

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION

NINTH REPORT

कुमारी ललि बेन बल्लभ चाई पटेल : (मेहतावा)
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अधीनस्थ विधान सम्बन्धी
नमिति का नोवा प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करती हूँ

MR SPEAKER: Shri P. K. Deo to
present a petition.—He is not there.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION
OF REPORT ON THE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE
AGAINST SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI AND
OTHERS

SHRI HITENDRA DESAI (Godhra):
I move the following:—

"That this House do extend by six
months the time for presentation of
the Report of the Committee of
Privileges on the question of privi-
leges against Shrimati Indira
Gandhi and others for alleged
obstruction, intimidation and harass-
ment of certain officials who were
collecting information for answers to
certain questions in Lok Sabha on
Maruti Ltd."

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure
of the House to extend the time?

SHRI KANWARLAL GUPTA (Delhi
Sadar): Sir, this is a very important
thing. To permit another six months'
time is not reasonable. I do not know
why the hon. Member has not ex-
plained as to why he wants six months
more. He must give the reasons. There
must be some reasons for the extension
of time by six months. This is a
serious matter. I think the feelings of
the House are that the privilege case
against Mrs. Gandhi should be settled
this way or that way so that the House
may take any action on that. This is
very urgent. I think when I say this
I represent the voice of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes,
yes.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: So,
Sir, may I request you not to adopt
this motion?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Sir,
I have to give my explanation. The
matter is no. so simple as we want it
to be. Certainly it would be possible
for us to place the report of the Com-
mittee without going into the merit of
it. You should remember that this
Committee of Privileges had to deal
in this matter not only with Mrs.
Gandhi but several others. To finish
the whole work it required the whole
of February and even part of March;
when Lok Sabha resumed we had a
lot of meetings. We could start the
work only when the budget session
started. Even then we had 19 sittings.
We had examined 19 witnesses. We
have still many more witnesses to
examine. I can assure the House that
considering the merits of the case,
there should not be—I should not use
that word—impatience of any kind or
an iota of injustice done.

By this time we have voluminous
documents consisting of about 1,000
pages and we have to go through them.
We have to be positive in regard to
our findings. That takes time. During
the session I repeat that we have
had 19 sittings. And we have to ex-
amine many more documents and
many more witnesses. And some of
the witnesses have to be re-examined
so that justice is done to all concerned.
For that reason, this extension of six
months. It does not mean that we shall
take six months' time.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Why
not you give in next session?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: No. We shall
try our best as we are trying. An
exigency may develop and that is
why we had asked for six months'
time. It does not mean that we shall
not try to finish it before that. We
will try to finish it before that.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH
(Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I
am sorry to say my hon. colleague's
plea is unconvincing.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I suggest that the time be extended only upto the last day of the first week of the next session. That is the time, we are prepared to give. Not more than that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kamath, in these matters, they have been doing a very good work. I have gone through their proceedings. They have done their best. It is not a question of delaying it.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: If they are so good and efficient, they can report by the first week of the next session.

MR. SPEAKER: At the same time, if the House pleases, they must be given at least four months' time. They must have some holidays also.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Three months' months' holidays.

MR. SPEAKER I think four month's time will be sufficient.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If it so happens, we shall be able to submit it before that. There may be certain exigencies. Because of that we had asked for six month's time.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend by four months the time for presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege against Shrimati Indira Gandhi and others for alleged obstruction, intimidation and harassment of certain officials who were collecting information for answers to certain questions in Lok Sabha on Maruti Ltd."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we go to legislative work.

11.07 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1978

AMENDMENT RECOMMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I beg to move:

"(i) that the following amendment recommended by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1978-79, by taken into consideration:

Amendment

Clause 36

That at page 31, lines 1 to 6 be deleted.

(ii) that the recommendation made by Rajya Sabha be rejected."

May I point out to the Hon'ble Members of this House that the suggestion underlying the amendment to the Bill which the Rajya Sabha has recommended to us for consideration is by no means new. Hon'ble Members will recall that similar amendments were moved in this very House at the time of the clause by clause consideration of the Bill. These amendments were extensively discussed and, after due consideration, this Hon'ble House rejected the amendments and passed the Finance Bill. Although it may not, therefore, be necessary for me to offer any detailed comments on the purport and effect of the amendment recommended by the Rajya Sabha, I shall briefly touch upon them.

The amendment seeks to withdraw the Central Excise duties on "Coal" (excluding lignite) and "Coke not elsewhere specified" and "Electricity". In my Budget speech as well as in my subsequent remarks in reply to the debates in this House I had fully spelt out the circumstances in which I had to impose new Central Excise levies on coal and electricity. Briefly stated, the circumstances are that this Government have invested and will