

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 OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE OFFICIAL GALLERY OF THE SENATE ON 3RD AUGUST, 2015.

(Report No. 6 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 Petroleum and Natural Resources in the Official Gallery of the Senate on 3rd August, 2015, during discussion on Motion under rule 218, 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 a Motion under rule 218 regarding discussion on load shedding of natural gas in the country was placed on the Orders of the Day for discussion on 3rd August, 2015. As per directions of the Chair, Senior Officers (officers in BPS-20 and above) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources were required to remain 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 that Ministry was present there. The matter was referred to the Committee for consideration and report. The Committee held its meeting on 31st August, 2015, which was attended by the Secretary and other senior officers of that Ministry.

4. The Chairman Committee stated that a good practice has been developed in the Senate and the officers in BPS 20 and above are required to remain present in the Official Gallery of the Senate during the transaction of business relating to their Ministries. He also stated that in some cases the concerned officers do not attend the Session due to which the House cannot function properly. He said that it was a serious matter and cannot be ignored.

5. The Ministry informed the Committee that their questions were set down for answering in the National Assembly on 3rd August, 2015, due to which some of their officers were busy in that connection. It was also informed that vice Prime Minister/Minister Incharge of Oil and Gas Sector of Turkmenistan was called on by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Minister, Minister of State, Secretary and other senior officers of the Ministry were also in attendance in the meeting. It was informed further that Mr. Noorullah, Finance Analyst (BS-18), of that Ministry was present in the Official Gallery-II of the Senate for taking notes and Mr. Azhar Khan, Director General (Mineral), an officer in BS-20, also remained in the Official Gallery-I for some time. However, at the time when the item was under discussion he went out to offer prayer.

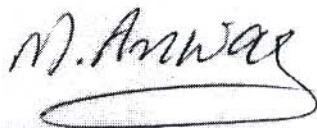
6. The Chairman Committee said that the reply of the Ministry and the justification given regarding absence of senior officers from the Senate was not satisfactory. If there was some business pertaining to their Ministry in the National Assembly any other officer should have been deputed to attend the Senate Session.

If there were foreign guests, in that case also alternate arrangements should have been made.

7. Senator Saeed Ghani stated that the visit of Vice Prime Minister / Minister Incharge of Oil and Gas Sector would have certainly been scheduled some days earlier and the Ministry had ample time to make alternate arrangements or to request the Senate for deferment of their business. He stated further that the plea taken by the Ministry regarding the sessions of both Houses was not acceptable as in most of the cases the both Houses hold their sittings simultaneously. He also was of the view that the Ministry should have made some alternate arrangements or have made request to the Senate for deferment of the item.

8. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, without giving any excuse, tendered un-conditional apology and assured the Committee that such situation shall not occur again.

9. The Committee accepted the apology. However, the Committee directed that extra care may be taken in future. The Committee has recommended that in view of apology, no action may be taken in the matter.



(Muhammad Anwar)
J.S. / Secretary Committee



(Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini)
Chairman