

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

THIRD REPORT

DR. BAPU KALDATY (Aurangabad): I beg to present the Third Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

15.25 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SIXTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):

I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th November, 1977, with the corrigendum which has been circulated."

SHRI P. K. DEO: Sir, I would like to submit in this regard that the time allotted for discussion on floods is only two hours. The damage done by floods has been colossal. I most respectfully submit that at least six hours should be allotted for this purpose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th November, 1977, with the corrigendum which has been circulated."

The motion was adopted.

15.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) STATEMENTS MADE BY THE CENTRAL MINISTERS ABOUT CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arko-
nam): S'r, you will agree that the

Centre-State relationship is a delicately balanced one and nothing should be done to disturb it. This is more so when the ruling Party in a State is different from the ruling Party at the Centre. Responsible Central Ministers should bear this in mind when they visit States and should not speak as though the State Governments are Departments administered by them. Nor should they feel free to give unasked-for advice.

The Janata Party, in their election manifesto, proclaimed they would uphold the principle of Federalism if they were returned to power. It would be better if the Janata Ministers keep this assurance in mind and do not do anything to undermine the federal set-up in this country.

Now, Sir, when there was a delicate law and order situation prevailing in Tamilnadu, the Hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare who visited the State at that time said something which would rather aggravate the situation and not soothen it. It is very unfortunate that he should have said so. In connection with the visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi to Tamilnadu, the DMK Party wanted to have a peaceful Black-flag demonstration. They said it would be perfectly peaceful and the Anna DMK Government therefore, in perfect good faith and believing the words of the DMK Leaders, permitted this demonstration to be held in Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Madras. Now, on the very first day, when Mrs. Gandhi visited Madurai, the demonstration was anything but non-violent. It turned very violent and there was a murderous attack on the processionists and, in the words of the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, it was lucky that Mrs. Gandhi escaped with her life. It was a murderous attack pre-planned and aimed at Mrs. Gandhi and her followers. When this happened, the Tamilnadu Government revoked the permission given to the demonstrators because it was proved beyond doubt that they never intended to remain peaceful, and prohibitory orders were imposed in other