

REPORT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra)
Sir, I present the First Report (in English and Hindi) of the Ethics Committee.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
(Karnataka): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (Twelfth Lok Sabha).

- (i) First Report on Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1996-97).
- (ii) Second Report on Union Government Appropriation Accounts (1996-97) Telecommunication Services.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Mixing of Naphtha and Plastic in Petrol

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति जी, मैं एक गंभीर मसले की तरफ सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। पिछले कुछ महीनों से पेट्रोल और डीजल में नेफ्था और प्लास्टिक की मिलावट बढ़े जोर से हो रही है। पहले पेट्रोल में मिट्टी का तेल या पानी मिला दिया जाता था। पेट्रोलियम विभाग के पास एक फार्मूला था और डेंसिटी नापकर वह चोरी पकड़ ली जाती थी, लेकिन नेफ्था एक ऐसा पदार्थ है कि उसमें एक मामूली सा इंप्रिडिमेंट "सर्वो" मिला दिया जाता है और वह लगभग पेट्रोल की डेंसिटी का हो जाता है जिसे पकड़ना मुश्किल पड़ रहा है। प्लास्टिक गलाकर पेट्रोल में मिलाया जा रहा है जिस से भयानक दुष्परिणाम निकल रहा है। सभापति जी, दुष्परिणाम यह निकल रहा है कि प्लास्टिक कभी गलता नहीं है और उस का कुछ-न-कुछ तत्व हमेशा बरकरार रहता है। अभी तक तो प्लास्टिक की वजह से जमीन, धरती प्रभावित हुआ करती थी, उस प्लास्टिक से जो फालतू में फेंक दिया जाता था, लेकिन अब प्लास्टिक को इस तरह से इंजन के जरिए जलाकर जो धुआं होता है उससे पर्यावरण भी प्रभावित होने लगा है और यह पर्यावरण को इतना प्रभावित करता है कि जिसकी कल्पना नहीं की जा सकती।

सभापति महोदय, मुझे यह पता लगा है कि दिल्ली और इसके आसपास बड़े पैमाने पर कुछ गिरोह इस कार्य में सक्रिय हैं, जो इस तरह का धंधा कर रहे हैं और जो केवल करोड़ों की मुनाफाखोरी के लिए पता नहीं कितने करोड़ लोगों की सेहत के साथ मजाक कर रहे हैं। हमारा अब भी यही ख्याल है कि पेट्रोलियम विभाग इस गिरोह को चैक करने में असमर्थ है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि जब तक कोई विशेष किस के रसायनिक विशेषज्ञ इस क्षेत्र में आकर इसकी जांच नहीं करते तब तक यह रोग पकड़ में नहीं आ सकता। यह रोग लाइलाज होता जा रहा है। इसलिए मैं सदन की मार्फत सरकार से यह मांग करूंगा कि इसमें जो कोई भी दोषी है, उनको कड़ी से कड़ी सजा देने के लिए नए सिरे से कोई इंतजाम करना चाहिए और पेट्रोलियम विभाग के लिए चाहिए कि इस तरह के रोग, जो कि पर्यावरण और जनार्दिक दोनों का जिसकी वजह से नुकसान होता है, उससे बचाने के लिए कोई ऐसे विशेषज्ञों की टीम जो इसकी खोज करके इस तरह की मिलावट को चैक कर सके, गठित करे।

Delay in calling of Winter Session and reduction in the number of days for the session

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA
(West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will kindly remember that in the last session we had raised an issue on the number of sittings of Parliament. You will also kindly remember that Members belonging to all political parties had expressed a concern over the steady decline in the number of sittings of Parliament and deliberations by Parliament. I do not want to blame the present Government. But the trend that has set in has taken a very ominous turn from bad to worse. My complaint is that Parliament is being side-lined. The number of Parliament sessions is being curtailed. Secondly, it is being made ineffective. When I had raised this issue in the last session, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister was kind enough to state, "I would like to assure you that the points raised in your letter will be kept in view while finalising the programme of Parliament session in future." Therefore, it means that the Government had responded. But the response had not been translated into action. The present

winter session of Parliament had been called nearly 15 days after the normal schedule. The present winter session of Parliament has been convened only for 18 days which includes two days exclusively provided for Private Members. We are left with 16 days only. How much it comes to? When the new Government and the new Prime Minister came to power they have always been talking of democracy and democratic principles. For the current year, the Parliament session had been reduced to 59 days. It is one of the shortest Parliament sessions ever held. Earlier the Parliament used to meet for 100 to 120 days. Of course, that was the dawn of India's Independence. Subsequently it has been reduced. Now it seems the Parliament session had been reduced to merely half. What is the situation? The situation is like this. Our Rajya Sabha is having 35 Government Bills pending. The number of Parliament sittings has been curtailed. The number of Bills pending is 35. In the other House, the number of Bills pending for the current Lok Sabha is eleven. The number of sittings of Parliament is being reduced. The number of Ordinances is on the rise. Perhaps we have one of the shortest sessions of Parliament. We had five Ordinances. Many of these were controversial. The Government have also amended an Ordinance by issuing an additional Ordinance. Sir, the Rajya Sabha is having nearly 1000 Government assurances pending. About 1000 Government assurances are pending. Therefore, the question arises whether Parliament is being sidelined over the years. And at present, it is taking a turn for the worse. Normally, the Budget Sessions used to be for 40 days. After the introduction of the Parliamentary Standing Committees, it was made clear that the Standing Committees were not considered to be a substitute for an open parliamentary deliberation. The Budget Session used to take place for 40 days. This time, the Budget Session has taken place only for 30 days. Why do we feel helpless? The hon. Prime Minister is here. May I say, Sir, with all humility,

that Parliament is the forum for developing a national consensus of which he had been a champion? It is not in a dinner meeting of the leaders of Parliament where you exchange your views. That cannot be found to be suitable for developing a consensus. National consensus can only emerge if the parliamentary form or the parliamentary forum is allowed to be effective, is not interfered with, if its Sessions are not deliberately curtailed. Why do you feel helpless? In the Constitution, there is no provision that makes it obligatory for the Government to have a minimum duration of parliamentary deliberation. Taking advantage of this lacuna in the Constitution, the executive, the Government, the Cabinet, is usurping the powers beyond any limit and taking Parliament for a ride. Why do we feel concerned? We feel concerned because there is a talk of a Presidential form of Government. If there is a talk of a Presidential form of Government, if there is a talk of constituting a Commission for changing the Constitution, there is every reason to feel alarmed. I feel alarmed.

