

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The new Act, mentioned in the question, presumably refers to "The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985". This Act seeks to reserve certain items for exclusive production by the handloom sector and not for purchase from the Handloom sector.

[English]

12.00

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this will be taken seriously by you and the entire House. For long we have tolerated traitors in Kashmir. On 14th of this month Pakistani flags were unfurled all over the Valley and even in the Kashmir University Pakistan flag was unfurled.

MR. SPEAKER : I will get the information and then see to it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, 60 people have been arrested. What action is the Government going to take ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will take notice of it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, I would like the hon. Home Minister to make a statement. It is a most serious thing.

MR. SPEAKER : I will take notice of it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, Mr. Brian, the Canadian Prime Minister has committed... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has come to me. I will look into it and get facts.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is a breach of inter-Governmental Protocol.

MR. SPEAKER : I will find the facts, then I will come.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It has appeared in the Canadian paper ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, what has happened to my privilege notice ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the answer. We will see to it. And if any further action is to be taken then we will contemplate. You will first see it and if there is any discrepancy, then we will come.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, what has happened to my request ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will get the facts and then come to it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : What about the Pakistani elements ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We must denounce those elements.
(Interruptions)

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : On 13th August, 1985, Prof. Madhu Dandavate gave notice of a question of privilege against the Minister of Finance and Commerce, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, for allegedly making policy announcements outside the House on 10th August, 1985, regarding steps to boost exports in response to demands by representatives of trade and industry at an open House discussion.

The Minister of Finance in his comments has *Inter-alia* stated that : "Open House discussions have no fixed agenda and representatives of industry and trade are free to raise any points that they deem appropriate. Commerce Minister thereafter responds to some of the points raised during the discussions. This is not a forum for making policy announcements. This is a forum primarily for taking administrative decisions which can be taken on the spot." He has also stated that the announcements made by him were either within the framework of existing policies or dealt with on-going schemes or related to purely administrative and procedural matters

within the competence of various authorities.

It is well-established that no privilege of the House is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House. It is, however, a matter of propriety that when the House is in session, so far as possible, important decisions should first be announced in the House. It for some reason, like the House not being sitting on that date and important development taking place between the sittings of the House and necessitating a public announcement, earliest opportunity should be taken to bring the whole matter to the notice of the House.

I feel that in the present case (1) No breach of privilege of the House is involved. (2) It would have, however, been more appropriate if the relevant announcements were first made in the House. This was particularly important because these involved financial implications. (3) In any case earliest opportunity should have been taken to inform the House fully in regard to these matters.

I would urge the Hon. Ministers to take care that these aspects are kept in view in future.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : May I say a word. It will require quite a bit of time if we bring these changes before the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Don't challenge the direction of the Speaker.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : In am only submitting to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : I am only on financial implications—statements which have some financial implications.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We have made it clear that there will be no additional financial implication on that. That was made very clear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Submissions are not allowed on the Speaker's ruling.

Now, Mr. Chavan

RE : STATEMENT ON ASSAM ACCORD

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I rise on a point of order. Before the hon. Home Minister makes a statement, regarding Assam first let me make it clear that I am not going into the merits of the case. I welcome the steps that they have taken and the statement that is likely to be made.

I only wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that the entire text of this Memorandum of Settlement has appeared in the Press,—apart from the announcement that was made in the Red Fort, because, there he only made the statement that an accord had been arrived at. But pursuant to that, the full text has appeared. And, I do not think that this House can be taken so lightly. And, I want to point out to you—I had given the dates—that Mr. Feroze Gandhi had raised that issue on 1st of May, 1959 in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got it. I have gone through it; you have given to me in writing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let me complete the sentence. On 1st of May, 1959, Mr. Feroze Gandhi had got the issue settled on the Floor of the House by the Speaker that whatever be the situation, it is always better that when the House is in session, important policy pronouncement must come before the House. And therefore I only request the Home Minister that in future this should be avoided and I request you to see that the dignity of the House is maintained. This is not a ritual. This is the right of the House, and the dignity of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I only have to add this—because, he has not raised as a matter of privilege—he has just pointed