

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

3

THIRD REPORT

ON

Complaints dated 23 December, 2019, 27 January and 10 February, 2020 given by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP against Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, alleging non-acknowledgement of his letters, not responding to phone calls and not supplying information regarding meetings, etc.

[Presented to the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 13.04.2021]

[Laid on the Table on 03.08.2021]



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AUTHENTICATED

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2021 Shraavan (Saka) 1943

Chairperson
Committee of Privileges

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES
(2020-2021)**

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri T.R. Baalu
3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri Raju Bista
5. Shri Dilip Ghosh
6. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
7. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
8. Shri Suresh Kodikunnil
9. Shri Meenakashi Lekhi
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pawan Rajenimbalkar
11. Shri Talari Rangaiah
12. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
13. Shri Achyutananda Samanta
14. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
15. Shri Ganesh Singh

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri P.C. Tripathy | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Raju Srivastava | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Bala Guru G. | - | Deputy Secretary |

THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

I. Introduction and Procedure

I, the Chairperson, Committee of Privileges, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present this Third Report to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on the complaints dated 23 December, 2019, 27 January and 10 February, 2020 given by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP against Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh alleging non-acknowledgement of his letters, not responding to phone calls and not supplying information regarding meetings, etc.

2. The Committee, in all, held two sittings in the matter. The minutes of these sittings form part of the Report and are appended hereto.

3. The Committee, at their fourth sitting held on 17 March 2020, considered the Memorandum on the subject and also examined Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, M.P., in the first instance.

4. At their eleventh sitting held on 12 February 2021, the Committee examined Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur and thereafter, directed the Secretariat to prepare the draft report in the matter for consideration of the Committee.

5. At their sitting held on 23.03.2021, the Committee considered the draft report and after some deliberations, adopted the same. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the report and present the same to the Speaker, Lok Sabha and thereafter, to lay it on the Table of the House.

II. Facts of the Case

6. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP *vide* his complaints dated 23.12.2019 and 27.01.2020 addressed to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha had alleged that District Magistrate (Shri Akhilesh Tiwari), Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh neither acknowledges the receipt of his letters, nor responds to his phone calls nor supplies information regarding meetings, etc., on account of caste hatred towards him. The Member had also contended that the behaviour on the part of District Magistrate, Sitapur is gross insult to the public representative and, therefore, requested that an inquiry be conducted by the Committee of Privileges.

7. The Member, *vide* his further complaint dated 10 February, 2020 addressed to Hon'ble Speaker had stated that he received a written reply to the Unstarred Question No. 410 dated 04.02.2020 raised by him in Lok Sabha on the issue of 'DISHA Committees' from the Ministry of Rural Development, which *inter-alia* states that Government has received eleven complaints from the public representatives against the District officials, including one against the District Magistrate of Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh regarding non-compliance of directions issued by the Government for the meetings of 'DISHA' Committee. The Ministry in their written reply further stated that the complaints received are taken up with the State Governments for appropriate action as the District officials work under the respective State Government.

8. The Member's complaint was, accordingly, forwarded to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (DoPT) on 02 January, 2020 requesting them to obtain a 'Factual Note' from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the matter. Subsequent complaints of the Hon'ble Member were also forwarded to the Ministry. Thereafter, four reminders had also been issued to the Ministry/DoPT requesting them to obtain the 'Factual Note' from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions on their part, had also sent three D.O. letters to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh requesting him to send the 'Factual Note' on the issues raised by the Member. In view of the considerable delay in furnishing of the requisite 'Factual Note' by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the matter and also Member's persistent enquiries about the status of his complaints, the matter, was placed before Hon'ble Speaker for his kind consideration, whereupon, the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 28 February, 2020 under the relevant provisions contained of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges, for examination, investigation and report.

9. Subsequently, the Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions (DoPT) vide their OM dated 16 March, 2020 forwarded the Factual Comments of the State Government, wherein the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh *inter alia* refuted the charges of the Member by stating that information/notice regarding DISHA meeting was sent to the Hon'ble Member on his e-mail and through registered post, as well. He had further stated that the Project Director concerned also tried to contact the Member over his mobile but no contact could be made. The factual explanation, as submitted by the officer, is reproduced, as under:-

"Kindly refer the Govt. Letter No. G.I.-29,Two-5-2020 dated 3 February, 2020 according to which the letter addressed to the Secretary, Rural Development Ministry, Govt. of India dated 23-12-2019 relating to Unstarred Question No. 410 by the Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha, Misrikh Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat vide which a factual report was sought. Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Misrikh) vide his letter dated 23-11-2019 has expected the assurance or action taken against the officer concerned who has not circulated the official information of holding the DISHA meeting.