Secondly, the Prime Minister is reported to have said—I do not know if it is so; it is for him to correct—while addressing a meeting of industrialists that despite the *drama-of-democracy*, reforms shall continue. If the parliamentary process is considered to be a drama....

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): I did not say that. (*Interruption*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I stand corrected.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is as simple as that. (*Interruption*).

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): It appeared in the Press.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: An hon. Member of this House, Mr. Ashok Mitra, yesterday, referred to it. I am referring to his speech. If the hon. Prime Minister says he has not said that, I stand corrected.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Is the Parliament Session a drama or is the election result a drama?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I do not know where the drama lies and who the actors are and if it is a tragic drama.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, Mr. Ashok Mitra had made that point in the debate that the House was having yesterday. I am prepared to reply to that point. It is unfortunate that Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, without referring to him, has repeated that. I have the text of the Prime Minister's speech. I will clarify that in the course of my reply to the discussion on the current economic situation.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My point is, Mr. Ashok Mitra referred to it. Hon. Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha was very much present. He never said that it was not said by the Prime Minister. (Interruptions). I am only referring to that. Since the Prime Minister has said that he has not said it, I take it. But my apprehension is still there. My apprehension is still there because of the campaign that has been let loose regarding the Presidential form of Government, regarding a change of the Constitution, amendment to the Constitution. All this is going on. I feel concerned because despite the issue being raised in the House and despite the concern being expressed in different quarters, the Government had called this Session 15 days after the normal schedule and Parliament is being allowed to meet. Parliament can be convened, only if the hon. Prime Minister so advises the President. Therefore, I am constrained to say, if Parliament is not allowed to meet and if Parliament Sessions are curtailed in the way it is being done now, where is democracy allowed to function? Do you believe of a system of parliamentary set-up where Parliament will be ineffective? Only a few months back, a delegation of this House, led by Mr. Chavan, had visited a number of countries

and met a number of Parliamentarians, including the Presiding Officers.

We had met the leaders of different parties of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the leaders of the French Parliament, the Italian Parliament. A very mature and developed parliamentary system operates in those countries. We were given to understand that Parliament in those countries meets almost round the year, at least, for 120 days despite Parliamentary Committees being allowed to function there. Almost all the important political issues are discussed there. It is not to transact Government Legislative Business that the Parliament meets. Of course, that is an important component and a part of the parliamentary programme. But Parliament meets to debate, discuss and deliberate the important Government issues. We did not get that opportunity because Parliament was not in Session. Many things had happened in this country, beginning from Pokhran down to many things. Parliament had met many months after those happenings. But in the developed capitalist countries, in developed Western Democracies, Parliament meets for a longer period of time. As a result, the Parliament becomes the national forum for discussing the national issues and a platform for developing the national consensus. Since the hon. Prime Minister is present here, I would most humbly request him to respond to it and let us know as to what is in store for this august House and the Parliamentary System as well.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta for drawing the attention of this House to an important issue, that is, about the duration of the Session of Parliament. On earlier occasions also, he had brought this subject before the House. Sir, by and large, I agree with him. But my contention is that it is not merely the days, the quality of the business transacted by Parliament is also to be improved substantially. The Prime

Minister is a veteran parliamentarian. It is needless to point out this fact to him. From his own experience he will agree with me that in the first three Lok Sabha, from 1952 to 1967, before the election of the Fourth Lok Sabha, 68 per cent of Parliament's time was devoted to discuss the legislative business and the financial business because Parliament is to act as a watchdog on the Executive in regard to transaction of the financial business. What has happened now? Since the 10th Lok Sabha, only 32 per cent of the time of Parliament today is devoted to discuss legislation and to transact financial business. This fact has been revealed by no less a person than one of the former Speakers of Lok Sabha. We had a Plan where this country spent Rs. 4,34,100 crores in the public sector alone. But in full five years, we did not have the time to discuss either the Approach to the Plan or the full Plan itself. The Winter Session started on 30.11.1998. I think, today, we are in the midst of second week, and we have not transacted any Government Business except one piece of legislation. Very often, we have pointed out that Parliament is not merely a talking shop. It is there to transact Government Business, and if the Government does not come out with legislative proposals, we cannot make our plan properly. From the day one this Session started, I have been suggesting to the Government-side, for God's sake, make proper planning. Some of these Bills are to be passed, and what has happened? Parliament is to transact the Government Business. But we cannot discuss those things in greater detail. In an anxiety, we have to hasten the entire legislative process. It should be avoided. Of course, there are many Members who are senior to me. But I have been in this House from 1969. Normally, we used to meet for 26 weeks. Normally, we used to meet for 26 weeks; 12-13 weeks during the Budget Session, 6 weeks during the monsoon Session and 6 weeks during the winter Session. We used to meet in the first week of November and adjourn before the Christmas eve. On 23rd or

24th, i.e. on the Christmas eve, we used to adjourn. In between, the Parliamentary Committees used to meet.

