

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper that after I sit in the Chair some one simply sends me a slip of paper saying that so-and-so cannot make a statement. Do I have to stop the proceedings of the House ? If this is your desire, I will do it from tomorrow. I do not want this. I do not know if this is the way of functioning in this House. He says that the Prime Minister cannot make a statement ; if the leaders cannot help me, I cannot function.....
(Interruption)

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware that at the invitation of His Excellency General Ne Win Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the Government of Burma, I paid an official visit to Burma from March 27 to March 30, 1969.

The relationship between India and Burma is closer than merely that of neighbours. Through the ages it has been sustained by the abiding values which have been cherished and shared by our two peoples. This long tradition of friendship was reinforced during our common struggle for freedom.

My visit was brief but I was glad to have the opportunity of exchanging views with the Chairman and his colleagues on a wide range of subjects of mutual interest to our countries. I venture to think that these exchanges and the visit strengthened the relations between our two countries and helped in promoting understanding and cooperation between our two Governments and peoples.

Chairman Ne Win and I had occasion to review the world scene in the light of political and economic issues of importance to the world today and more especially to us in the developing countries. As the House is aware, Burma and India stand for the promotion of international peace and understanding, based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of all countries. Our two countries attach the highest importance to the principle of non-interference in one another's internal affairs. In our discussions we agreed that the principal task of economic reconstruction which confronts our

respective countries could be expedited by economic cooperation among the developing countries and more specially between neighbouring countries.

During my talks with Chairman Ne Win as also in the discussions which our officials had with Burmese officials, we naturally discussed matters of bilateral interest. These included problems concerning Indian citizens in Burma and those of Indian origin awaiting registration as Burmese citizens. Chairman Ne Win and his Government have agreed to look into their problems sympathetically and expeditiously. We also discussed measures to promote greater economic cooperation between our two countries. I hope that in the light of these discussions, closer bonds of economic cooperation will be established between Burma and India.

I took the opportunity to thank Chairman Ne Win and his Government for their vigilance along the Indo-Burmese border which, as the House is aware, has helped us to take more effective measures against some of the misguided elements on our eastern border. I hope that the House has noted the observations made by Chairman Ne Win at the banquet he was good enough to hold in my honour, that the Government would not countenance the use of Burmese territory by nationals or organisations of another State as a base for hostile activity against their home State or against a third State. Chairman Ne Win went on to say that it was in conformity with this basic stand that Burma had taken necessary measures against those nationals of India who sought to use Burmese territory for hostile activities against India.

I also thanked the Chairman for the cooperation and understanding which has been shown by Burma in the demarcation of our border, the first phase of which has been completed ahead of schedule.

Chairman and Madame Ne Win are always welcome in our country. I extended an invitation to them to visit India any time at their convenience, which they have accepted.

As is customary, a joint communique was issued by the two Governments at the end of my visit. With your permission, Sir

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

I place a copy of it on the Table of the House. (*Placed in Library. See No. LT-600/69*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Umanath.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Sir, why did you disallow the calling-attention notice on this very matter? We are very happy to hear the Prime Minister. You please guide us. On the same matter, you disallowed a calling-attention notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot answer now like that. I have called Shri Umanath.

12.30 hrs.

STATEMENT UNDER DIRECTION 115

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF A.I.R. NEWS BULLETINS

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on 19.2.1968, a starred question No. 47 was asked of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting which was as follows :

- (a) "Whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government have protested against the change in timings of the All India Radio news bulletin in the morning ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of that State also met him in this regard ?"

(Lok Sabha proceedings)

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha, Minister of Information and Broadcasting while replying in the affirmative to part (b) and (c) of the question, made the following statement in reply to para (a) of the question :

"No formal protest from the Tamilnadu Government has been received"
(Lok Sabha proceedings).

This statement of the Union Minister has been refuted on point of fact, by the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu government, Thiru M. Karunanidhi on 10.3.1969. Re-

porting Thiru. M. Karunanidhi, the PTI despatch dated 10th March, 1969 states :

"Replying to a calling attention notice, Mr. Karunanidhi said the State Government had protested against the shifting of the morning English bulletin from 8-00 a.m. to 8.15 a.m., giving priority to the Hindi news bulletin.

"The Chief Minister said it was not correct to say that there had been no official protest from the State Government against the change in timings after the correspondence between the late, Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Mr. C.N. Annadurai and the Prime Minister in this regard in December.

He expressed regret at the reported statement of the Union Minister for Information in Parliament recently that there has been no official protest from the State Government".

The *Hindu* report adds :

"Mr. Karunanidhi pointed out that immediately after the change was introduced on December 8th, the State Government had sent a communication to the centre objecting to it and had also received a reply"

In face of these facts, in which the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu cited written communications, I submit that the categorical statement of the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting denying any formal protest having been made by the State Government to the Centre, is misleading. I also submit that it was not fair and just that the Union Minister should keep the House unaware of the communications having direct bearings on the pointed question. I further submit that in fairness to the House, the communications referred to by the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Government relevant to part (a) of the question, be placed on the Table of the House, at least now, after all that has happened.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING AND COM-
MUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA
NARAYAN SINHA : The information
given was correct in so