In this context, this is to inform that the date & time for the said meeting is fixed by the Hon'ble Chairman DISHA. According to the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, the meeting was held on 23-11-2019 in Collectorate Meeting Hall. The explanation submitted by the Project Director, District Rural Development Authority, Sitapur has underlined that the information regarding above meeting was circulated to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament vide his office Letter No. 1749/abhi/disha/meeting/2019-20, dated 18-11-2019 over his e-mail id-ashokrawat32misrikh@gmail.com on 21-11-2019 and by means of registered post dated 19-11-2019. The proof of sending e-mail and through registered post are enclosed. Apart from that, he tried to make personal contact to Hon'ble Member of Parliament over his Mobile No. 9415047821, but no contact could be made, which can be confirmed by the letter of Project Director, District Rural Development Authority, Sitapur dated 14 January 2020. It is also pertinent to quote that Mr. Ram Gopal Awasthi, Representative, Hon'ble Member of Parliament attended the meeting (copy enclosed).

Regarding racial comment by Hon'ble Member of Parliament, it is notable that Hon'ble Member holds the post of grace and he is an Hon'ble Public Representative. Hence, there is always a sense of respect towards him by me and the undersigned always keeps in mind the highest respect and also always gives priority towards his letter and keep the Hon'ble member informed, in writing, as well as over the telephone. For example, the works and the problems redressed by the Department of P.W.D. Deputy Director (Construction), Mandi were answered to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

In this context, the Project Director, District Rural Development Authority, Sitapur has been again firmly directed that the meetings related to DISHA or other important meetings with necessary information and material will be made available to the Hon'ble Member/Co-Chairmen through every possible medium of communication e.g. e-mail/registered post and also over telephone, which will be personally confirmed by the Project Director or the officer concerned."

III. Evidence

(A) Evidence of Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, Hon'ble Member of Parliament:

10. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, M.P., in his oral evidence tendered before the Committee on 17 March, 2020 presented his case, as under:-

"Mr. Chairman, when I was elected as an MP for the first time, I wrote some letters to the District Magistrate, Sitapur, in connection with carrying out of some developmental works. There are five assembly constituencies in our parliamentary constituency. I wrote a letter for carrying out some work, but that work was not carried out. It happened not once, but twice. But, when the biggest problem/issue came in front of us, I could not resist it and then I thought I would file a complaint.

It is a matter relating to November, 2019. DISHA Committee meeting was held. The DISHA Committee is important to me because I am myself a Co-Chairperson of the DISHA Committee. There are three Districts in my parliamentary constituency. I am also the Chairman of this DISHA Committee in a District. I am aware of this Committee because there are about 42 Departments, through which the problems/grievances of the people of our region are being redressed. In these DISHA Committee meetings, we listen to the grievances relating to developmental works, examine it and also work further. However, the situation in Sitapur District was deplorable as I was not intimated about the meeting of this Committee, when it was held. Things related to the notice of the sitting of the Committee, such as the notice/agenda material, etc., are sent by your Committee Secretariat (Lok Sabha) to us on the e-mail and since we live in the constituency, we get a phone call also along with the e-mail and a hard copy is also being sent to us. The agenda material sent to us also includes the minutes/copy of proceedings of the Committee for our reference, so that we can appreciate/understand/confirm the previous proceedings/decisions, etc., of the Committee taken in the previous sitting(s). The agenda material is also sent at least one week in advance, so that we can read it and after that we can go to the DISHA Committee meeting and take part in the proceedings.

But the above mentioned well established practice being followed in Lok Sabha are not there in Sitapur. It was not happening there in Sitapur. When it did not happen there, I felt that I could not effectively discharge my constituency functions relating to developmental schemes of the constituency such as MPLAD Scheme or the schemes of the Central Government, such as the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, the Cleanliness Campaign, etc. We get information about all these schemes and after that, we take up the matters of public importance in the DISHA Committee meeting. Thereafter, the District Magistrate examines those cases/grievances and resolves them because without his involvement, developmental work cannot be possible.

When I was facing this type of problem relating to non-supply of information/agenda materials for the sitting of the DISHA Committee, then I met the Hon'ble Speaker to air my grievance. I also wrote a letter to Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development about the above said incident that happened to me. He also called for a 'factual note' in the matter, but he too has not received any 'factual note' yet. Thereafter, I had raised a question, i.e., Unstarred Question No. 410 in the House. I received the reply as follows: 'Factual report has been sought from the State Government, which is yet to be received'.