Sir, most respectfully, I would like to submit that time-schedule should be adhered to. There may be many political events, important events like elections and other things, but those things will go on. I remember—Mr. Prime Minister will agree with me—that when the elections took place in 1978 in six important States, the Parliamentary Budget schedule was not disturbed. He was in the Government. He was Foreign Minister at that time, and Morarji Bhai was the Prime Minister. The Budget Session started from the second week of February. Elections to the provincial assemblies took place in the fourth week of February. I don't know why, this time, the winter Session was delayed, and what the reasons were. Sometimes, the Prime Minister may have a commitment outside the country. One or two days can be adjusted. But there was no reason why, instead of meeting in the first week of November, we began this Session on 30th November. We should not link it with the provincial assembly elections or some other political events. Elections are a part and parcel of the democratic process and we would have a fixed calendar. Many other matured, advanced countries have a fixed calendar. It is true that the President is to summon the House on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. If we have a fixed calendar, then all other programmes can be adjusted according to that fixed calendar. It may be one or two days here and there. Most of the advanced, mature countries having parliamentary democracy have a fixed calendar. They know well in advance as to when their Parliament is going to meet for Budget Session or for monsoon Session or for winter Session. We are having three Sessions. So, I would like to submit that this is a matter to be considered seriously, cutting across party lines, how to strengthen the democratic system, how to make the Parliament more effective,

more careful, more responsible and more responsive to the needs of the people. It is true, Sir, that as the Chairman of the House, you are guiding us on certain issues, but, to my mind, here, it would be better if the Prime Minister takes a little initiative and convenes a meeting in order to see how we can strengthen the democratic system, how we can make it more effective. See the wastage of time. I am sorry to say that we are also contributing to that process. We are spending Rs. 4,267/- per minute of Parliament Session—I am talking of the figure before the enhancement of salaries, allowances and other perks. If one minute is wasted, then we can understand how much money is wasted on adjournments, interruptions, etc. I am not talking of the adjournment motion as such. But if the House cannot transact its business because of disorder, then the cost of that adjournment is really having an effect on the Exchequer. All these issues had been discussed. We had made certain commitments when we completed the Fiftieth Anniversary of Independent India and we should strictly adhere to those commitments which we had made, and one such thing was not to disturb the Parliamentary proceedings in an unseemly manner. It is incumbent on each and every one of us. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government of the day to ensure that the number of days of Parliament Session is not reduced. Both the Ruling Party and the Opposition parties should work together, discuss it in a structured manner and make their best contribution in resolving the issues. Of course, this could be utilised as the highest forum to build a national consensus on contentious issues. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to endorse what was said by Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta and I plead with the Government to consider this very important question. I would also like to add one more important issue. I am sure many of

my colleagues will agree with me. I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to kindly see to it that we in the Rajya Sabha are given proper guidance. I say this with an objective spirit and I hope the Prime Minister will accept it. The Rajya Sabha doesn't have the assistance of a full-time Parliamentary Affairs Minister here. They may have a Minister in the other House about whom I am not talking. Every day normally the Parliamentary Affairs Minister in charge of the Rajya Sabha attends the Chairman's Chamber so that we are able to understand what are the issues that are going to be raised and who are going to raise them, whether a particular Bill is coming or whether some Government business is going to be taken up or whether some voting is going to happen. Now we are completely unaware of such things. Of course, we have the respected Leader of the House who is always willing to help us. He sometimes comes to the Chairman's Chamber. As far as the Rajya Sabha is concerned, I am afraid the Government is not very fair to us because we have not had anyone right from the beginning to sit here permanently. There used to be a Parliamentary Affairs Minister for the Rajya Sabha, who sits here throughout the day, to assist the House in whatever deliberations that are taking place. Today we have nobody. It is as if the Government is not there. Every day when we discuss in the Chairman's Chamber about the issues that we would like to have on the day, there is no Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Therefore, I would like to make a specific request to the Prime Minister to see that somebody is appointed for the Rajya Sabha so that we will be able to understand what the Government business is.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): I deny your statement that from the very beginning there was nobody. I was there in the Rajya Sabha every minute when I held the additional charge of Parliamentary Affairs. How there is another Minister also.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I agree that Mr. Kumar was there. I stand corrected that Mr. Kumar was definitely there. But today we don't have anybody here. (*Interruptions*).... I don't even know who the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is. (*Interruptions*)... I have no idea who the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is because he is never seen here. I don't know who it is. I don't know his name.

Sir, I would like to add my concern to what Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has raised about Government business not being transacted in the House and what he has said about the business of the House being disrupted. During the special session we had all discussed very seriously how we should conduct the House and how we should not allow the House to be disrupted. I would like to make an appeal to the Prime Minister. Let us know what the business that we are going to transact will be. Unfortunately, there is a certain confusion. Again I say this in a very objective spirit. As far as the Parliamentary business is concerned, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister says one thing on television and the Finance Minister says another thing. Take, for example, the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. The Finance Minister says, "No, this is only the agenda for this week". He said so at the World Economic Forum. We are a little confused about what actually the agenda of the Parliament is. We would like them to speak in one voice.

Finally, I would like to request the Prime Minister not only to increase the time of the House but also to take a firm view on the legislations that he is going to bring, with particular reference to the Women's Reservation Bill. Let him take a stand on it. Let the Members discuss it without disruption. If it is the fate of the Bill to be defeated, let it be defeated. Let us not disrupt it. Let us not say that even the Bill should not be discussed. These are the three issues which I want to raise.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I endorse, and associate myself with, the

ideas and views expressed by my colleagues. I hope most of the issues raised by them will be accepted by the whole House. I don't want to repeat what they have stated. The General Purposes Committee is also going to meet on the 9th. We can have a full discussion there. Now I want to deal with whatever issues are left by them. Previously, we had Special Mentions daily. Zero Hour Mentions were also allowed. Now due to time constraints, even if we want to make Special Mentions or Zero Hour Mentions, we are not able to make them. When we give notice of a Special Mention we are able to get the permission only three or four days later. Sometimes the purpose of the Special Mention itself becomes infructuous. It clearly shows that we are having more business but less time. After this globalisation and liberalisation took place, the problems have also increased. There are more problems like the stand taken by the European Union, the issue of patents relating to process to product, etc. These are all issues which are agitating us. We have been unable to deal with that, due to constraint of time. Now people say that the standard of Parliamentary institutions is declining. But the decline has not taken place suddenly. It has declined gradually. When we say that we have been unable to transact the business which ought to have been done, it means we must give more importance to these things and come to some conclusion consensually.

I hope this issue will be taken up seriously by the Treasury Benches and they will take appropriate action. Failing which, I hope, Sir, you will protect us.

