

please take your seat.

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: How can you allow this intervention? Ask Shri Gujral to give a reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Railways several times to the fact that the Railways recruit some employees on temporary basis and they remain on muster roll throughout their life and serve the railways. Their number is in lakhs, Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to make them permanent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have formed an association. I would like to inform the Government that if no action is taken in this regard, they will certainly bring the work of the railways to a grinding halt. Hence, action should be taken immediately in this regard.

SHRIPRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT (Baroda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the textile mills of Gujarat are in miserable condition. They are not getting coal. They get only 30 per cent of quota. A rate of Rs. 1430 is being charged from them instead of actual rate of Rs. 950 for the quota. The mills are facing lot of difficulties. If coal is not supplied to them, the mills will be closed rendering thousands of workers jobless.

Ahmedabad is the Manchester of India. there are many problems and the non-availability of coal has multiplied those problems. Even the power station is not getting the supply of coal. If the power station stops functioning what will happen to Gujarat? Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make arrangements for supply of coal to Gujarat immediately.

[*English*]

SHRI NANDU THAPA (Sikkim): I want to draw your attention to this morning's newspaper Hindustan Times reports. There is a news item 'Jailed by Mistake' and there is another news item in the same newspaper

'Terrorists now strike at will'. This shows the inefficiency, negligence and atrocity of the police in the Capital. This not only shows the negligence of the police force in the country but at the same time the deterioration of the law and order in the capital itself which reflects on the whole of the country. Sir, what I have said is that it all amounts to the negligence on the part of the police.....(*Interruptions*).....May I, which your permission, quote, Sir?

"Mistaken identity landed him behind the bars. Prem Chand's namesake was the alleged criminal, but the 'innocent' person was sent to Tihar Central jail".

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI NANDU THAPA: Sir, this kind of negligent action is perhaps more damaging. I have read a similar story, long time ago, by Emil Zola, called 'The Captain Drafur Story'. So, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the Home Minister to this kind of negligent functionary of the police, in the Capital.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to give the ruling.

[*English*]

12.41 hrs.

#### RULINGS BY THE SPEAKER

*Re: compulsory iodisation of Salt.*

- (i) **Notice from Shri Banwarilal Purohit seeking to raise question of privilege against Shri Neelamani Rautray for his allegedly giving a misleading reply to U.S.Q. No. 3305 Dt. 4.4.90.**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banwarilal Purohit

gave notice of question of privilege on 12th April, 1990, against the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Shri Nilamani Routray). Shri Purohit contended that while replying to Unstarred Question No. 3305 regarding "compulsory iodisation of salt" on 4th April, 1990, the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare gave "factually incorrect and deliberately false and misleading" reply with a view to "intentionally spreading disinformation about the subject of iodised salt".

Unstarred Question No. 3305 which sought to elicit information on the question whether several representations had been received by Government to remove the restriction of compulsory iodisation of salt, was replied to by the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare *inter alia* as follows:-

"The surveys carried out by the Directorate General of Health Services, I.C.M.R. and the States have revealed that no region in the country can be considered completely free from goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Iodisation of salt is the cheapest and proven method of prevention of goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders. No scientific report suggesting adverse effects of iodised salt has come to knowledge of this Ministry".

Shri Purohit has sought to establish with reference to a number of survey and study reports and published material on the subject that the reply given by the Minister was false and misleading.

I had forwarded the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Purohit to the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare for furnishing his comments thereon. I have since received the comments of the Minister. After going through the comments of the then Minister carefully, I am convinced that the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare did not mislead the House, much less deliberately.

It is well established that in order to constitute a breach of privilege or contempt of the House, it has to be proved that the statement was not only wrong or misleading but it was made deliberately to mislead the House. A breach of privilege can arise only when the Member or the Minister makes a false statement or an incorrect statement wilfully, deliberately and knowingly and with a view to mislead the House.

The then Minister of Health and Family Welfare has also assured that if the Member has got in his possession any scientific data or any scientific report substantiating his contentions regarding adverse effects of iodised salt, he would be happy to get them examined.

I, therefore, refuse my consent to the raising of the matter on the floor of the House as a question of privilege.

- (ii) **Notice received from P. Chidambaram seeking to raise question of privilege against Prime Minister on the ground that he had announced the setting up of a new Parliamentary Organisation known as National Rifles outside the House when the House was in Session.**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Chidambaram has given notice of a question of privilege regarding an announcement made by the Prime Minister (Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh) outside the House when the House is in session.

The Prime Minister is reported to have made an announcement regarding the proposed setting up of a new Para-Military Organisation known as 'National Rifles'.

It is well established that no privilege of Parliament is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House and are made outside. Such actions may go against conventions and propriety but do not constitute any basis on