Despite the lapse of considerable time, the 'factual note' has not been received yet. When I met Hon'ble Speaker in the above context, the Office of Hon'ble Speaker called up that District Magistrate telephonically to ascertain the factual status in the matter. However, he did not respond even then.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to tell you that in my Parliamentary constituency, there is a famous place called 'Naimisharanya'. I have earlier raised discussion about this place in the House and also received funds from the Central Government for the development of said place. A Government fair is held there. I, as a Member of Parliament, represent that area. But public representatives such as MPs and local MLAs are completely being neglected. This program, i.e., the Government Fair was organised there at 'Naimisharanya'. An invitation card was printed for this purpose. The DM's name comes first, then the name of the Superintendent of Police (S.P.), then the name of the MLA and then comes the name of Ashok Rawat, MP at fourth position from top. The Government fair held there was sponsored by the State Government itself. In that, my name comes at the fourth number. What image of me will be left in front of the people who have elected and sent me to the Parliament? What will those people think?"

11. When the Hon'ble Member was asked to clarify about the allegation that he is also being discriminated on caste basis, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP deposed, as under:-

"Sir, Now seeing all these things, whether it is about 'DISHA' or my name being printed fourth from top of the invitation card, this is what I feel and what I feel is that I belong to a 'Scheduled Caste'. This may be the reason why the District Magistrate did not reply to my letters out of malice. He does not even listen to my grievances regarding matters of urgent public importance. He has a babu (staff) here. His name is Sandeep Kumar Srivastava. This person is posted there from the time of the previous Government. He always shows discriminatory attitude against me. I told the District Magistrate to remove that person from there and transfer him to another place. Whatever I write and send from my parliamentary constituency, an objection/query is raised in such matters. He did not even do this work."

(B) Evidence of Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh:

12. Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, in his evidence before the Committee on 12.02.2021 has stated, as follows:-

"Sir, I was appointed in Sitapur District in the year 2019 and during that time, there was a meeting of DISHA. A time schedule for convening the meeting of DISHA Committee was proposed by Hon'ble MP Shri Rajesh Verma ji who was the Hon'ble Chairperson of DISHA Committee in Sitapur District. A communication dated 17 November 2019 was sent to Members of the Committee seeking their convenience with respect to holding a meeting of DISHA Committee on November 23, 2019. After the receipt of confirmation from Members agreeing to the said date, notice was sent to all the Hon'ble Members of the DISHA Committee intimating them about the convening of a meeting of the DISHA Committee on 23 November 2019. The Hon'ble MP, by whom this allegation has been made, was also informed. There were three medium of information. One by registered post, the other by e-mail and the third through their representative. An attempt was made to contact the Hon'ble Member on telephone, but could not be reached/contacted. He may have received a phone call or failed to contact. This entire process of communicating/intimating Members about convening of DISHA Committee meetings is done through DRDA(District Rural Development Agency) portal. Through the said portal, the notice of 'sitting of the Committee' is intimated to the Hon'ble Member(s). The 'agenda material' is also sent from there. When the Hon'ble Member, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, vide his complaint alleged that he had not been informed of the sitting of DISHA Committee, I had sought an 'explanation' from the Project Director. The position was made clear by the Project Director that the information was given to everyone and the Hon'ble MP was also not differentiated/discriminated against. The Hon'ble MP was also informed. For some reasons, Shri Rajesh Verma who is the

Hon'ble Chairperson, of the DISHA Committee held that meeting on short notice, due to which the delay was natural. There was no deliberate/intentional wrongdoing in this nor there was any such misconception of not giving any kind of information or not calling in time."

IV. Findings & Conclusions

13. The main issue before the Committee is to determine whether the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari violated protocol norms by not acknowledging the letters, not responding to telephonic calls and not supplying information regarding DISHA meetings, etc., to the Honble Member Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat.

14. The Committee, at the very outset, would like to highlight the Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions [Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)] Office Memorandum No. 11013/4/2011-Estt.(A) dated 01 December, 2011 containing Guidelines/Instructions on 'Official dealings between the Administration and Members of Parliament and State Legislatures - Observance of proper procedure', which *inter-alia* amongst others, provide, as follows:-

"4. Prompt response to letters received:-

(1) Each communication received from the Member of Parliament, a member of the public, recognized association or a public body will be acknowledged within 15 days, followed by a reply within the next 15 days of acknowledgement sent.