Thank you.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I endorse what Shri Gurudas Das Gupta and other Members have said. Therefore, I will not repeat what they have said. I would start with sharing a personnel sorrow with you. I came to Parliament two years ago and it took me a year to settle

down. By the time I settled down, I found that I had no work to do. I was expecting to do a lot, but Parliament was not sitting. Therefore, there was hardly anything that we could do. The Budget Session and the Monsoon Session were compressed together and that, too, for a very short time and very little business could be done. This Session is only for three weeks. As Shri Pranab Mukherjee has said, the winter Session used to start on the first day of November. Now in this session half the time has already gone and no substantial Government Bill has come. Shrimati Jayanti Natarajan has just now mentioned about the Women's Reservation Bill. We were hoping that it would come. The Lokpal Bill has not come. The Agriculture Workers Bill has not come and the Electoral Reforms Bill also has not come. If I remember correctly, the Prasar Bharati Ordinance was issued just two days before the adjournment of the last Session. But the Bill did not come. What I want to say is that the Government, to my mind, is not taking Parliament seriously. There has been a division of work between the executives the legislature and judiciary, mentioned in the Constitution. Parliament must deliberate seriously and thoughtfully on the Bills which have to be passed. There should not only be a fixed calendar for sittings, but there should also be given enough time for the Bills that have to be passed so that we can apply our mind.

Sir, I would request you to take up the matter with the Government so that the days reduced and Parliament can exercise an effective voice; as it should, in a democracy.

Thank you.

श्री रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, माननीय गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, उससे अपने को संबद्ध करते हुए मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि भारत के संविधान निर्माताओं ने जब पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम को एड़ा किया, यह बात दूसरी है कि सरकार के तीनों अंग कार्यपालिका, विधायिका और न्यायपालिका को अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में अधिकार दिए हुए हैं। लेकिन यह भी सर्वमान्य बात है कि संसद या

विधायिका इसमें सबसे ज्यादा ताकतवर हैं जो सही अर्थों में जनता की इच्छा का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, उसको रिफ्लेक्ट करती है। धीरे-धीरे संसद के कार्य दिवसों में कमी आती जा रही है। मुझे यह लगता है कि जाने-अनजाने में हम लोग संसद के महत्व को कम करते चले जा रहे हैं। इसीलिए आए दिन जो दूसरे संस्थान हैं, दूसरे इंस्टीट्यूशन्स हैं वह संसद पर प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप से प्रहार भी करते रहते हैं। कभी-कभी ऐसा लगता है कि जो काम संसद का होना चाहिए वह काम न्यायपालिका या दूसरे अंगों ने अपने हाथ में ले लिया है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां मौजूद हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करें जिससे कि संसद के कार्य दिवस भी बढ़ें और जैसा लोगों को लगता है कि संसद अब पहले जैसी प्रभावी नहीं रही है वह भय भी लोगों के मन से दूर हो जाए। धन्यवाद!

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject which has been raised by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta is an important one. Sir, this House will recall that earlier also, during the last Session, this matter was raised and the same points were emphasised. All of us expressed concern that over the years, there had been a decline in the number of days when Parliament met. But to blame a particular Government and, at the same time, denying that is not the intention, I am afraid, does not reflect so much with the concern over the reduction in the number of sittings, but it is, in a way, some kind of an excuse or a pretext to criticise the Government. I am saying this for the simple reason that this matter was raised not only in this House, but also outside, a number of times. I would like to remind Shri Das Gupta himself that five years, back, the former Home Minister, the Leader of the Party to which he belongs, wrote an article about the working of the Indian Parliament—which is available to all of us—in which he particularly emphasised this aspect. But, Sir, to say that during this year, it has been deliberately done, I think, is not fair to the Government. We cannot ignore the simple fact that two elections took place. There was the General Elections and then there were the Assembly

elections for five States. I do agree with Shri Mukherjee that, necessarily, Assembly elections are not to be linked with the Parliamentary schedule. But one has to keep the realities in view. As we are all aware, during the last Session, many a time, when there were discussions as to when this particular Winter Session should commence—there were discussions on different fora and even the Parliamentary Affairs Minister was there—the leaders of most of the parties felt that it might not be fair to have this Session earlier because of the Assembly elections. Hence the delay. I do not want to go into the discussions on these different fora, but this is the reality of the situation and the fact remains. I would also like to mention, in this connection, that I also agree with Mr. Mukherjee about the quality of the debate and the despatch of business in the Rajya Sabha. This matter has been raised earlier also and you yourself had been good enough to say that this would be discussed through proper devices that we have, namely, the Business Advisory Committee, so on and so forth. You yourself had given a direction to that effect. And I fully agree that if we really devote ourselves to the financial and legislative business much more, there will be much less grievance from the people, and even if there are grievances, the deviations will be expeditious. There is no dispute on the point that yes, this House, the Parliament, is a place for ventilating the grievances of the people. But it is not correct to say, or it may not be fair to say, that the Government will not be otherwise responsive to any particular matter which has been raised, if the Government has been approached in this regard. I would also like to mention that much has been said by Mr. Das Gupta about the intentions of the Government to change the Constitution. I think, that itself shows the kind of preposition or bias which the learned Member carries in his mind. We have to remember that the proposals are only for the review of the Constitution and that is with an idea as to how the Parliamentary system

can be further strengthened, how it can be made more stable and how it can be made more representative. It is only a Review Commission and the debate has been going on. Probably, this House, Mr. Das Gupta, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and everybody else knows that this matter was considered even before the Emergency as well as during the Emergency.

Whatever may be the view-point of the Government during that particular period, they felt that these changes were to be made. But, here, it is just a proposal by the Government for a wider discussion because so many seminars have been held in the country in various forum, in Universities and outside and there are criticisms in the Press and also in many other legal forum. This only provides an opportunity where a free and frank discussion can be held as to how the Parliament can be made much more effective. I even remember that when Dr. Karan Singh,—he is not present here, was the President of the IIC, a Committee was appointed in which were legal luminaries and also the representatives of various political parties and many other experts. They also gave certain recommendations and then suggested that a Commission should be set up to review the working of the Constitution over the last 50 years to see whether there are any loopholes. For example, one loophole was pointed out by Mr. Das Gupta himself, that should there be a fixed schedule in regard to the sittings of Parliament. Now, this is also a loophole. Unless we have a Review Commission, how can we look into such problems? So, a more holistic, a more comprehensive, a more rationale, kind of an approach can be adopted through the Review Commission and whatever the recommendations of the Review Commission are, the House would see it will obviously come before this House because the House is the final authority, it is the supreme authority—whether those recommendations could be adopted. Attributing any

motive or any insinuations—directly or indirectly—is completely misplaced.

