

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE BY TELECASTING LIVE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE BY PTV WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN SENATE.

(Report No. 18 of 2016)

I, Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, have the honour to present-report of the Committee on breach of privilege of the House due to telecasting live the statement of the Minister for Defence made in the Senate on 31st December, 2015, without permission of the Chairman Senate or intimation to the Senate Secretariat.

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.	Member
	Ex-Officio Member

3. The details of the matter before the Committee were that there was an understanding between the Senate Secretariat and the PTV authorities that proceedings of the Senate will not be telecasted live without permission of the Chairman Senate. The Minister was for Defence made a statement in the Senate on 31st December, 2015, regarding the visit of the Chief of Army Staff to Afghanistan, which was telecasted live without permission of the Chairman Senate

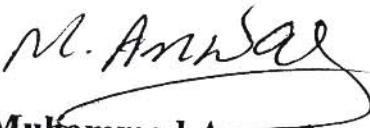
or intimation to the Senate Secretariat. The matter was referred to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges for investigation and report. The Committee discussed the matter in its meeting held on 25th January, 2016. The Secretary, Ministry for Information and Broadcasting and MD PTV were called to appear before the Committee and explain the position in this regard.

4. The Chairman Committee, introducing the agenda item, stated that there were many complaints about allocation of time by PTV for various programmes and matters relating to smaller provinces. He said that PTV is a national organization and it should work for national unity irrespective of political affiliations. It should give proper time to each federating unit and to the issues being faced by them. He proposed that the problems being faced by smaller federating units should be taken seriously and be highlighted accordingly. He also proposed that the valuable comments and suggestions of the people belonging to smaller provinces should reach to the public. He was of the view that the behavior of PTV was biased in the past and coverage had been giving on PTV to the selected political parties. He said that whenever an important issue is to be discussed on PTV, representatives of all provinces should be called to take part in discussion and there should be no discrimination in this regard. He pointed out that some junior officers of PTV were being promoted by superseding the seniors. He also stated that the quota allocated for various provinces for appointments in PTV was not being observed. He stated further that the Committee wanted more from MD keeping in view his personality and experience. He appreciated the improvement made in PTV recently. Talking about the case under consideration, he said that the proceedings of the Senate were telecasted live without prior permission of the Chairman which beached the privilege of the House. He asked the MD PTV to explain the position in this regard.

5. The Managing Director, PTV, stated that the time being allocated to the Members belonging to opposition parties was 3 to 4 times more than the time which had been providing to such Members in the past. He also stated that a full-fledged channel has been allocated for programmes relating to Balochistan. FATA hour was also being telecasted to highlight the issues relating to those areas. He said that a limited number of persons participated in the programmes organized by PTV. The PTV makes requests to many dignitaries to participate in discussions and various programmes on public issues but they show reluctance. There was an issue of availability of the politicians for TV programmes. Most of the politicians do not like to participate in discussions on TV channels. The PTV was giving sufficient time for the issues of smaller provinces. Importance was being given to the politicians from smaller provinces. He said that there was a perception that PTV is getting a lot of money through TV fee. He informed that only 30 to 40% of the total expenditures of PTV are met through TV fee. He said that if the programmes of PTV will be not telecasted, about sixty percent of total population of the country will be deprived of the facility of TV. PTV shows its transmission in the areas which are not profitable and where the private channels do not provide their transmissions. He also informed that the number of persons belonging to Balochistan presently working in PTV is six percent more than the allocated quota. The persons belonging to FATA are also more than the quota reserved for those areas. He stated that the due coverage was being given to the Parliament. If the Parliament does not want coverage of its proceedings, the PTV will not cover the same. If they will be asked not to telecast the proceedings of Senate, they will do accordingly. Talking about the matter of breach of privilege, he stated that there was an understanding for live telecasting of question hour in the Senate. As the matter under consideration was concerned, the Minister for Defence was making a policy statement in the Senate and it was more appropriate to telecast the same live. The live proceedings were being telecasted on one channel i.e. PTV National

and due to the importance of the statement of the Minister for Defence one more channel i.e. PTV News was added. The live telecasting was going on and they did not turn off the same at their own. The Members belonging to opposition were also on-air live when the telecasting was discontinued on the directions of the Chairman Senate. He said that the PTV has not breached the privilege of the Senate.

6. Senator Atta Ur Rehman stated that the negative image of Ulemas and Moulvis was being shown in TV programmes and dramas. Similarly the negative image of Pakhtuns and Balochis was being reflected in some programmes and dramas. He proposed that this practice should be discontinued and it should be shown positively. Senator Maulana Tanveer-ul-Haq Thanvi, who attended the meeting as mover of another item, appreciated the performance of PTV. Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhagra said that PTV should be an example for others.
7. The Chairman Committee inquired that whether there was any understanding between PTV and Senate authorities regarding live telecasting of proceedings of the Senate. He proposed that there should be understanding between the same. He suggested that a meeting of the Director Current Affairs of PTV and Director Media Senate Secretariat should be held to resolve the issue. The MD PTV agreed to the proposal.
8. The Committee accepted the explanation given by the MD, PTV and disposed off the matter with the direction that a meeting of the Director Current Affairs of PTV and Director Media of the Senate Secretariat should be held to resolve the issue.


 (Mulfammad Anwar)
 J.S. / Secretary Committee


 (Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini)
 Chairman