

New York; and over the head of this Minister, the Prime Minister's Secretariat recommended the matter to the Bureau... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise it here? You can have a Calling Attention or a 377.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Again, the Prime Minister's Secretariat is working like it was doing at the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It is working like a super-Cabinet. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a matter we can take up now.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Are you going to allow a Calling Attention?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: The flood situation was discussed here; but it was not completed. We did not get any reply from the Minister. Kindly fix up a date.

MR. SPEAKER: Only when it is included in the List of Business.

SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA (Hassan): What happened to my Calling Attention regarding distress prices of agricultural products in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: I have considered it; it will come up. Now item 7.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): I gave notice of a motion of privilege against the editor and publisher of Illustrated Weekly of India.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to make a statement. It is already under consideration. I have already informed.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Your Secretariat said that by the week-end you would give a decision.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already ordered that unless he offers an unconditional apology, I will refer it to the Privileges Committee.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (Madurai): What about my notice under 377?

MR. SPEAKER: None was selected because of the other debate.

12.10 hrs.

RE: POSTING OF POLICEMEN
OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCES OF
SOME MEMBERS

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: (Satara): I have got one point. The Prime Minister is here; he should know. It is about one of the Members of my party; and he has written a note of dissent to the report of the Privileges Committee. Policemen have been posted. (*Interruptions*) I do not know why. It is about Dr. Seyid Muhammad.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): Police has been posted outside my house also. It is meant as a protection against goondas.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a letter from Mr. Shankaranand. I got it at 10.30 A.M. Immediately I have called for an urgent report from the Home Minister.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVA
This is a very serious matter.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): I am thankful to you that you have called for information. Why does it so happen that policemen have been posted at the houses of those Members who have given dissenting note, Shri Shankaranand, Dr. Seyid Muhammad and Shri Hitendra Desai? I do not know why, when the House is discussing this matter should this be done?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Are they criminals or are they going to get away? Don't they have a right to give a dissenting note?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am on my legs. The matter is an extremely important one; it comes under the privilege of the Members of the House. I am certainly going to look into the matter, if there is any truth in the allegation.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): You are making a precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: No.
(Interruptions)

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): It is not the case only of Members who have given the report like that. Yesterday night, I found some policemen at my residence also and, I have been told, at the residence of Shri Mavalankar. I do not know why....(Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: It is worse. Are Members and the Chairman of the Privilege Committee to be put under surveillance?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Also at my house; it has nothing to do with the Privileges Committee; it is protection against the goondas.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I rise on a point of order, arising out of your ruling....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him and dispose of the matter.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I have no doubt that the Chair would in such matters, exercise the greatest caution in making any observation which reflects on the government, which reflects on the party which constitutes the government.

MR. SPEAKER: I have never made any reflection.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: When any allegation is made to you, you have to wait weigh it in your

mind very carefully. The minute of dissent was submitted long time back.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: The minute of dissent was submitted long time back... (Interruptions) If the government had posted policemen soon after the submission of their minute of dissent, one could understand. But what purpose does it serve so far as the government is concerned to post policemen at their house now? I think that the Chair has not carefully weighed its words while making its remarks; the Chair should have gone into it very carefully....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are unnecessarily misunderstanding my order.

(Interruptions)

What I said was that the complaint is a serious one and if true, it will be a breach of privilege of the House. "If true"—these are the words I used. I have called for an immediate report from the Home Ministry. There is nothing more I have said. I have not given any ruling.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: The manner in which you said it, you will repent it, I have absolutely no doubt.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua) I fully agree with you, but if the report is not true, what is going to happen? (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record.
(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I was just trying to observe that if the allegation that has been made by the hon. member is true, i.e. not only that the police is posted but police had been posted because a certain hon.

member gave a note of dissent, it is a serious matter. But if this is not correct, what happens? Because the police is posted at many places throughout the whole city. (*Interruptions*) My only request is that you yourself or through a committee of the House should go into the details of this complaint and if this accusation is true, then serious action should be taken against the Government and the police. If this is not true, such irresponsible members who have made this accusation should be punished. (*Interruptions*). They are talking of police atrocities, posting of police at the Member's house. (*Interruptions*)