I do agree that it is necessary that we, the Parliament, meet more often and we also transact our business with greater dispatch, attend to the essentials much more than spending our time on other peripheral matters. It may not be fair to blame us and say that this particular evil has started at this point of time and then say, apprehensions are being entertained. I think, Sir, for apprehensions, there is no remedy; as the proverb goes:

अगर शक है तो उसकी दवा लुकमान के पास भी नहीं है।

So far as Shri Gurudas Das Gupta is concerned, Sir, he has a perpetual bee in his bonnet with which we are all aware. Thank you.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA (Uttar Pradesh): Thank you, very much Sir. On behalf of my group and myself, we would like to associate ourselves with the issues raised by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. It is a very important issue. Some of us had the opportunity of visiting foreign countries and interacting with Parliamentarians under the leadership of Shri Chavan very recently. We found almost everywhere that the number of days that Parliament met was over 120. Although the hon. member on the left has expressed the view that there is some sort of criticism, in fact, senior Members cutting across party lines have expressed concern at the gradual reduction of the days in which Parliament meets. This is the highest forum where views, ideas, subjects can be discussed and I feel that instead of curtailing the number of days to under 60 we should gradually bring it up to the level that exist in the other democracies of the world. This has been discussed frequently in this House and we have also expressed our concern at the lack of Government business coming before the House when almost half the session is over. Except for one Bill, no Government Business has been brought and this is again an area of concern. With

these few words, I would like to once again associate myself and my group with the views expressed by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta on this subject.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार): सम्पाति महोदय, जिस विषय को गुरुदास जी ने सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत किया है — संसद के सत्र को धीरे-धीरे छोटा कर देना — और उससे संबंधित जो बातें उन्होंने कही तथा प्रणव मुखर्जी जी ने जिन बातों को कहा मैं उनके साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

महोदय, मुझे याद है जब मैं इस सदन में आई तो स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी विपक्ष के दल में बैठते थे और उनकी बातों को मैं सुना। उस समय कुछ इसी तरह की बात करते थे। संसद के सत्र के संबंध में उनकी चिंता रहती थी। आज उनसे यह अपेक्षा है जब वे स्वयं उस देश के कर्णधार बन बैठे हैं तो वे इन बातों के उमर ध्यान देंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी): "बन बैठे हैं" का क्या मतलब है?

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: खड़े रहिए फिर ... (व्यवधान)

संसद का सत्र धीरे-धीरे छोटा होता जा रहा है ... (व्यवधान)

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमि (बिहार): उसका कद भी छोटा हो रहा है। वह भी बढ़ना चाहिए।

مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی: اسکا
قد بھی چھوٹا ہو رہا ہو وہ بھی بڑھنا چاہیے

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा: उसके बारे में सबने चिंता जाहिर की और दुनिया के जो प्रबुद्ध लोकतंत्र हैं उनके बारे में भी चर्चा की। कुछ जगहें मुझे भी देखने का अनुभव है। अब इंग्लैंड को तो कहा जाता है — मदर आफ डेमोक्रेसी। दिन-रात लोग काम करते हैं। आधी-आधी रात बैठकर सांसद लोग काम करते हैं। विषय पर चर्चा करते हैं। चूंकि हम नहीं बैठते हैं, चूंकि भारत की संसद समय-समय पर सब बातों पर विचार नहीं करती, कानून समय पर पास नहीं करती है तो धीरे-धीरे आर्डिनेंस बढ़ते जा रहे हैं और आर्डिनेंस का एज हमेशा खराब होता है। किसी प्रांत में अगर आर्डिनेंस का एज हो जाए तो हमेशा लोग क्रिटिसाइज

करते हैं कि यहां तो आर्डिनेंस का राज हो रहा है। अगर देश की शासन व्यवस्था ही आर्डिनेंस के ऊपर चले तो फिर यह संसद और हम कहाँ जाएंगे। इस संसद का औचित्य क्या होगा।

महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि निश्चित रूप से संसद का समय बढ़ाया जाए। चूंकि संसद ठीक ढंग से काम नहीं कर पाती है समय की कमी है इसलिए एक्जीक्यूटिव का ज्यादा हाथ बढ़ता जा रहा है। उनका अधिकार बढ़ता जा रहा है। वे हर मामले में हस्तक्षेप करते हैं। आए दिन आप भी देखते हैं महोदय। इसके बारे में राम गोपाल जी ने भी चर्चा की कि इतना अधिक जुडीशियल एक्टिविज्म हो रहा है कि जिसको लोग पसंद नहीं करते हैं। जो एक्जीक्यूटिव, जो पार्लियामेंट को करना चाहिए उन कामों पर भी दखल-दहानी आती है। यह बात भी अच्छी नहीं है। लोकतंत्र के लिए खतरे की घंटी है।

हम यहां लोकतंत्र की रक्षा की बात करने बैठे हैं। जनता के प्रतिनिधि होकर हम आए हैं। अगर जनता के प्रतिनिधि हम हैं, संसद के लोग जनता के प्रतिनिधि हैं और यह सर्वोच्च सदन है, सारे देश की निगाह इस पर रहती है फिर अगर हम ठीक ढंग से काम नहीं करेंगे, कानून पारित नहीं करेंगे, जिस काम की ज़म्मेदारी लेकर हम आए हैं, देश के प्रति जो उत्तरदायित्व हमारा है उसको अगर हम निभाएंगे नहीं तो फिर आगे आने वाले दिनों में देश का भविष्य अंधकारमय होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, while I do associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, I would like to briefly touch on a different subject. There is no doubt that the number of days on which the House meets, is getting lesser and lesser. But the introspection that is required to be done by each one of us here is this. Are we using those lesser and lesser number of days in a more and more effective way? When I came to this august House, I came with a six-year plan, not a five-year plan. In the first year, it was that I should be present in the House from morning till evening. In the second year, it was that I would ask questions on subjects with which I am familiar. So, I had a plan. Now, what is required, is, while the Government should consider increasing the number of days, we should

