

11.45 hrs.

Facts will be before you. You are
my master and you are my judge..."

OBSERVATIONS BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I wish to make some observations. Certain allegations of a personal character have been made against me in a section of the Press. When these first appeared, two Hon. Members also wrote to me. Immediately, I took the initiative of calling the leaders of the Opposition and placed before them all the facts. I thought they were fully satisfied in so far as my position was concerned. A new point was, however, made that the position be clarified on the floor of the House.

Inasmuch as the Parliament functions very largely on precedents and conventions, I looked up the past records and found that in a similar situation when personal allegations were made against one of my distinguished predecessors, he had made the following announcement in the House:-

"If I have done any of these things, certainly I should not be here in the Chair. I want it to be clarified. Therefore, besides the two Members, who have given notices, Shri Hem Barua and Shri Bagri, I would request some other leaders of the Opposition also to join in that group which I will request to see me. I will place all the facts before them."

I believe by calling the Opposition leaders in my chamber and explaining my position to them, I had done the same. The matter was, however, again raised by an Hon. member soon after the Question Hour on 5th May, 1989. I said:

"You are welcome to call any explanation from me, you come to me or the other way, you know. So simple it is. I have told your leaders once and if they are not satisfied, they can come to me again. I shall explain everything, whatever it is.

Subsequently, on the same day I got another letter signed by some Hon. Members. Following past precedent and practice, I hereby reiterate my offer and request to Hon. Members who have written to me as also any others interested to see me in my chamber where I shall be glad to once again place all the facts connected with my position before them and shall answer any and all the questions that they may pose to me. I suggest that they come to my Chamber at 12.15 Noon today. If they are not satisfied after the meeting and still wish to bring the matter on the floor of the House, they can, of course, do so under the Rules by bringing forward a motion for my removal from the office of Speaker. If they find any difficulty because of the requirement of 14 days' notice, I assure the House that I shall have no objection to the House suspending the relevant portion of the Rule for purposes of enabling a discussion on the motion during this session itself. First and last, I am a servant of the House and place myself fully in the hands of this great House.

[English]

SHRISHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, when the entire country is appreciative of the efforts of the Prime Minister to establish *Gram Rajin* in this country, the Opposition are planning a bandh and they are going to create violence in the country to oppose *Gram Raj*...

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow a discussion like this?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Naik, you did not get my permission to speak. There are certain rules to be observed under which the discussion takes place.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to bring to your notice because it would be a good precedent. This House has to respect the Constitution, Ministers have to respect the Constitution and certain constitutional provisions are there to ensure that Government's respect for the House and the Parliament is retained. Article 151 of the Constitution makes it obligatory that when the Comptroller and Auditor General's Reports are submitted, those reports should be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. We learn that already four weeks back the latest report has been submitted. There is very specific reference and a critical reference to the Bofors Howitzer deal which conflicts probably with the Bofors Joint Parliamentary Committee Report. We fear that as a result of unfavourable recommendations in the report, probably that report is not coming before the House. This constitutes the violation of Article 151 and therefore, a breach of privilege by the Finance Minister. I seek to give notice under rule 222 to move breach of privilege against the Finance Minister and seek your consent.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken action on that. I have already written to the Finance Minister to find out the facts.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The session is coming to an end...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken no time to do my job. And I have already done it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): They have taken four weeks already...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any other way? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA: This is a constitutional obligation...

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is there. But I

have to find out the facts. I cannot go beyond the rules.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing.

*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Amal Datta, you cannot always have your way.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We are afraid that they will take advantage of the adjournment of the House and will not place the report on the Table. These are genuine fears.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know about this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What I could do I have already done.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not argue with me. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chatterjee, you are also a learned lawyer...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Amal Datta, you are doing something which is not desirable.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, you

realise our difficulty. If the House were to go on for one week more, probably this difficulty would not have arisen. When two days are left, looking to the precedents of this particular Government, we are afraid they may put it off.

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? You gave me this morning...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Immediately I have sent it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are just threatening me like that. What can I do?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to find out whether there is truth or not. I cannot take anything like that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Last time also they presented the report on the last day of the session. It is all manipulation...

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to find out as usual. I cannot go out of the way...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Last time they presented the report on the last day so that there could be no discussion at all.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. That is all.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: They are manipulating. We have nothing against you. But they are manipulating. Last time,

they submitting the report on the submarines on the last day of the session.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already done that. Whatever I could I have done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You call the Finance Minister. Let him come and tell us...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say Dattaji that...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. I have not allowed them...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing...

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Look at the past precedents, Sir. When there is a delay, Ministers come forward and state the reason why the report is delayed, why the tabling of the report is delayed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have done it, Sir...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anybody...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not listen, what can I do?...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only go by the rules. They are listening what you are demanding. I have already written to them. That is what I can do. I cannot order them; it is the House which can order them...

(Interruptions)*

11.58 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Audit Report on the Accounts of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay for 1986-87

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Accounts** of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing handicapped, Bombay, for the year 1986-1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7867/89]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of and Review on Air India, Bombay, for 1987-88 and a statement re delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Air India, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Air Corporation Act, 1953.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Air India,

Bombay, for the year 1987-88 together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Air Corporation Act, 1953.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Air India, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7868/87]

Notification under Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.R.O. 12-E (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1989 declaring every service in ports specified in the table given in Notification to be a service of vital importance to the community, issued under section 2 of the Armed Forces (Emergency duties) Act, 1947 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7869/889]

Notification under General Insurance Business (Notification) Act

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, on behalf of Shri Eduardo Faleiro, I beg to lay on the Table: a copy of the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 180 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1989 under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Busi-

*Not recorded.

**Annual Report and Accounts were laid on the table on 24-2- 988.