

Mr. Speaker: I would like to announce that cyclostyled copies of the Fifth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, which has been just presented to the House, have been placed on the Publications Counter. Members may obtain their copies from there on request.

RE: EXPUNCTION FROM DEBATES

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Bihar): Sir, before we proceed with the next item of business, I would like to submit one thing. In the bulletin that is circulated today we find that on a representation made by the Comptroller and Auditor-General certain references made about him have been expunged from the proceedings by you. I would just like to ask you, without going into the merits of this affair, whether anybody can represent to you for expunging portions of debates long after the actual debates have taken place in the House. This has created certain doubts in the minds of some hon. Members and that is why I have raised this point.

Mr. Speaker: So far as expunging is concerned, I am bound to watch and keep a watch upon what happens in the House. I can take time to expunge certain remarks and I can do so at any time. Any person can also, especially if the remarks are made about certain high dignitaries referred to particularly in the Constitution, bring it to my notice. I can take time to consider such matters. I have done so in this case. The portions that are to be expunged are there in the Notice Office and hon. Members can have a look into them.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is because I looked into them that I am not raising it here as a point of order. I just wanted to know if this is your ruling that anybody can make a representation to you for certain remarks, which have been made on the floor of the House and which have not been objected by you at that time or even subsequently, to be expunged, and it

can be expunged subsequently if a representation has been made.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member will kindly look into the rules again. Particularly, this a high dignitary. I can always exercise that power; of course, it is a question of discretion. If it is long after the debates took place then I will not do so. But immediately after the last session when these remarks were made, this high dignitary wrote to me a letter. I said I will consider the matter after the Parliament re-assembled and after I came back to Delhi. That is how it took time. Therefore, under the rules there is ample power, though I will not do so normally except in exceptional cases where such remarks are made.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I understand that in the House of Commons the normal practice is for the proceedings to be printed almost over-night and made available to the public. Now, for a variety of reasons our proceedings are printed more than a year after the speeches are delivered in the House. On this occasion, Sir, something which was said quite a good few months ago have been gone into by yourself on the representation of a particular officer. I want to know, as a matter of procedure, because this is going to be a sort of a precedent, whether we are going to observe a certain kind of standard to the time question. I have a feeling, Sir, when you are in the Chair, or anybody in the Panel of Chairman is in the Chair, statements are made in the House and in the generality of cases they are statements which do not deserve to be expunged. It is only in some very extraordinary circumstances that the order for expunction comes from you. On this occasion something has happened which is rather extraordinary and that is why I wish you, perhaps in consultation with the Rules Committee of the House, to let us know the real position; what it should be like.

Mr. Speaker: I have explained to the House the position. If it is necessary I will contact the Rules Committee. Our rules as they stand have made a diversion or divergence from the rules practised in the House of Commons. In the House of Commons the whole House has to consider a question of expunction. Here it is not so; power is given to the Speaker to do so there and then. We also very often do so when it is brought to our notice. Sometimes it so happens that we do not recognise it immediately. Then it is brought to the notice of the House. Here, in this case it is the Auditor-General against whom the remarks have been made. He is an important authority and therefore this is an exceptional case. Normally, I would not like to interfere long after the debate is over. If anything is brought to our notice immediately, say a day or two at the most and nothing more than that, it can be considered. Of course, there is again a certain amount of latitude but, at the same time, discretion ought to be exercised. That will be done.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THIRTY-NINTH REPORT**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th August, 1956."

Out of the list of Bills contained in this report, the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill has already been referred to a Joint Committee, and thus it has been disposed of by the House.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th August 1956".

The motion was adopted.

STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL*

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish standards of weights and measures based on the metric system.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish standards of weights and measures based on the metric system".

The motion was adopted.

Shri Kanungo: I introduce the Bill.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): In today's list of business, the second item that has been put down regarding the motion for leave to introduce the Standards of Weights and Measures Bill says: "Also to move that the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: That is wrong.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is not only wrong but it is so wrong that such things should be properly corrected, and notice must be taken about these things and I request the Chair to see that such errors are not repeated. It has misled us in such a manner that we did not know whether this Bill was introduced or not and if it had been introduced at what stage it was.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is not responsible for this error nor am I responsible. After the motion for leave to introduce the Bill is passed, the Bill must be introduced first. I was myself wondering how, "Also to move that the Bill be passed" was put in. There are other stages which have to be covered in between. I should think that the typist, instead of typing "Also to introduce the Bill", put it as "Also to move that the Bill be passed". I am sure this is one of the rare cases when such mistakes occur. Similar mistakes have never been committed. I shall see to it.