use those lesser and lesser number of days in a more and more effective manner. That is my appeal to all my colleagues.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, this issue was discussed earlier also. I feel, the Ministers may have some reasons, but the Members from all the parties are naturally of one opinion that the House should meet frequently and for more days. Sir, I feel there is no justification in saying that because of elections, particularly the Assembly elections, we could not have more days of sittings of the House. I suggest that even if elections are taking place, the number of sittings should not be reduced. The sitting days can be changed, but it should not be reduced. A number of Bills are there for approval of the House. I agree with my colleagues that the House should sit for some more days. Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I once again appeal to the Government to strictly adhere to the normal schedule of the sittings of the House. I particularly request that this Session should be extended till the end of this month. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I said in the last Session, I wanted to put it before the General Purposes Committee. That meeting is, probably, being held tomorrow. In that meeting, we will discuss all the points which have been raised here. The Leader of the House is here... (Interruptions)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Prime Minister may react to it. (Interruptions)... The Leader of the House may also react... (Interruptions)...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Let the Prime Minister react to it.

सदन के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहब, दो मिनट...(व्यवधान) मेरी गुजारिश सुन लीजिए, इसके बाद प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब उठेंगे। दो मिनट मुझे दे दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)

कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें: सिकन्दर बख्त साहब, प्रधान मंत्री जी बैठे हैं इस सदन में अगर वह बोलें तो बहुत अच्छा है। ... (व्यवधान) प्रधान मंत्री जी की बोलने दीजिए।

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहब, आनरेबल मੈबर्स ने निहायत कारामद अहम बातें कही हैं, काबिले तवज्जह बातें की हैं, इसमें कोई कंट्रोवर्सी का सवाल बिल्कुल पैदा नहीं होता। बहुत सारी स्पेसिफिक तज़वीज़ें भी आई हैं जो गवर्नमेंट को मंज़ूर हैं कि उनकी तरफ तवज्जह करके उसको रिपेयर करें, जैसे उन्होंने कहा है कि एक शैड्यूल बना कर उसको टिक कराने की कोशिश करें और बाकी प्रोग्राम्स को उसके शैड्यूल में शामिल करें। एक बात जयन्ती नटरजन साहिब ने कही बिज़नेस के मामले में, यहां हमारे पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर हाज़िर रहते नहीं हैं, तो मैं प्राइम निमिस्टर साहब से दरखास्त करूंगा कि उसकी तरफ तवज्जह की जरूरत है। मैं इसको कंटोवर्सियल बिल्कुल नहीं बनाता। बहुत अच्छी बातें कही गई हैं, काबिले तवज्जह की गई हैं और उस पर अमल होना चाहिए ऐसा मैं मानता हूं। लेकिन कभी-कभी तो बड़ी उलझनें अलग किस्म की आती हैं जो किसी के कब्जे की नहीं हैं। "कुछ तो हो जाते हैं उलफत में जुनून के आसार और कुछ लोग भी दीवाना बना देते हैं।" हम इस हालत में हैं कि अभी आए हुए थोड़े दिन हुए हैं। हालात को काबू में लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। लेकिन कुछ हालात इस किस्म के होते चले जाते हैं कि कब्जे में नहीं आ रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) एक आवाज़, मोटी आवाज़ में बारीक आवाज़ भी आ रही है, वह देख रहा था कि किघर से आ रही है। ... (व्यवधान) कमला जी है। ... (व्यवधान) मुझे खाली कहना इतना ही है कि मैं उन बातों में जाना नहीं चाहता। जो हमारी मज़बूरियां हैं वे मज़बूरियां गवर्नमेंट को दूर करनी ही होंगी, करनी ही पड़ेंगी। ठीक है कि बिल्कुल बहुत ज्यादा है, नहीं आ सके हैं। उसके लिए सिलसिला बना नहीं, टिक नहीं पा रहे हैं। सिर्फ अपने अजीज़ तरीम दोस्त की तरफ मेरी तवज्जह जा रही है क्योंकि यह तो शुरूआत इन्होंने बड़ी माकूल बात से की, लेकिन खत्म जो किया वह कुछ ऐसी माकूल बात से की कि उसके लिए जो अलफाज़ हैं, वे निहायत गैर माकूल हैं, वह मैं लगाना नहीं चाहता हूं। कहां से कहां पहुंच गए हैं, यह कंस्टीट्यूशन बदल रहे हैं। मगर खैर वह आदत पुरानी है।

"चलो अच्छा हुआ काम आ गई दीवानगी अपनी,
वसना हम जमाने भर को समझाने कहां जाते।"

उसको कहां सुधारेंगे। ... (व्यवधान) नहीं-नहीं, गवर्नमेंट इन चीज़ों की तरफ तवज्जह करेगी, सिलसिला दुरुस्त करेगी। ... (व्यवधान) बहुत काबिले तवज्जह तज़वीज़ें हुई हैं, उसकी तरफ अवश्य कुछ किया जाएगा।

الانیتا سدرن "شری سیکندر بخت" : صدر صاحب، دو منٹ... "مدراخلت"... میری گزارش سنی ہے، اس کے بعد براہ منشر صاحب اٹھیں گے۔ دو منٹ بچے دے دیجئے... "مدراخلت"...

