

**REPORTS AND MINUTES OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON THE  
WELFARE OF SCHEDULED  
CASTES AND SCHEDULED  
TRIBES (1983-84)**

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports and Minutes of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(i) Fifty-second Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)—Benefits provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the cooperative sector.

(ii) Fifty-third Report on the Ministry of Energy (Department of Petroleum)—Reservations for, and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division and Refineries and Pipelines Division).

(iii) Fifty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Banking Division—Reservations for, and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Bank of India and credit facilities provided by the Bank for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(iv) Fifty-Sixth Report on the Ministry of Commerce (Department of Textiles)—Reservations for, and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in National Textile Corporation Ltd. with special reference to National Textile Corporation (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa) Ltd.

(v) The Minutes of the First to Thirty-eighth and Forty-third to Forty-seventh sittings of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**MESSAGE FROM THE LOK  
SABHA**

**Re: Filling up of vacancies in the  
Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following

message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha;

'Sir, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 27th April 1984 adopted the following motion:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect three members of Rajya Sabha according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Lakhan Singh, Dinesh Goswami and Robin Kakati from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so appointed, may be communicated to this House.'

**RE: ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT FROM THE  
COUNTRY WHEN THE  
PARLIAMENT IS IN SESSION**

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): . Sir, on a point of order. It is a small point, but because the Law Minister himself is here just now, I would like him to enlighten the House what is the position today when the President is abroad and the Vice-President is also not in the country. This is the first time in these 35 years when a situation of this kind has arisen that neither the President nor the Vice-President is in the country. What is the constitutional implication thereof? Is there any provision or is there any alternative arrangement? And supposing there is none, then obviously, such a situation should not have been allowed to arise. The Vice-President happens to be the Chairman of this House also, and the House is also in session. I do not know what are the compelling circum-

[Shri Lal K. Advani] stances under which the Government has to arrange a schedule of this nature where at a time when Parliament is in session both the President and the Vice-President are abroad.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जवाहरलाल जी के जमाने में भी यह मान्यता थी कि दोनों सभाओं के सभापति जब सदन चलते थे तो लम्बे दौरो पर नहीं जाते थे। स्वयं जवाहरलाल नेहरू भी, जब तक प्रेसिंग नीड न हो, बाहर नहीं जाते थे। लेकिन शायद यह परंपरा खतम हो गई है।

श्रीमन्, सभापति-जी का जिम्मेदारी इस सदन का भी है। बाहर का दौरा महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है। इसलिए मैं भी चाहूंगा कि इस पर आपकी व्यवस्था आये। जब सदन न चलता हो तो उस समय बाहर जाना चाहिए।

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE (Maharashtra): It is a very important matter. I would like that this matter should be clarified because both the President and the Vice-President are outside and the Parliament is also, in session. A very important business is before Parliament and the presence of the President or the Vice-President may be necessary. There is nobody who has taken the oath so that, an Acting President will be (*Interruptions*). The Chief Justice could have been asked. It is a very important matter.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Before you say something, may I draw the attention to the fact that I do not think there has been any single instance in the past many years when both the President and the Vice-President were absent from here. This is the first case and I fail to understand why there is no coordination in arranging the programmes of the President and the Vice-President. Has the Government any information in this regard? Has the Government

applied its mind on this? It is not only a question of propriety as my friend has suggested. In fact, it is not a question of propriety. It is a lapse, a lapse on the part of the President or the Vice-President or the Government together in not arranging their programmes in such a manner that, at least one of the two should be present.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: There are two aspects of the problem, one relating to the Government and the other relating to the House.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I agree with Mr. Advani that there are two parts of this issue of the Vice-President going abroad when the House is in Session, particularly when he is the Presiding Officer of this House. I would come to that part later on. As regards the first part mentioned by Mr. Advani, he came to the conclusion that in our system if the President is out of India, automatically the responsibility of discharging his functions devolves on the Vice-President. It is not so. The President is discharging his duties from abroad and honourable Members have seen it when I introduced or presented the Finance Bill in this House after getting it approved by the President when he was abroad. Therefore, there is no question why both President and Vice-President have gone out at the same time. This is not the first time. Even earlier when Mr. Sanjiva Reddy went abroad, he discussed the points from abroad. Mr. Advani is fully aware of it. Therefore, this type of question has not arisen. As regards the second point, sometimes it happens that the Presiding Officers—in the case of this House it is the Vice-President of India—have to go abroad. Sometimes in order to fulfil the parliamentary commitments on a number of occasions Mr. Speaker has gone abroad. And that is why the institutions of Deputy Chairman and Deputy Speaker have come up. Here the Deputy Chairman is very much presiding over the House. There is nothing improper or nothing incongruous in that. I don't see anything wrong.