**COMMITTEE BRANCH-I**

**Request of Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of INC Party in Lok Sabha and Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee to allow to conduct the sitting of the Committee.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of INC Party in Lok Sabha and Chairperson, Committee on Public Accounts Committee *vide* letter dated 13 May, 2021 addressed to Hon'ble Speaker has stated *inter-alia* that the Public Accounts Committee which had the serious responsibility to discharge by way of discussing, deliberating and giving suggestions and recommendations on ways to tacking and resolving the problems confronting us owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is not in a position to meet either in a formal sitting in the precincts of the Parliament or virtually due to the prevailing pandemic situation. While stating that the lives and livelihood of the people of the country as a whole are dependent on an effective vaccination policy, **Shri Chowdhury has requested that the Public Accounts Committee may be permitted to meet and deliberate upon the subject-matter, i.e., Vaccination Policy, with the representatives of the Government by any mode either physical or virtual, depending upon the covid situation.**

2. In this regard, it is submitted that Rule 264 of the Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha provides that the sitting of a Committee shall be held on such days and at such hour as the Chairperson of the Committee may fix. Thus, it is evidently clear that the fixing the dates for convening the sittings of a Parliamentary Committee lies with the Chairperson and there is no requirement for seeking the permission of the Hon'ble Speaker in this regard.

However, Rule 267 mandates that the sittings of a Committee shall be held within the precincts of the Parliament House, and if it becomes necessary to change the place of sitting outside the Parliament House, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker who decision shall be final. Considering the prevailing pandemic situation, it is not being found possible for the Chairpersons to convene the sittings of the Committees with regard to the examination of the subjects selected by the Committees

2. The above stated matter including letters received from Chairpersons have been exmined and as per rules prescribed and comments sought from NIC has been put up to Secretary-General Rajya Sabha and Secretary-General, Lok Sabha on 31.05.2020. For the purpose meeting of Chairmen, Rajya Sabha and Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha held on 01.06.2020 and considered the report on above subsections. In this regard, it is submitted that a final decision in the matter is awaited. 3. In view of the above, it is proposed that no action is taken on present communication received from the Mr. Shashi Tharoor, MP. If approve, we may inform the present position on the above subject. Submitted, please. Rule 266 of the Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha provides that a Committee shall be held in private while and 267 mandates that the sittings of a Committee shall be held within the precincts of the Parliament House, and if it becomes necessary to change the place of sitting outside the Parliament House, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker who decision shall be final.