescribable hardship to the people of Manipur. Rains are late this year. Usually the monsoon starts in March. This year upto this time of April, there is no rain. In that region, there is no big river. All the small rivers originate in the hills surrounding the Manipur Valley. They are all rainfed. Dry season started from the month of December. Owing to the unique topographic condition of the region flood and drought follow each other quickly. Every day is precious. All the sources of water in the hill areas well as in the Valley have dried up. The State Government, the Municipal Board and all such bodies are addressing themselves to the task of emergency water supply spending huge amounts of money every day. May I request the Government of India and Agriculture Minister to rush to the rescue of the people in this plight? It is time that permanent measures be taken to avoid such situations in the future by digging sufficient number of tanks in the Valley and by creating more catchment areas near foothills in the northern portion of the Valley from which the Valley acutely slopes down towards the south. The forest department also should see that indiscriminate destruction of forests for firewood or shifting cultivation be stopped to ensure rainfall throughout the year.