

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE DUE TO FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION, IN BRIEFING SOME OTHER MINISTER TO RESPOND THE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE ON BEHALF OF MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION.

(Report No. 24 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 failure of the Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production, in briefing some other Minister to respond the Calling Attention Notice regarding dropping of proposed deal of sale of JF-17 Air crafts by Pakistan to Sri Lanka due to negative propaganda and influence by the Government of India, on behalf of the Minister for Defence Production.

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

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| 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 Saud Majeed | Member |
| 8. | Senator Saeed Ghani | Member |
| 9. | Senator Zaheerud Din Babar Awan | Member |
| 10. | Senator Aitzaz Ahsan | Member |
| 11. | Senator Farooq Hamid Naek | Member |
| 12. | Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The details of the matter before the Committee were that a calling attention notice regarding dropping of proposed deal of sale of JF-17 Air crafts by Pakistan to

Sri Lanka due to negative propaganda and influence by the Government of India was placed on the Orders of the Day for 3rd March, 2016. The Minister for Defence Production was out of country and the Ministry was required to brief some other Minister to respond the notice on behalf of the Minister for Defence Production. The Ministry did not brief any other Minister and sent the request for its deferment very late when the session had already commenced. The Chairman referred the matter to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges for consideration and report. The Committee considered the motion in its meeting held on 7th April, 2016. The Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production was summoned to appear before the Committee and explain the position in this regard.

4. The Chairman committee stated that the Secretaries of the Ministries / Divisions do not bother to take appropriate action on the business of the House. He said that the practice and working of the Senate has been changed. He directed that the Secretaries should also change their behavior towards the Parliament. He inquired from the Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production, about the reasons for his failure in taking appropriate action on the calling attention notice placed on the Orders of the Day.


5. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah said that all such incidents happen due to their non-awareness of the rules. He proposed that all the Secretaries should have awareness of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in both Houses of Parliament.

6. The Secretary, Ministry of Defence Production, informed that the Minister for Defence Production was on official visit abroad on that date. As the Minister accompanied Prime Minister during his visit to Sri Lanka and was well aware of all the facts relating to the subject matter of the calling attention notice, it was more appropriate that he may himself respond the calling attention notice. The Secretary

also informed that he brought the position to the notice of the Leader of the House who assured to get the item deferred by making a request to the Chair. However, the Secretary admitted his mistake and said that he should have made alternate arrangements by requesting any other Minister to respond the calling attention notice on behalf of the Minister for Defence Production. About the subject matter of the calling attention notice he apprised the committee that it was only a media report and there was neither any proposal for selling the JF-17 aircrafts to Sri Lanka nor any such movement.

7. The Chairman committee proposed that such type of matters should be channelized. He said that there should be no hurdles in the transaction of business of the Senate. There were alternate ways in such situation and the Ministry should have adopted the same.

8. The mover of the item and other members of the committee were satisfied over the explanation given by the Secretary. The committee recommended that no further action be taken in the matter.



(Muhammad Anwar)
A.S. / Secretary Committee



(Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini)
Chairman