

17.17hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EIGHTH REPORT

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

With your permission, I want to refer to another matter concerning the business of the House. In today's agenda paper, it has been put down that after the conclusion of the discussion on the Samachar, we will take up further discussion on the motion regarding railway accidents. Unfortunately, since the time has been taken up in other matters, we may not reach the discussion on the railway accidents. The hon. Minister for Railways is scheduled to visit Kerala tomorrow, and therefore I would crave the indulgence of the House to permit us, to put this discussion on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER I hope the House will agree to it.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Yes

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT

SHRI ASOKE KRISHNA DUTT (Dum Dum) I beg to present the Thirty-fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their Hundred and Eighty-third Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on New Service—New Instrument of Service—Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs).

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

FOURTH AND SIXTH REPORTS

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur) I beg to present the following Reports (English and Hindi versions) of the

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—

(1) Fourth Report regarding Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-ninth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the India Tourism Development Corporation.

(2) Sixth Report on the Ministry of External Affairs—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Ministry of External Affairs and its Subordinate Offices including Indian Missions abroad.

17.22 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY
MEMBER

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH (Guntur) At page 7 of today's Indian Express a report has been published that I along with two others have received Boeing pay-off running into thousands of dollars according to the information given by the Central Bureau of Investigation. It also proceeds to say that the information reportedly relates to foreign accounts held by "these men and money deposited therein from time to time." This is an absolutely false, malicious and defamatory statement without any iota of truth so far as I am concerned. I can state categorically that I have not received any pay-off in this or in any other case. Not only that in fact to the best of my recollection I have not even met at any time in my life any Boeing people or any people remotely connected with them.

I can also state categorically that I have no foreign account whatsoever. Since this allegation is stated to be based on some information obtained by the Central Bureau of Investigation I am raising this matter in the Lok Sabha today under rule 387.

to request the Home Minister to place before the House information, if any obtained by the CBI in regard to this matter. This is a clear case of character assassination and I would request you to kindly ask the Home Minister to make a full statement in the matter.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): This is a very important issue that he has raised. The Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has requested for a statement, and the matter will be sent to the Home Minister.

17.24 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) HAVOC CAUSED BY CYCLONE IN LAKSHADWEEP

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I am sure this House has, by this time, heard the harrowing reports of the plight of the cyclone victims from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

My sympathies go out to them and when I say this, I know what a cyclone can do. I am now here to invite the attention of this House and the Government to the havoc that has been brought about in Lakshadweep.

At the very outset, let me tell the House the better side of the tragedy. In Lakshadweep not a life was lost. This was due to the timely warning and timely action—not from the meteorological department but from our village elders who have watched and learnt to interpret nature. They could and did warn the population of the impending calamity hours in advance, and the population took shelter under strong buildings at high locations.

But that is all about the brighter side. They have survived the cyclone,

but they are left with nothing to survive any more.

The worst hit is an island named Kalpeni—an island with an area of just 625 acres but a population of 4,000. It is an island more than 150 miles away from the mainland and even the nearest island in the group is about 35 miles away.

The entire island was under four feet of sea water. The fresh water wells have been salinated. All the standing crops are gone and nothing may grow for years. Out of 600 homes, 150 are completely destroyed and another 400 need repair. Not a single government office or quarters is without damage.

Out of the two lakh coconut trees, only 25,000 will bear any fruit any more. Nearly one-third of the cattle perished. Out of 1400 goats, only 200 survived. Out of 6,000, only 1,000 poultry are left.

Being an island, the only mode of travel is by boat. Most of the boats have been damaged.

This is the picture of Kalpeni. The 4,000 people are alive but are now captives in an island where nothing can grow. Very few roofs are available and even drinking water is a scarcity.

The other islands in the group also had their share of the fury. At many places, the losses are being assessed. They are not as big as these of Kalpeni, but they are not insignificant either.

Lakshadweep suffers from being small and being away. We are very small—the smallest constituency in this House and mine is a feeble voice.

SOME HON. MEMBER: No, we all support you.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: We are the farthest perhaps from this Capital. And now to those handicaps has been added the fact that our misery has