These people are responsible for atrocities. They are not ashamed of their behaviour. (*Interruptions*) We are not going to be cowed down by this type of action, and I am not going to sit down. Mr. Speaker, is this the way that I should be treated? We have also not forgotten many things. We are trying to forget all the crimes that have been committed. They are indulging in the same action. Our generosity should not be taken as weakness. I want to make it clear to the hon. Members and the whole country that we are trying to be generous, but we are not going to tolerate any hooliganism whatsoever. We shall meet all hooliganism, whatever the consequences. (*Interruptions*) For all time to come, I am going to stop this type of tactics.

MR. SPEAKER: I have followed you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: You say that if the charge is not proved, action will be taken against those who have made irresponsible charges. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mavalankar.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): What I had thought of saying as the first point of my speech on the privilege motion main discussion today, I am mentioning now, all the more because Shri Chavan

has made a point with regard to Dr. Seyid Muhammad. The matter is very serious, and first of all, let me tell you that every one of us, Members of this House, is by oath, and I hope by habit also, obliged to speak the truth and nothing but the truth. Nobody shall challenge what I am saying that it is far from fact or truth. I do not want any Member, howsoever big he may be,—he may be the President of a political party, he may be a Minister or he may be the Leader of the House—to challenge, I cannot tolerate anyone on the floor of the House challenging, my *bona fides* any my right to speak the truth. (*Interruptions*)

What happened was that when the House rose for the day yesterday, I went back in the usual way, in the M.Ps.' bus, to my residence at Western Court, and I was surprised and shocked to find outside my room a police official, a constable. When I saw him, I naturally became curious. I was neither afraid nor apprehensive. But I became curious as to what I have done which warrants a policeman to be posted not just at any places in Delhi, but at the Western Court room where I live.

As members of this honourable House, we have come here to speak our minds without fear or favour and we are prepared to even face the consequences of what we say both inside and outside the House. It is a part of the demands of public life. What was more curious was the fact that I had never sought any police protection...

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that will inquire into it.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: You must hear me.

I made enquiries from the Superintendent of the Western Court Hostel. He said that he will make enquiries. He told me after sometime that he made enquiries from some police officer—I do not know who it was—and he said that he did not know, but there were orders that the policeman shall

[Prof. P. G. Mavalankar]

be posted outside my room. I asked, for how long and, he said, the whole night. Now, I do not eat meals in the Western Court. So, I went out for dinner. When I came back, another policeman came, replacing the first one. Again, I asked, why he had come.

These are the facts; these are the serious facts...

MR. SPEAKER: I am looking into the matter. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Are you disbelieving the member?

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am not, at this stage, on a question of privilege matter. I am on a question, whether it was within the powers of the Government to place such kind of people at the residence of Members of Parliament and whether it was right. In my case, it has happened. Again, when I got up in the morning to pick up the Parliamentary papers and the newspaper, I saw the third policeman there. *(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Sir, I can understand the excitement of my hon. friends and also of my hon. friend, Prof. Mavalankar. But I was surprised when it was said that policemen were posted at the residence of members who had given dissenting notes. That is not true; that is, there are policemen posted at the residence of all the members of the Privileges Committee in order to give protection... *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I will tell you why. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House. Please hear him first. After that only, I will hear you.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is not only here but at many various points policemen have been posted because

there is an air of violence going round... *(Interruptions)* Telephone calls, threats, have been received; all kinds of things are happening. There was a crowd coming even to my house this morning. That is why this has been done. If any of them do not want any protection, they will be withdrawn. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alagesan,

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): I only wanted to tell you and the House that, at my residence, no policeman has been posted.

SHRI HITENDRA DESAI (Godhra): As far as my residence is concerned, no policeman has, so far, been posted. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I am reliably informed... *(Interruptions)*—that information has been conveyed to the Chair—that some person's life is in danger on this very issue. The Chair has a duty to tell the House whether the Chair has or has not received any such threatening information... *(Interruptions)* Please tell us whether you have received information from outside about the threat to the life of some persons. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Four days back got a communication purported to be from the Office of the Commissioner of Police that there is a plot to murder the Prime Minister... *(Interruptions)* I never wanted to... *(Interruptions)* Now that the point has been raised, I may tell the House that I got two communications, one from the Commissioner of Police and the other from Mr. Unnikrishnan. So far as the Commissioner of Police is concerned, he has reported that he has received information that the Congress-I people are likely to make an attempt on the life of the Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me....