کمداری شروع کیا پڑے : سیکندر بخت صاحب، پردھان منتری جی بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں اس سہولت میں، اگر وہ بولیں تو بہت اچھا ہے۔ "مدراخلت"... پردھان منتری جی کو بولنے دیجئے۔

شری سیکندر بخت : صدر صاحب، انٹریل ممبرس نے نہایت کارآمد اور اہم باتیں کہیں ہیں، ماقابل توجہ باتیں کی ہیں، اس میں کوئی کنٹروورسی کا سوال بالکل پیدا نہیں ہوتا۔ بہت ساری سبکدوش تجویزیں ہیں ان میں جو گورنمنٹ کو منظور ہیں کہ ان کی طرف توجہ کر کے اسکو ریپیر کریں، جیسے انھوں نے کہا ہے کہ ایک شیڈول بنانا اسکو اسٹاک کرنے کی کوشش کریں اور باقی پروگرامز کو اسے شیڈول میں شامل کریں۔ ایک بات جیفق نرراجن صاحب نے کہی بزنس کے معاملہ میں، یہاں

ہمارے پارلیمنٹری افیئرز منسٹر حاضریچہ
 نہیں ہیں، تو میں پرائم منسٹر صاحب سے
 درخواست کروں گا کہ اس کی طرف توجہ
 کی ضرورت ہے۔ میں اسکو کٹھن ووشیل
 بالکل نہیں بنانا۔ بہت اچھی باتیں کہی
 گئی ہیں، قابل توجہ کی گئی ہیں۔ اور اس
 پر عمل ہونا چاہیے ایسا میں مانتا ہوں۔
 لیکن کبھی کبھی تو بڑی الجھنیں الٹ قسم
 کی آتی ہیں جو کسی کے قبضے کی نہیں ہیں،
 کچھ تو ہو جائے ہیں الفت میں غلطی کا اند
 اور کچھ لوگ بھی دیوانہ بنا دیتے ہیں
 ہم اس حالت میں ہیں کہ ابھی آئے ہوئے
 تھوڑے عرصہ میں ہوئے ہیں۔ حالات کو قابو میں
 لانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ لیکن کچھ
 حالات اس قسم کے ہوتے چلے جاتے ہیں
 کہ جو قبضے میں نہیں آ رہے ہیں۔ ”مداخلت“
 ایک آواز، موسیقی آواز میں باریک آواز
 بھی آ رہی ہے، وہ دیکھ رہا تھا کہ کون سے
 آ رہی ہے۔۔۔ ”مداخلت“۔۔۔ گلابی
 ہیں۔۔۔ ”مداخلت“۔۔۔ مجھے خالی کہنا
 اتنا ہی ہے کہ میں ان باتوں میں جانا نہیں
 جانتا۔ جو ہماری مجبوریاں ہیں وہ مجبوریاں

گورنمنٹ کرور کرنا ہی ہو گئی، کرنا ہی
 پڑیگی۔ ٹھیک ہے کہ بلز بہت زیادہ ہیں،
 نہیں آسکتے ہیں۔ اس کے لئے سلسلہ بنائیں
 ٹک نہیں پار رہے ہیں۔ صرف اپنے غریزہ

دوست کی طرف میری توجہ جا رہی ہے کیونکہ
 یہ تو خسرو عات افسون نے بڑی مقبول
 بات سے کی، لیکن ختم جنوی وہ کچھ ایسی
 مقبول بات سے کی کہ اس کے لئے جو الفاظ
 ہیں، وہ نہایت ہی غیر مقبول ہیں۔ وہ
 میں لگانا نہیں چاہتا لیکن۔ کہاں سے کہاں
 پہنچ گئے ہیں یہ کسی ٹیوشن بدل رہے
 ہیں مگر خیر وہ عادت پرانی ہے۔

چلو اچھا ہوا ام آگئی دیوانگی اپنی
 ورنہ ہم زلزلے بھر کو سمجھنے لگے کہل جاتے
 اس کو آپ سدا عدا رہ گئے۔۔۔ ”مداخلت“۔۔۔

نہیں نہیں، گورنمنٹ ان چیزوں کی طرف
 توجہ کر رہی، سلسلہ دوست گریڈنگ۔۔۔
 ”مداخلت“۔۔۔ بہت قابل توجہ
 تجویز نہیں آئی ہیں، اس کی طرف غور کچھ

کیا جائیگا۔

श्री सोलीपेटा रामचन्द्र रेड्डी: हमको यह आश्वासन
 दीजिए कि कम से कम यह सेशन महीना खत्म तक
 चलेगा।

† अश्वि सुलैषिथाराम چندर रेड्डी :
 ہم کو یہ آश्वासن دیجئے کہ کم سے کم یہ
 سیشن مہینہ ختم تک چلے گا۔

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: माननीय सभापति जी,
 मेरे बरिष्ठ सहयोगी श्री सिकन्दर बख्त जी ने जो कुछ
 कहा उसके बाद कोई विशेष बात कहने के लिए नहीं
 रहती है। संसद का सत्र कम करने का हमारा कोई इशदा
 नहीं है।

अगर कम हुआ है तो यह स्वीकार करने में मुझे संकोच नहीं है कि इस बार जिस तरह की परिस्थितियाँ पैदा हुईं, उस में संसद् जितने दिन मिलनी चाहिए थी उतने दिन नहीं मिली है, लेकिन इस के पीछे कोई इरादा नहीं है संसद् के सत्र को कम करने का। अगर सदन चाहे तो अभी भी सेंटरडे को शनिवार को बैठने का फैसला कर सकती है, जो कभी हो उस को पूरा कर सकती है। अगर सदन तैयार हो... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: As a Parliamentarian, he knows how to trick Parliament. (Interruptions)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: हमारे इरादे पाक और साफ है, अब आप मंजूर नहीं कर रहे।

सभापति जी, सचमुच में एक नया अनुभव है कि उधर बैठकर हम जो बातें कहा करते थे, अब इधर बैठकर वही बातें सुनते हैं।

