

14.25 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NINETEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): I beg to present the Nineteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

LOKPAL BILL

(i) REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of misconduct against public men and for matters connected therewith.

(ii) EVIDENCE BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I beg to lay on the Table the record of evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of misconduct against public men and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, matters under Rule 377.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Before that, Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: On what?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: On this. I think it is essential to comply with Rules 304 and 305 read with Direction Nos. 92 and 93.

Considering the importance—extraordinary importance—of this Bill, political as well as legislative and administrative, I am sure, the House will agree that there should be punctilious and total observance of the rules 304 and 305 as well as Directions.

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MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You said Direction Nos. 92 and 93.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Read with Direction Nos. 92 and 93. Now, Sir, I am not sure whether Direction No. 92 has been complied with. Rule 304 has been complied with. I submit that Direction Nos. 92 and 93 have only partially been complied with because Direction No. 92 reads as follows:

"Along with the report of the Select/Joint Committee, the following documents shall also be presented to the House, namely:—

(i) the minutes of the various sittings of the Select/Joint Committee;

(ii) Government amendments, if any; and

(iii) other important papers, if any, made available to the members of the Select/Joint Committee and approved by the Chairman of the Committee for presentation to the House."

According to the Order Paper only the Evidence as well as the draft report, the delayed report of this Committee have been presented and not other documents and papers referred to under Direction No. 92(iii).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You want the minutes.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Minutes and other important papers, if any. Direction No. 93(1) (a) states:

"As soon as the report of a Select/Joint Committee is presented to the

House the report together with the following papers shall be printed and circulated to the members of the House...."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That will arise afterwards.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: It will take time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The report has just been presented.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Direction No. 92 has not been complied with.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Sir, all these papers, which are required to be presented to the House are already placed in the Library. So, that has been done. That requirement has been met. So, it is a question of presenting to the House a particular motion in a particular form and, with that, all the concomitants should be taken to have been complied with.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Direction No. 92 says:

"Along with the report....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is what Mr. Mishra said. The papers that have been presented here—along with the report and evidence—include all the papers that are referred to by you. They are all there.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: They should have been mentioned in the order paper. The Order paper seems to be defective.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The order paper might not have detailed them but they are there.

14.31 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 317

(i) CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST SHRI KANTIBHAI DESAI AND SOME MINISTERS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE FORMER HOME MINISTER.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, the credibility and integrity of the Leader of the House, Shri Morarji-bhai Desai, as Prime Minister has been challenged and questioned by the former Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh, who has levelled serious charges of corruption against Shri Kantibhai Desai and other Ministers and charged the Prime Minister for shielding his son. The matter has assumed serious public importance in view of the fact that these grave charges have been levelled by no less a person than the former Home Minister who had access to the secret and important records of the Government. As such, unless all the charges are enquired into and cleared by a suitable authority, the moral authority of the Prime Minister to govern will be in question. It has been reported that several letters were exchanged between the Home Minister and the Prime Minister on the subject of corruption of the latter's son. Extracts of some of the letters have appeared in widely read sections of the Press. The Press reports though incomplete are highly scandalous and extremely damaging to the image of the Prime Minister and his government. It is, therefore, very essential that the people of this country should know the facts of the matter. I would, therefore, appeal to the Prime Minister and the former Home Minister to clarify the position.

I have added one more sentence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not there. You cannot add anything.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have already conveyed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not want anything to be said which is not approved by the Speaker.