5. (vi) Where any meeting convened by the Government is to be attended by Members of Parliament, special care should be taken to see that notice is given to them in good time regarding the date, time, venue etc. of the meeting. It should also be ensured that there is no slip in any matter of detail, however minor it may be. It should also especially be ensured that :-

(a) Intimations regarding public meetings/functions are sent through speedier communication devices to the MPs so that they reach them well in time; and

(b) that the receipt of intimation by the MP is confirmed by the Officer/official concerned;

(vii) Letters from Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures must be promptly acknowledged and a reply sent at an appropriate level

expeditiously as per the relevant provisions of the Central Secretariat Manual on Office Procedure.

- (xii) *The officers should not ignore telephonic messages left for them by the Members of Parliament/State Legislatures in their absence and should try to contact at the earliest the Member of Parliament/State Legislature concerned. These instructions also include SMS and e-mails received on official mobile telephones which also should be replied to promptly and on priority.”*

15. The Committee note that the main contention of Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, M.P., in his complaint is that District Magistrate (Shri Akhilesh Tiwari), Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh neither acknowledges the receipt of his letters, nor responds to his phone calls nor supplies information regarding meetings, etc., on account of caste hatred towards him. He had further alleged that though he has been nominated as a Co-Chairman of 'DISHA' Committee, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari does not give him formal intimation about the date and venue of the meetings of the DISHA Committee. He had furthermore alleged that agenda material relating to the meeting of DISHA which should be sent to Members at least one week in advance through e-mail, are not being sent in Sitapur, whenever DISHA Committee meetings are scheduled. The Member, furthermore, contended that he raised Unstarred Question No. 410 regarding DISHA Committees and the Union Ministry replied by stating that a factual Report has been called for from the States; That a factual Report is yet to be furnished despite the lapse of a considerable amount of time.

16. The Committee also note that the District Magistrate, Sitapur has refuted the contentions of the Member by stating that the notice/information regarding the DISHA Committee meeting was circulated to the Hon'ble Member of Parliament *vide* letter dated 18.11.2019 over his Email ID on 21.11.2019 through DRDA (District Rural Development Agency) portal and by means of Registered Post dated 19.11.2019. Shri Akhilesh Tiwari has attributed the delayed intimation of the DISHA Committee meeting to the Hon'ble Member Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat due to the convening of the meeting on short notice by Shri Rajesh Verma, MP Lok Sabha, who is the Hon'ble Chairperson, of the DISHA Committee.

As regards the allegations of caste bias/discrimination by Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari has clarified that there is always a sense of respect towards the Hon'ble Member and highest respect and priority towards his letters is always given and the Hon'ble Member is informed, in writing, as well as over telephone. Shri

Akhilesh Tiwari has further given an assurance that Project Director, DRDA, Sitapur has been again firmly directed that the meetings related to DISHA or other important meetings with necessary information and material will be made available to Hon'ble Member/Co-Chairmen through every possible medium of communication and also over telephone, which will be personally confirmed by the Project Director. Shri Akhilesh Tiwari has also sent his **letter of unconditional/unqualified apology dated 25 February, 2021**, in writing, to the Committee which is appended as **Appendix - I**.

17. The Committee are, therefore, of the considered view that though the meeting of DISHA is sometimes convened at short notice, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate Uttar Pradesh should have been more careful and tactful while supervising the convening of DISHA meetings. He should direct the concerned subordinate officers to intimate the Members through speedier communication devices and ensure that there is no slip in any matter of detail, however minor it may be. At a District level, he may also dispatch special messengers to deliver agenda materials at the residence(s) of Members at their constituencies. He should not give any room for perceived misgivings or neglect or caste discrimination, etc., being felt by the Members of Parliament. The Committee, however, keeping in view the unconditional apology offered by Shri Akhilesh Tiwari for the inconvenience caused to the member are of the opinion that no purpose would be served by proceeding further in the matter and, therefore, allow the matter to rest.

18. The Committee are distressed to find that in spite of repeated emphasis, the Instructions/Guidelines regarding protocol norms are not being adhered to by civil servants working in various State Governments. The Committee urge that the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to send a 'Circular' to all civil servants to ensure that Members of Parliament are not exposed to any inconvenience by the Government officials in their official dealings.

