

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON THE BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE DUE TO NON-PRESENCE OF SENIOR OFFICERS (OFFICERS IN BPS-20 AND ABOVE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF INTER-PROVINCIAL COORDINATION IN THE OFFICIAL GALLERY OF THE SENATE ON 11TH AUGUST, 2015.

(Report No. 2 of 2015)

I, Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, have the honour to present report of the Committee on the Breach of Privilege of the House due to non-presence of Senior Officers (officers in BPS-20 and above) of the Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization and Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination in the Official Gallery of the Senate on 11th August, 2015, during discussion on admitted adjournment motion regarding the distribution formula of NFC Award and report on 2nd Biannual monitoring on the implementation of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award (January-June, 2014), laid on the Table of the House on 8th July, 2015, which was a violation of the directions of the Chair.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini	Chairman
2.	Senator Zahida Khan	Member
3.	Senator Hilalur Rehman	Member
4.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
5.	Senator Nighat Mirza	Member
6.	Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
7.	Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhagra	Member
8.	Senator Saud Majeed	Member
9.	Senator Saeed Ghani	Member
10.	Senator Zaheerud Din Babar Awan	Member
11.	Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
12.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
13.	Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.	Ex-Officio Member

3. The details of the issue before the Committee were that an admitted adjournment motion regarding the distribution formula of NFC Award and report on 2nd Biannual monitoring on the implementation of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award (January-June, 2014), laid on the Table of the House on 8th July, 2015, were placed on the Orders of the Day for discussion on 11th August, 2015. As per directions of the Chair, Senior Officers (officers in BPS-20 and above) of the Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization and Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination were required to be present in the Official Gallery of the Senate to take notes of the points raised by the Members during discussion but no senior officer of those Ministries was present in the gallery. The matter was referred to the Committee for investigation and report.
4. The Committee held its meeting on 13th August, 2015 which was attended by the Secretaries and other senior officers of both the Ministries. The Chairman and other members of the Committee appreciated the new initiatives of the Chairman Senate and reiterated that the directions of the Chair should be complied with.
5. The Secretary, Inter Provincial Coordination, stated that the agenda item did not relate to them as it pertained to the Ministry of Finance. He informed that they did not receive any notice regarding the agenda item. He stated that whenever their business is placed on the Orders of the Day they remain present in the gallery as per directions of the Chairman Senate.
6. The Committee was informed about the procedure being adopted to inform the Members as well as to the Ministries / Divisions about the items to be taken-up in the House. It was informed that circulation of Orders of the Day amongst the Members, Ministers and Ministries / Divisions is meant to inform about the business to be taken-up on a particular day. The admitted adjournment motions and

reports are placed on the Orders of the Day for discussion which is circulated amongst all concerned and no separate notice is required for the same.

7. The Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, stated that they prefer the business of the Parliament and hold it of utmost importance. The Chairman Senate issued directions regarding presence of officers in gallery which were being complied with. He also stated that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had issued orders regarding presence of officers in the gallery in pursuance of the directions of the Chairman Senate. He informed that the concerned Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Section Officer were deputed for the job on that day. However, the Additional Secretary could not come due to illness. Regarding absence of Joint Secretary he stated that he reached the Parliament Building but left earlier.

8. The Additional Secretary stated that they prefer the Business of the Senate. In this case he was not feeling well and due to disposition he did not attend the session. The Joint Secretary stated that as the motion regarding NFC Award was the last agenda item, he was not expecting discussion on the same so early. He informed that he was preparing papers for a meeting which was scheduled to be held in Sindh in connection with NFC award.

9. The Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization assured that they will take more care in future and will depute another officer in substitution in case of any emergency with the officers already deputed. The Committee recommended that the officers should be deputed to replace the officers in case of any emergency or disposition etc.

10. The Chairman Committee directed that such type of lapses should not take place in future and replacement of the officers should always be there. He reiterated that every one should abide by the discipline in the senate.

11. The Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization stated that if the item was the last item of the agenda even then the officers should have not left the gallery. He assured that they will make alternate arrangement in such type of situations in future. He confirmed that the agenda item was not related to the Ministry of IPC.
12. The Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, informed that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and he himself have written separate letters to all the Federal Secretaries in connection with attendance of senior officer in the Senate during the transaction of business pertaining to their Ministries.
13. Both the Secretaries and other senior officers of the Ministries of Finance and Inter Provincial Coordination apologized for the inconvenience caused to the House and assured to remain more careful in future. The Committee accepted the apology and recommend that no action may be taken in this regard.



(Muhammad Anwar)
J.S. / Secretary Committee



(Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini)
Chairman