

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I have already said that all relief will be channelised through the State Government. As and when they ask for help we are ready to extend it to the maximum extent possible.

the Committee vice Sarvashri Sheo Narain and Jagdambi Prasad Yadav ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers of State".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

15.32 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SIXTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

"That the members of this House to proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Sarvashri Sheo Narain and Jagdambi Prasad Yadav ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers of State".

The motion was adopted

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTH REPORT

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN (Sconi) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Committee on private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The process of election will be notified in the Bulletin.

15.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ELEVENTH REPORT

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on paragraphs 11113 to 11117, Railway Operations and Earnings included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75, Union Government (Railways).

(i) RECENT CBI RAIDS ON OFFICES OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN PUNJAB

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : I raise an important matter under Rule 377 regarding the Vigilance and CBI raids on our Party Office. During the last two or three months the treatment meted out by the so-called Janta Party to political institutions is such that the people of this country hang down their heads in shame. The deplorable functioning of the Janta Party and its political witch-hunting cannot be exonerated. By according such treatment to political institutions, they are making a mockery of democracy. The like of the recent raids on our political Party office is not known in the annals of history....

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki) : I beg to move:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : My Party Offices have been raided no less than five hundred times.

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of

श्री उपर्युक्त: देवरिया मध्यम महोदय, जब हम लोग सीसा में कैद थे, हमारी पार्टी का दफ्तर पुलिस ने गिरा दिया, जो आज तक नहीं बना।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt: he has been allowed to make a submission under Rule 377. Don't turn it into a discussion.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is unconstitutional and against the interests of the people and subservient to warring elements. Only when a Party is banned can the Government make a raid and, of course, some Parties which were detrimental to the country were banned and their offices were raided by the Congress Government. Ever since the Janata Government has come to power, it has been boasting about the restoration of democratic rights, has been worshipping all along the civil liberties and constitutional guarantees and has been propagating respect for political institutions and democratic institutions. They have been saying that they are very much interested in the development and protection of these institutions. But is it the way of protecting political institutions? Recently, the Punjab Vigilance Department have raided the PCC offices. It appeared in the Hindustan Times on 28th August, 1977:

"The Punjab Vigilance Department today raided the Punjab Congress Bhawan herein search of documents relating to the alleged collection of funds for various purposes including the construction of the Congress Bhawan".

If today the Janata Party decide to construct a Janata Bhawan, would anybody agree that their office should be raided for collection of funds? There is no politics involved in my raising the question here. Let all the political parties sit together and discuss this matter and agree on some healthy norms in this respect. But this is not the way to do things. This only shows witch-hunting by the Janata Party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wind up now.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Then, in the Tribune on 28th August, 1977, it has been stated:

"Mr. Mohinder Singh Gill, President of the Punjab Congress has protested to the President and the Prime Minister against the police raid on the Pradesh Congress Office in Chandigarh."

Conducting a raid on a political party office without declaring the party unlawful was unheard of in any demo-

cracy. The Congress Government in the past three decades had never ordered a raid on a political party's office, much less the seizure of party records.

The party records were taken away. Not only that, torture chambers were opened very near to the Congress Party office. This was done to harass the Congressmen and denigrate the Party. Shri Morarji Desai has assured, not once but several times, that there would be no political witch-hunting. The Home Minister, however, has been operating in such a clandestine manner and creating an atmosphere where the functioning of a democratic party like the Congress Party is not possible. This is most unfortunate. I want that certain norms should be fixed in this country in regard to this matter. I would request the Government of India and the Prime Minister and I hope they would see that an all-party convention is held for drawing up suitable norms for this purpose and political witch-hunting is avoided for all times to come.

(ii) DREDGING SUB CONTRACT IN BOMBAY HIGH TO AN INDIAN FIRM BY AMERICAN CONTRACTORS.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the whole day we have been discussing things other than economics; I am now bringing out an issue which, I apprehend, would be a big drain on our foreign exchange resources. One American Company, Brown and Root, have been given a contract in Bombay High. I feel—I do not know anything beyond what has been reported—that the contract was given by the earlier regime and the value of the contract was 73 million dollars, which amounts to Rs. 55 crores in terms of Indian rupees. These contractors have given a major portion of the work in the form of a sub-contract to an Indian firm, namely ESSER re-registered in Madras. My question is: if an Indian firm could have done a major part of the contract, then why is it that the business was routed through an American firm? Because on the value of the sub contract that has been given to the Indian firm, the main American contractor will keep a substantial cushion for himself. That money we could have easily prevented from going out of the country in the shape of foreign exchange. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us as to what is the reason. Was a job analysis done properly? Was the project report thoroughly analysed and who are the persons who are in