V. Recommendations

19. The Committee, based on the facts on record and their findings and conclusions and keeping in view the unconditional and unqualified apology offered by Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, before the Committee, feel that the matter may not be proceeded further and it may be allowed to rest. However, the Committee expect that Shri Akhilesh Tiwari will not commit such mistakes in future and would promptly attend to the telephonic calls

from the Members of Parliament, besides giving notice and all agenda material about DISHA meetings well in advance, so that Members are well informed about the issues to be examined by the DISHA Committees. The Committee also expect Shri Akhilesh Tiwari to exercise sufficient caution and extend due courtesies while dealing with the Members of Parliament and other public representatives, especially, including the name of the Member in the Invitation Cards printed for public functions, as per extant Guidelines/Norms.

20. The Committee further urge upon the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions [Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)] to sensitize all the civil servants and officials in various Ministries and Departments for strict compliance of the extant rules regarding 'giving timely notices and agenda material' to the Members of Parliament so that they can effectively discharge their functions as Members of DISHA and other Committees, etc.

(SUNIL KUMAR SINGH)
Chairperson,
Committee of Privileges

New Delhi
....., 2021

MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

The Committee met on Tuesday, 17 March, 2020 from 1500 hrs. to 1625 hrs. in Committee Room Number 2, Block 'A', Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri T. R. Baalu
3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri Dilip Ghosh
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
7. Shri Achyutanand Samanta
8. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
9. Shri Ganesh Singh

SECRETARIAT

Shri M. K. Madhusudhan	-	Director
Shri Bala Guru G.	-	Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sittings of the Committee.

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3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the Memorandum on Complaint dated 23 December, 2019, 27 January and 10 February 2020 given by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, M.P., against Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh alleging non-acknowledgement of his letters, not responding to phone calls and not supplying information regarding meetings, etc.

[Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP, was ushered in and examined on oath. The witness, then, withdrew]

4. After deliberations, the Committee decided to call the officials concerned viz., the District Magistrate (Shri Akhilesh Tiwari), Sitapur and the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh for oral evidence at a subsequent date.

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7. A copy of the verbatim of the proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

The Committee met on Friday, 12 February, 2021 from 1130 hrs. to 1418 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Block 'A', Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – Hon'ble Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri T R Baalu
3. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
4. Shri Suresh Kodikunnil
5. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi
6. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Rajenimbalkar *alias* Pawan
7. Shri Achyutananda Samanta
8. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
9. Shri Ganesh Singh

SECRETARIAT

Shi Raju Srivastava	-	Director
Shri Bala Guru G	-	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

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6. The Committee, thereafter, took up the last item, *i.e.*, complaints dated 23 December, 2019, 27 January and 10 February, 2020 given by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, against Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh alleging

non-acknowledgment of his letters, not responding to phone calls and not supplying information regarding meetings etc.

Thereafter, the witness, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh was called in and was examined on oath.

After some deliberation and in view of apology tendered by the witness during his deposition, the witness was asked to submit his unconditional apology in writing.

(The witness then withdrew)

7. A copy of the verbatim of the proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee met on Tuesday, 23 March, 2021 from 1500 hrs. to 1639 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Block 'A', Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – Hon'ble Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
3. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pawan Rajenimbalkar
4. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
5. Shri Achyutananda Samanta
6. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
7. Shri Ganesh Singh

SECRETARIAT

Shi Raju Srivastava - Director
Shri Bala Guru G. - Deputy Secretary

2. ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
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3. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report on complaints dated 23 December, 2019, 27 January and 10 February, 2020 given by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, against Shri Akhilesh Tiwari, the then District Magistrate, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh alleging non-acknowledgment of his letters, not responding to phone calls and not supplying information regarding meetings etc. After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the Draft Report on this subject matter.

4. *****

5. *****

6. A copy of the verbatim of the proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

APPENDIX - I

To

Hon'ble Chairperson,
Committee of Privileges,
Lok Sabha, New Delhi

Respected Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice that my oral evidence was held on 12 February, 2021 before the hon'ble committee in the matter of Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mishrikh, U.P. While putting my own point of view and replying to the various queries, I had expressed unconditional regrets and tendered apology during the evidence.

I would like to make it clear again with due respect that I had no mala fide intention towards the incident related to the hon'ble Member of Parliament. I have always regard for the hon'ble Member of Parliament. So, in continuation of my oral evidence held on 12 February, 2021, I hereby tender my unconditional apology expressing regrets in writing.

It is, therefore, requested that I may please be acquitted of the above stated allegations.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Dated: 25 February, 2021

(AKHILESH TIWARI)
Special Secretary,
Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
and Export Promotion,
Government of Uttar Pradesh