

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**HUNDRED AND NINETIETH REPORT**

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): I beg to present the Hundred and ninetieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on action taken by government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and forty-sixth Report on some of the paragraphs included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Defence Services)—Departments of Defence and Defence Production.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT**

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M. P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M. P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. MINISTER OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS' RECENT
VISIT TO NEPAL**

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO**

CHAVAN): I visited Nepal from 19th to 22nd January 1976 at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Aryal, the Foreign Minister of Nepal. During the visit, I had an audience with His Majesty the King of Nepal. I had discussions with the Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and other Ministers of His Majesty's Government. I had extensive discussions with the Foreign Minister.

The discussions covered many matters of mutual interest in the bilateral and international fields. The discussions were frank and were held in a friendly atmosphere, so characteristic of the close relations between India and Nepal. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, our relations with Nepal have been fashioned by geography, history and culture. Yet, it is necessary to be vigilant so that no misunderstandings are allowed to be created or built up between us. This can be ensured by a continuous process of a free and frank dialogue at all levels so that there is a clear appreciation of each other's viewpoints, interests and concerns. My discussions with the Foreign Minister of Nepal and his colleagues were guided by the realisation of our inter-dependence and the constant need to review our relationship in the light of contemporary realities. It is a basic tenet of our foreign policy to build enduring relationship of friendly cooperation with our neighbours on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

At present, we have an on-going programme of economic cooperation with Nepal in various fields. During my visit, we discussed the ways and means of expanding the area of cooperation in order to further strengthen our relationship. Among other matters of bilateral interest, we discussed the question of jointly harnessing the vast potential of river waters for the benefit of both the countries in the field of flood control, irrigation and generation of power. There is