

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON PRIVILEGE MOTION NO. 2(120)/2015-M, MOVED BY SENATOR AHMED HASSAN, ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2015.

(Report No. 11 of 2015)

I, Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, have the honour to present report of the Committee on Privilege Motion No. 2(120)/2015-M, moved by Senator Ahmed Hassan, on 8th October, 2015, against the Cabinet Division for misleading the House by providing conflicting and incorrect replies to the questions asked by him regarding discontinuation of Ufone service in some areas in Malakand Division.

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 Senator Ahmad Hassan moved a Privilege Motion No. 2(120)/2015-M on 8th October, 2015, against the Cabinet Division for providing conflicting and incorrect replies to the questions asked by him regarding discontinuation of services of Ufone in some areas of Malakand Division. The motion was held in order and referred to the Committee for consideration and report. The

Committee considered the motion in its meetings held on 16th October and 26th November, 2015. The meetings were attended by the Secretary Cabinet Division and senior officers of PTA, Ministry of Information Technology and Ufone.

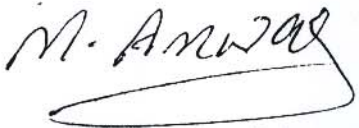
4. Senator Ahmed Hassan informed that Ufone provided cellular phone service in Malakand Division. However, the company discontinued its service in some areas of that Division during first half of 2014. He stated that he asked 3 questions regarding discontinuation of the said service and the replies to those questions provided by the Cabinet Division were incorrect. He was of the view that the justification given by the company for discontinuation of service was not based on facts as there was no security threat or any other problem in that area.

5. The Chairman Committee remarked that the deprived areas, like Malakand, should be taken care off in provision of various services. He said that if Senator Ahmed Hassan was subjected to such behaviour then what about the general public. He stated that it was the duty of cell phone companies to provide facilities to all the areas irrespective of their ratio of profit. He also stated that the Committee wants facilitation of the general public. He directed the officials of Ufone company to resolve the issues/problems in their system in different areas within reasonable time in order to facilitate the general public.

6. Senator Farooq H. Naek enquired from the PTA representatives about the reasons for providing wrong information to the House. Senator Atta ur Rehman was of the view that the cell phone companies usually discontinue their services in the areas where it is not profitable. He asked the concerned official that replies to the questions may be prepared carefully as misinformation in replies to the questions breaches the privilege of the whole House.

7. The Chairman PTA explained that the replies provided to the said questions were in previous perspective. He stated that they have great respect for Senator Ahmed Hassan and ensured cooperation in future. He referred to the letter dated 15-10-2015 for restoration of the cell phone services in those areas. He also ensured that no such incident to the detriment of the areas will be repeated in future. The Cabinet Division informed that the Ufone has ensured that the service will be restored by 20th December, 2015.

8. Senator Ahmad Hassan showed satisfaction over the assurance given regarding restoration of Ufone service in the said areas and stated that he did not want to press the motion. The Committee thanked the concerned quarters for resolving the issue. The presence of President of Ufone in the meeting was appreciated. The matter was disposed off with the recommendation that no action is required to be taken on the motion.



(Muhammad Anwar)
J.S. / Secretary Committee



(Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini)
Chairman