

Parliament House,
New Delhi.

December 17, 1969.

The Hon'ble Speaker
& Chairman,
Rules Committee,
Lok Sabha,
New Delhi

1261

Sir,

I am a member of the Consultative Committees of Ministries of External Affairs and Transport. Many of my colleagues and I have noticed garbled reports of what happens in these committees and other committees appear in the press and it is not possible to find out where they have emanated from. Even briefings given by the Government tend to be biased.

It is desirable that discussions in the Consultative Committee of the various Ministries should be frank and free and not be leaked to the press in this manner. The only way in which such leakage and publication can be avoided is making the proceedings of these committees confidential as is the case with Parliamentary Committees under rule 275 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

The precise manner in which this purpose can be affected is something of which you and the members of the Rules Committee are the best judges. Some of us are quite clear however that the present position needs to be rectified in a proper manner.

I shall be obliged if you kindly place this letter before the next meeting of the Rules Committee with a view to that committee considering in what way and by what amendment of the rules the object which I have mentioned can best be fulfilled.

Yours truly,

(M.R. Masani)

- cc: (1) Mr. K. Raghu Ramiah, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
(2) Mr. D.N. Patodia

with the request that they may use their good offices in this connection.