

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Mr Gupta

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 135

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 116

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Did it [Mr Gupta's appointment] go to cabinet? You will not even tell us if it went to cabinet.

Senator Abetz: What does that have to do—

Senator WONG: Liberal Friends of India and a political donor—you made him chair of the SBS.

Senator Abetz: And you appointed trade union officials that donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the ALP to the Fair Work Commission.

Senator WONG: And employers. We appointed employers too. That is not an answer.

Senator Abetz: Oh, really—

Senator WONG: Could you take on notice—

Answer:

The confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations is the foundation for the proper functioning of the Cabinet process. It is therefore not appropriate to reveal what matters may have been considered by the Cabinet.