

MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF RULE 272

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Rule 272 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States in its application to consideration of the Demands for Grants of the related Ministries/Departments for 2009-10 by Department-related Standing Committees be suspended".

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to say one thing. We will accept your request for suspending the Rule for this year only if the Government gives an assurance that for the rest of its tenure it is not going to come with a similar suspension motion.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Absolutely, Sir. This is not the intention of the Government to do away with the examination of demands by the Standing Committees. Only because this year we could not constitute the Standing Committees in time, we are seeking their permission for this.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The deliberations were fruitful.

Discussions in Parliament reveal not only certain facts but also policies, objective and goal of the Government in a particular sector. I recall the words of Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. He said, "Parliament is a grand inquest of the nation, the great auditor and the Ombudsman of the Executive, the final arbitrator, policy monitor, and destiny designer of the country." I do believe that the discussions held here must coincide with the definition that has been offered by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. As a Minister I do agree with what has been observed in the same Parliament by our mentor, Dr. C.N. Annadurai, when he was a Member of this House. He said, 'the highest is not above the law, the humblest is not beneath the law. With this in mind, I want to convince those who made arguments, of course, some allegations, before Parliament on the working of the Ministry.

Sir, when I was entrusted with the task of running this Ministry in May, 2007, I wanted to learn