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त: आप की बात ही हम लोग बोल रहे हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: लेकिन मैं सहमत हूँ कि संसद् का सत्र कम नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इन्होंने सिर्फ सदन में मामला नहीं उठाया, राष्ट्रपति जी को भी पत्र लिखा था। राष्ट्रपति जी ने यह पत्र मुझे को भेजा तो मैं समझ गया था कि यह मामला उठेगा। मैं फिर दोहराना चाहता हूँ इस बात को कि संसद् सब से बड़ी जन-प्रतिनिधि संस्था है और भारत संसार का सब से बड़ा लोकतंत्र है। सदन की बैठक निरंतर चलती रहनी चाहिए। हम तो 120 दिन चलाना चाहेंगे और इस में सब का सहयोग आवश्यक है। इस बार चुनाव आ गए बीच में, और तो चुनाव आने वाले नहीं हैं। इसलिए जो थोड़ी कटौती हुई, मैं मानता हूँ उस कटौती की हम भरपाई करें। जैसे मैंने कहा हम शनिवार को बैठने का फैसला कर सकते हैं और न हो तो क्रिसमस के बाद सदन का सत्र चलता रहे, सरकार इस के लिए भी तैयार है। सभापति जी, यह आप बिजनेस एडवायजरी कमेटी में तय कर लें, मैं लोक सभा में बात कर लूंगा। अभी तो क्रिसमस के साथ सदन को समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव है, अगर बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता हो तो बढ़ाया जा सकता है, हमारी तरफ से कोई संकोच नहीं है। हम सदन से डरते नहीं हैं। 1957 से सदन में हम अपना रंग दिखाते रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें: सर, उस रंग में और आज के रंग में जमीन आसमान का फर्क है।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: आप की कोऑर्डिनेटिंग कमेटी और एलाएन्स पार्टी में डर और भी ज्यादा आप के पक्ष में है।

الشعري محمد سليم: ابی کی کوآرڈینیٹنگ کمیٹی اور پارٹی اور میں نے زیادہ آپ کے پکشن میں ہے۔

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: उस से कठिनाई पैदा नहीं होती है। आप भी एलाएन्स चलाते हैं, आप भी कोऑर्डिनेटिंग कमेटी बनाते हैं।

सभापति जी, अब इस चर्चा में संविधान के पुनर्विचार का मामला उठाना और राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली लागू करने के इरादे के मसले को लाना जरा जरूरत से ज्यादा है। थोड़ी-बहुत राजनीति में समझ सकता हूँ, लेकिन इस हद तक नहीं। गुरुदास जी को भी समझाना मुश्किल है। सभापति जी, हम आप के हाथ में हैं, जो आप फैसला करें। सारा सदन इकट्ठे होकर निर्णय करे, खुली चर्चा हो और सार्थक चर्चा हो, शोर-शराबा एक हद तक चले, लेकिन काम हो। अब एक व्यावहारिक कठिनाई हो रही है, जो मैं सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। स्टैंडिंग कमेटियाँ हम ने बनायी हैं, वह स्टैंडिंग कमेटियाँ उपयोगी हैं मगर स्टैंडिंग कमेटियाँ जरूरत-से-ज्यादा समय ले रही हैं। बिल वहां भेज दिए जाते हैं, बिल लौटते नहीं हैं और फिर शिकायत होती है कि सरकार के पास एजेंडा नहीं है, सरकार के पास काम नहीं है। तो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी जल्दी अपना काम करे, मैं किसी विशेषाधिकार का उल्लंघन नहीं कर रहा, नहीं तो मेरे खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार का उल्लंघन आ सकता है। स्टैंडिंग कमेटी अगर विधेयकों को जल्दी भेजेगी तो सदन के सामने कार्यवाही रहेगी और काम रहेगा तो सदन उसे पूरा करेगा, मुझे भरोसा है और उस में सरकार अपना योगदान देने के लिए तैयार है, यह मैं आप को आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ, आश्वासन करता हूँ।

श्री शरीफ-उद्-दीन शरीक (जम्मू व कश्मीर): चैयरमैन साहब, स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के बारे में आनरेबिल प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो फरमाया है, यह भी दुर्लक्ष है और यह भी दुर्लक्ष है कि स्टैंडिंग कमेटी बहुत तेज भी काम करती है, लेकिन एक्शन टेकेन रिपोर्ट जब मांगते हैं तो गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से वह नहीं मिलता है उस वक्त भी हमको परेशानी होती है।

اشرفی شرف الدین شادق: چیرمین
صاحب۔ اسٹیٹنگ کمیٹی کے بارے میں
آنریبل بلراک منسٹر صاحب نے جو فرمایا ہے
یہ بھی درست ہے اور یہ بھی درست
ہے کہ اسٹیٹنگ کمیٹی بہت تیز ہو گا
کرتی ہے۔ لیکن ایکشن شیڈول رپورٹ جب
مائلنگ میں تو گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے وہ
پہنیں ملتا ہے۔ اس وقت میں ہم کو پریشانی
ہوتی ہے۔

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: इसको भी एक्सप्लाइ-
ड करोगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is one o' clock. So, we adjourn till two o' clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at four minutes past two of the clock The Vice-Chairman (Shri John F. Fernandes) in the Chair

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Now, there is a Bill for introduction. The Home Minister has sought the permission of the Chair to introduce the Bill now. Mr. Advani.

The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998

THE MINISTER OF HOME (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—contd.

Allocation of Gas from Tapti Gas Fields to Pipavav Project

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL (Gujarat): I would like to say a few words about the allocation of gas from the Tapti gasfields to the pipavav power project in Gujarat.

Gujarat is a fast developing State, especially, in terms of industrial development. But it is facing a great shortage of water and power, which are the basic amenities needed for the development of industry as well as agriculture. The Pipavav is a 615 MW gas-based power project. The Government of Gujarat had approached the Central Government for gas allocation from the Tapti gasfields on 15th May, 1990. The then Petroleum Minister had given a commitment to provide gas for the project. The then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had also promised allocation of gas from the Tapti gasfields, whenever extra gas was available. An announcement in this regard was made in this august House also.

Uptill now, the availability of gas from the Tapti gasfields was estimated at 3.5 MCMD. Now, with the increased availability of gas, the estimate has gone up to a minimum of 5.5 MCMD. It may even be more than that. It is believed that It may be 10 to 12 MCMD. The requirement of the Pipavav power project is estimated to be 2.25 MCMD. Therefore, it should be possible to straightway make gas available to the Pipavav power project. But, instead of considering the demand for diverting the newly available gas to the Pipavav project, it is reported that the entire gas is going to be diverted to HBJ pipeline and the Pipavav power project is going to be deprived of gas, despite the fact that the Government had already committed itself on this. It is also heard that the extra gas, which is going to be available, would be allotted to Madhya Pradesh or some other Southern State. A pipeline for this purpose has also been sanctioned. If it is a fact, it will