



## **RULING OF THE CHAIR**


### **ABSENCE OF MINISTER CONCERNED DURING THE QUESTION HOUR**

“Question No. 112 has been addressed to the Minister in-Charge of Capital Administration and Development Division. He is not present. The honourable Leader of the House has informed that the honourable Minister is out of the country. It was the duty of the Secretary, Capital Administration and Development Division to have acted under Clause (6) of Article 91 of the Constitution. He has failed to do so and there is no intimation before the Senate that the honourable Minister or an alternative Minister would be present to answer the questions on his behalf. The work of the Senate has been with *malafide* intent delayed and therefore, under the circumstances notice is issued to the Secretary, Capital Administration and Development Division to appear before the Committee of Rules and Privileges as he has breached the privilege of the Senate of Pakistan. I would also, in this ruling, state that it is correct that the provision of Clause (6) to Article 91 of the Constitution of 1973 provides for a collective responsibility of the Cabinet but there are limits to which this provision of the Constitution can be extended. It has repeatedly been seen and more

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particularly in today's Question Hour that entire burden of answering of all questions pertaining to or related with any ministry or division of the Federal Government has and continues to fall on the shoulders of the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs who, undoubtedly performs his duty to satisfaction, but this practice cannot be allowed where Ministers misuse the provisions of Clause (6) of Article 91. I have already given a ruling with reference to the presence of Ministers in the House. Let this be the third and last warning in this respect. If next time without any cogent reason, a Minister is not present to deal with his business in the House, I shall be constrained to pass strictures or under the rules suspend the Minister from attending either the entire session, a number of sittings or sitting of the Senate."

  
MIAN RAZA RABBANI  
NI  
Chairman Senate

Senate Sitting dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015  
115<sup>th</sup> Session – Dictated in the House.