

12.00 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the last session, Prof. K.K. Tewari had given notice of a question of privilege against the *Indian Express* for publishing in its Bombay issue of 10 May 1985, a news item carrying the name of a member of Rajya Sabha which had been specifically kept out of the proceedings of the House dated 9 May 1985, under my direction.

The editor of the newspaper to whom the matter was referred has expressed deep regret for the inadvertent and unintentional lapse and has also explained the circumstances under which the name appeared in the news item in the Bombay edition of the *Indian Express*, even though the same had been kept out from the news item published in its Delhi edition.

In view of the apology and expression of regret for the lapse, I feel that the matter may be treated as closed. I would, however, like the Press to be more circumspect and careful while reporting the proceedings of the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Just one statement, Sir. . (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be very calm. I am listening to you. Why are you shouting?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: Let us start from this side. . (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is a privilege motion.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: There is no privilege motion. . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Have you given notice? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What has happened? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Those who have given notices may be heard first...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you have given to me, I have read it. Would you like me to give my ruling, Sir?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): My submission is about what was said yesterday. Following your advice and also the suggestion of the Prime Minister, I fully brushed my English language last night and have brought my language down to the level of the Prime Minister and I have produced the transcript of his Press Conference collected from the tape-recorded version.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is unnecessarily blaming the Press. He did refer to 1975 in his Press Conference. The Government of India, the Press information Bureau...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I read it. . (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please restrain him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tewary are you raking it? I will handle it.

[Translation]

Why do you want disturbance to be created?

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: You must haul him out... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will handle it. Why do you want to do it? (*Interruptions*) There is nothing wrong about it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Even if Mr. Tewary wants to expel me with retrospective effect, he can do it. I have no objection... (*Interruptions*) Let me complete Sir. I have produced the tape-recorded version... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You take note of the tape-record, the audio tape. I have produced the tape-recorded version of the Prime Minister's Conference and I showed that the Press had not distorted his version... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen that. I have seen yours also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Just one word, Sir. After all, we have been much earlier in this House. We are senior members of this House, who have been here for a considerable time, longer than the Prime Minister. At least the impression should not be created which has been done by him yesterday that we are lacking in intelligence, we do not know English, we have not done our homework, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: It is just a repartee.

[*Translation*]

Why are you creating disturbance? I shall call you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Here is the

coverage of the conference. You may kindly check and see whether it is in conformity with what the Prime Minister said.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it. I have carefully gone through the notes given by Prof. Madhu Dandavate... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

What do you want to say.. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Please listen, Sir. The whole thing will be over in one minute. You are only prolonging it. I do not know why you get so upset and so angry.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of getting upset. You are trying to whip up the dead horse.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is not a dead horse at all. (*Interruptions*) Please listen for half a minute. Yesterday, the altercation or argument which took place was not at all about what is the Constitutional provision for now imposing Emergency. Everybody knows that the 44th Amendment is there, and all that. Yesterday, it was made clear. The argument was going on as to what he said in the Press Conference outside. This official transcript says that he did say...

MR. SPEAKER: That also I have seen.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: He did say that if the circumstances of the previous Emergency were repeated, we would have to declare Emergency again. He did not say that it was ruled out by Amendment No. 44 which, I think, he was briefed about later on. Excuse my saying it. How can we go by something which does not tally with facts? The whole argument was about this.

MR. SPEAKER: You have advanced your argument. I have also gone through it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are saying that he made a wrong statement. The House has been misled. What he has claimed

about what he said at the Press Conference is not correct. Here is the transcript.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right, Mr Jaipal Reddy, what do you want?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, under your Direction No. 115 and also under Direction No. 222, we have given it. Please consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: With due objectivity. Don't try to help some-body, just because...*(Interruptions)* If he has made a mistake, he should own up that mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of helping anybody. Don't say that. Why should I help anybody? I shall not as per the rules, I shall help the House. I shall help the institution. That is all.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Of course; that is what we want you to do.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it. I will do what my conscience allows me to do.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If he has made a mistake, he should have the grace to admit it. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: It should be expunged.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why expunge? What is unparliamentary in it?

MR. SPEAKER: I want to listen to Mr. Reddy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: To say that the Prime Minister has misguided you is no reflection at all.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: He says that the Speaker is helping somebody. It is a reflection on the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If somebody said it, I do not mind it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Speaker can defend himself.

MR. SPEAKER: I can take care of myself. I will take care. Even Mr. Gupta will defend me. Don't worry.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, if you have a defence counsel like Mr. Tewary, you will lose even a good case of yours.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jaipal Reddy, what do you want to say?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Yesterday, our Prime Minister went on a scapegoat hunting spree.

MR. SPEAKER: What is that scapegoat?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He found fault with the Press for not faithfully reporting what he said at the Press conference, and he advised us to go through... *(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more I cannot allow it.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, you have given it to me. I have read it. Why do you want to read it?

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. I have seen that. Mr. Reddy, sit down. Nothing more. What is this? Sit down now.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: It is absolutely incorrect. I have gone through that. Sit down now. Mr. Acharia, why are you now standing?

MR. BASUDEB ACHARIA: Let me say that yesterday, I repeatedly said that the Prime Minister referred to the 1975 situation, and that if the 1975 situation repeated, he had said that he would not hesitate to have Emergency. That is our objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Unnecessary, uncalled for and irrelevant. Sit down. I have gone through the notes. Now, don't you want to allow me to speak? I have seen it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: (*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record, whatever he says, I have seen it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, don't hurriedly do it.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of hurrying, no question of doing it without seeing anything. Without consideration, I cannot say anything. I have got the notice. I have gone through it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: *rose.*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot force me. I have to go by my conscience.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs, and you are standing. What is this?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Then you are certainly within your right to make your interpretation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, will you take your seat now? Why do you want to take the time of the House? What will you get out of it? You have given it in writing. You have also said something about it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When we say something you say what will you get out of it. What do you mean by that? What do you mean by saying what you are trying to get out of it? Why should we try to get something out of it? We are pointing out an inaccuracy in the statement. What do you mean by saying what you are trying to get out of it?

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say that. Did I? It is irrelevant.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is not saying what he had said at the Press Conference. It is highly objectionable. On the top of it, what he is saying now was not

said at the Press Conference. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I simply said it is irrelevant in the present circumstances after the clarification...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is absolutely right what he said. I am satisfied with what he had said, I realise it. I have read it. I have gone through it. I know it is perfectly all right.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not subscribe to that. I am fully conscious of what I am saying. I know what I am going to do and what I read. I am not going to transgress the limit. I have carefully gone through the notes given by Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and Shri Indrajit Gupta together with the transcript of the Prime Minister's Press Conference and the clarification given by him in the House yesterday. I feel that after the clarifications given by the Prime Minister, there is hardly anything substantial which may need further comment. The matter may now be closed.

(*Interruptions*)

(*Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Indrajit Gupta and some other Hon. Members then left the House*)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Summary of Budget Estimate for Revenue and expenditure for 1985-86 and Budget estimates for 1984-85 and Revised Budget estimates for 1985-86 of Air India

(*English*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-rule (5) of rule 3 of the Air Corporations Rules, 1954 :—

**Not recorded