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikodi): We demand an inquiry into this.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not my allegation.

Immediately I sent it to the Home Ministry for a report because I did not want to make an excitement about the matter because many times this information may be true or may not be true. Therefore, I thought that it was not proper at that stage to announce it in the House and so I asked for a report from the Home Ministry.

Secondly, Shri Unnikrishnan sent me a letter along with a cutting of *Mathrubhumi* paper wherein it is reported that Mr. Stephen has made a statement in the CP(I) meeting that they will physically obstruct the Parliament from passing the motion...
(Interruptions)

Kindly hear me. The same night I sent a letter to Mr. C. M. Stephen along with a copy of the letter of Mr. Unnikrishnan and also requested him to send an early reply to me. The very next day Mr. Stephen sent me a reply wherein he totally denied having made any such statement. I accepted it because once it comes that he has not made any such statement, that is a different matter. All the same I wanted to be on the guard and I even instructed my office to inform the authorities to have necessary security arrangements in the House and also the Watch and Ward to keep a watch in the House. I have taken all possible precautions both outside as well as inside the House.

Though I fully accepted Mr. Stephen's statement—I had no reason to disbelieve the statement and I have not disbelieved it, but I thought my responsibility is that I must take precautions in the matter.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I want to make a submission.

You will kindly pardon me in submitting that it was most unfortunate.

I do not question your intentions, but I cannot avoid observing that it was most unfortunate that letters come to you and its contents with incriminating imputations are announced from the Speaker's Chair. You have taken your action. That was all right. Now speaking from the Speaker's Chair you are giving complete currency to the statement throughout the country. That is the effect of it.

I had in the meanwhile met the Prime Minister and I had met the Prime Minister at a special interview and I brought it to his notice that I have received very reliable information to the effect that one of his Ministers contacted the men of the underworld in Bihar, and had entered into contract with them to murder Mrs. Gandhi (Interruptions). This allegation I made to him and, what I was saying is that there is a certain stage at which communications in confidence must take place. Beyond telling the Prime Minister, I did not tell the press; I did not write to you also because I did not want it to become the property of the House. What I am submitting is if these communications which were passed between the Speaker and the Officers, between the Prime Minister and the other people do not or are not treated as confidential but I come out, it will be announced from all places, from the high pedestal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, then the communications between different functionaries will become absolutely impossible and it will give tendentious news throughout the country and make things absolutely difficult. I only want to say that we regret that you made this statement and I would also submit, Sir, if, on the basis of the communications from the Commissioner, steps are being taken, I would like to ask: whether Prof. Mavalankar is one of the persons, suspect, Mr. Guha is one of the persons, suspect, Mr. Shankaranand is one of the persons, suspect, they have to be kept under surveillance so that they may not attempt the murder of the Prime Minister. This is the picture, Sir and also, I wanted

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

to raise a point of order. Mr. Chandrasekhar, after a Member made a statement, stated if it is untrue; then, Sir; this is the first time if it happened like that, this is an insinuation against the statement made by the Members of the House to the effect that it can be untrue and steps might be taken.

Now it has come out it was not untrue but (*Interruptions*) what Mr. Chandrasekhar has got to say about it? Now, I am submitting finally. I want to totally deny it, the allegation made as irresponsible by the Commissioner, irresponsible. ** (*Interruptions*)

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

TOBACCO BOARD

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Mohan Dharia.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): I move the following:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4)(b) of Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, for the next term commencing from the 1st January, 1979, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4)(b) of Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two mem-

bers from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, for the next term commencing from the 1st January, 1979, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

RECOMMENDATION TO RAJYA SABHA TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 8.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINGDE (Sangli): I move the following:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint a member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Khurshed Alam Khan and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint a member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Khurshed Alam Khan and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.