

[Secretary-General]

15 Point Programme of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment.

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirty-first Report on the subject “Functioning of Delhi Development Authority particularly with reference to affordable houses in Delhi and its role in regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi and matter connected thereto” of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we shall now resume the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the President of the Republic.

**CLARIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
APPOINTMENT OF ARMY CHIEF**

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had informed of our intention to raise a very serious matter, and, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Leader of the House about a statement which has been made, and, which we believe is now the accepted practice of the Government on Prime Minister's instructions that the Ministers must make statements using Twitter. Yesterday, there have been repeated tweets and statements made by a serving Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. V.K. Singh, making unacceptable and highly objectionable statements on the appointment of the Army Chief and the persona of the Army Chief designate. We were worried when during the election campaign, this matter was sought to be politicized. The Indian Army has always been kept out of politics. The appointments of Generals, Chiefs of Army, Admirals, Air Force Chiefs have never ever been politicized. Therefore, we were reassured, given the understanding and maturity of the Leader of the House when he assumed the office also as Defence Minister. He made a very correct statement which was reassuring to the country and to the Army leadership. But Sir if a serving Minister is making such a statement, the Government ought to remove this Minister. The Prime Minister must clarify this issue. It is unacceptable.