



## RULING OF THE CHAIR

### **PROVISION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE BEFORE PRESENTATION**

A Member of the Standing on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, who was also a Member of a sub-committee of the said Standing Committee telephonically desired that a soft copy of the Report of the said sub-committee be provided by e-mail immediately. The Secretary Committee placed the said matter before the Chairman Senate in terms of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, wherein the Chairman Senate ruled as under:-

**“1. The issue in hand, revolves around two words namely “minutes” and “Report”.**

**The word “minutes” has been defined in Black’s Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition, at page 1087 to mean;**

**“minutes (i) *Memoranda or notice of a transaction, proceeding or meeting.***

**(ii) *Parliamentary law “the formal record of a deliberative assembly’s proceedings, approved (as corrected if necessary) by the assembly.”***

**The word “Report” has been defined in Black’s Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition, at page 1414 to mean;**

**“report (i) *a formal, oral or written presentation of facts or a recommendation for action.***

**(ii) *Committee report. Parliamentary law “a report from a committee to a deliberative assembly on business referred to the committee or on a matter otherwise under its charge.”***

**2. The word minutes has not been defined in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, (hereinafter**

referred to as “the said Rules”). Rule 191 of “the said Rules” provides in sub-rule (2), that the minutes of a meeting shall be provided to each Member of a Committee on demand. This is understandable from the definitions given hereinabove and, also from the fact, that a Member may need to pursue the same in order to ascertain whether the proceedings were correctly recorded and, if not, he may move an amendment before the same are confirmed. Therefore, the said sub-rule has been provided.

3. The word “Report” as such does not find a definition in “the said Rules” but its ingredients are provided for in rule 194 of “the said Rules”. From the definition above, read with rule 194, of “the said Rules”, Report is a form of finding (s) or conclusion (s) that may either be preliminary or final. As it contains findings, conclusion, recommendations or recommended action to be taken, it will not be appropriate if the same is made public before it is presented in the House.

4. Further rule 192 of “the said Rules” places a restriction on the publication of proceedings. Sub-rule (2) of the said rule is reproduced as under:-

*(2) “The report of a Committee which has not been presented to the Senate or the proceedings of a Committee or any report or summary thereof which has not been laid on the Table shall be treated as confidential and shall not be open to inspection except with the permission of the Committee or the Chairman.”*

5. Till such time a Report has not been signed by the Chairman and presented in the House, it shall continue to be proceedings before the Committee and governed under the aforesaid rules. The exception being rule 197 of “the said Rules”.

6. Rule 197, “the said Rules” provides an exception the Chairman may, on a request being made to him, when the Senate is not in Session; order for printing, publication or a circulation of a report of the Committee, although it has not been presented to the Senate. In

that case, the report shall be presented to the Senate during its next Session at the first convenient opportunity. The words “printing”, “publication” and “circulation”, in the said rule implies, means that it will be disseminated publicly and, not to a Member/individual or person, only.

7. Therefore, for the reasons stated hereinabove, the request of the Member as stated in para 1/N cannot be acceded to.



MIAN RAZA RABBANI  
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Chairman Senate

Dictated on Part File No. F.3(1)/2016-Com-II  
dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016.