

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND NINETIETH REPORT

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): I beg to present the Hundred and ninetieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on action taken by government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and forty-sixth Report on some of the paragraphs included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Defence Services)—Departments of Defence and Defence Production.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M. P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M. P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS' RECENT VISIT TO NEPAL

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO

CHAVAN): I visited Nepal from 19th to 22nd January 1976 at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Aryal, the Foreign Minister of Nepal. During the visit, I had an audience with His Majesty the King of Nepal. I had discussions with the Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and other Ministers of His Majesty's Government. I had extensive discussions with the Foreign Minister.

The discussions covered many matters of mutual interest in the bilateral and international fields. The discussions were frank and were held in a friendly atmosphere, so characteristic of the close relations between India and Nepal. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, our relations with Nepal have been fashioned by geography, history and culture. Yet, it is necessary to be vigilant so that no misunderstandings are allowed to be created or built up between us. This can be ensured by a continuous process of a free and frank dialogue at all levels so that there is a clear appreciation of each other's viewpoints, interests and concerns. My discussions with the Foreign Minister of Nepal and his colleagues were guided by the realisation of our inter-dependence and the constant need to review our relationship in the light of contemporary realities. It is a basic tenet of our foreign policy to build enduring relationship of friendly cooperation with our neighbours on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

At present, we have an on-going programme of economic cooperation with Nepal in various fields. During my visit, we discussed the ways and means of expanding the area of cooperation in order to further strengthen our relationship. Among other matters of bilateral interest, we discussed the question of jointly harnessing the vast potential of river waters for the benefit of both the countries in the field of flood control, irrigation and generation of power. There is

much that can be done in this regard. On our side, we re-affirmed our keen desire to proceed expeditiously with the projects such as Devighat and other projects, previously agreed upon and ready for execution. As a result of the talks, we have evolved a joint approach which clearly spells out the priorities to be attached to various projects, the manner and the time frame of their implementation. In particular, I would like to mention that both sides agreed to continue the work on the Karnali Project as under the existing arrangement and to undertake, at the earliest possible, the joint investigation of the Pancheshwar Dam Project and the Rapti Flood Control Project. We also discussed many other matters of concern to either side in a spirit of friendship and understanding.

As members of the Non-Aligned Movement and in view of the Non-Aligned Summit to be held in Colombo this year, we discussed the role of non-aligned nations in the changing world environment and the need for strengthening the movement and safeguarding it against division and dilution of its principles.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, we have been striving to build a structure of durable peace and cooperation in our region. In that context, the stability, peace and progress of our neighbours is very vital for our own stability, peace and progress. Therefore, we are happy to have had the privilege of extending our economic cooperation to Nepal in the past and we will continue to do so to the best of our ability. During my visit, I had an opportunity to get some glimpses of the fine efforts for development of Nepal which are being made under the leadership of His Majesty King Birendra. I am very hopeful that as a result of the discussions, we will be able to take positive steps forward for strengthening our friendly

relations, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Government and people of India and Nepal.

12.12 hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS
(PROTECTION OF PUBLICATION)
REPEAL BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1956."

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): We all know that it is not normal to oppose Government legislation at the introduction stage, but on this occasion, I am constrained to do so because this is a Bill which we shall oppose from A to Z. The reason is that quite gratuitously, Government has come forward with legislation which strikes at the roots of Parliament functioning in an efficient manner and responsively to the needs of the country. Later when the occasion comes, we shall refer to the history which lies behind the principle that parliamentary proceedings should be made known to the people through free reporting in the press. Later we may have occasion to refer to such cases of constitutional law which some people on the Treasury Benches might have heard of, like *Stockdale Vs. Hansard* and *Wason Vs. Waller*, where Lord Cockburn gave his historic judgment, but it is not on that account that at the moment I am opposing the introduction of this Bill.