

SHRI MALLIKARJUN (Medak): Sir, charges of corruption have been levelled by Shri Charan Singh, and by Prime Minister against the wife and son-in-law of Charan Singh. This has to be made a public document.

*** (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. I am coming to that item.

12.52 hrs.

RE, ALLEGED VIOLATION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROPRIETY BY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a totally different matter. I have written to you this morning inviting your attention to what I consider to be a serious lapse on the part of Government and violation of parliamentary practices and propriety. Sir, you will kindly recall that last Friday, that is, July 28, with your permission by writing to you in advance before 10 O'clock I sought your permission and with that permission I spoke in the House inviting the attention of the Government through asking questions to my esteemed friend, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, that he should convey what I was saying to the Minister of Petroleum, Shri Bahuguna. I was speaking about Bombay High and the demand of Gujarat Government and Gujarat people. I demanded that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should convey my request to the Minister of Petroleum and he must come to the House with a statement on Monday, that is, today. Now, what has happened is that not only what I said on that day has not come in the debate—I mean the Synopsis of Lok Sabha Debates—which itself is a serious lapse, but apart from that what I said was a request to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should convey it to the Petroleum Minister to

make a statement. He agreed. He told me as a reply that he will convey whatever Mavalankar has said to the Minister of Petroleum. In between what I see now is that on Saturday morning all national newspapers have published reports of a press conference in detail giving exactly what I was demanding from the Minister. My point of propriety is that when Parliament is sitting continuously—it is not that you have prorogued or adjourned it *sine die*—and we only adjourned for the week-end, Mr. Speaker, I demand, through you an explanation from the Government of India, how is it that the Minister of Petroleum makes a statement on the subject which I myself raised on Friday with your permission and the Minister said that he will do it instead of coming to the House with a statement on Monday he has gone to Press by holding a press conference. Whether the Minister's statement is good or bad, that is not the point. Perhaps, it is good. In some ways it is welcome for me. The point is that he should have come with a statement in the House today or tomorrow and he should not have gone to the press ignoring the whole Parliament. I consider this a violation of parliamentary propriety and, therefore, I want your ruling on this point so that in future Ministers will refrain from holding press conferences and thereby conveniently ignoring Parliament and conveniently also ignoring questioning and clarifications to be sought by the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I have understood your point. Mr. Ravindra Varma may ask the Minister for Petroleum to explain the circumstances in the matter.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: This news has come in the Hindustan Times.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister if he has anything to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't record it. I am not allowing it. We go to the next item—Item No. 2, (A). (*Interruptions*)**

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already written to you. This is about the hon. Prime Minister's enquiry into Jawaharlal Nehru University affairs. This has now become available and I have already written to you, Sir. Either you allow me now or...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I don't do anything; I am not under anybody's orders. I will examine it. Please resume your seat.

We now take up the next item.

12.56 hrs.

RULING ON QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST THE FARMER MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,
SHRI CHARAN SINGH

MR. SPEAKER: Sarvashri Vayalar Ravi and K. P. Unnikrishnan had given notices of a question of privilege against Shri Charan Singh, former Minister of Home Affairs in respect of the following news report 'The Times of India' dated the 19th July, 1978:

"Mr. Charan Singh said in a statement: 'Whatever Mr. Unnikrishnan M.P. has said on the floor of Parliament regarding a recent meeting between me and Mr. Bansilal is, to put it moderately, a deliberate and mischievous statement.'"

I called for the comments of Shri Charan Singh. In his letter dated July 25, 1978, Shri Charan Singh has indicated that according to him, the allegations made against him are unfounded and defamatory, and hence his spontaneous reaction to the same was rather sharp. Obviously, he felt

that his political integrity was impugned by that statement, and further the same cast a serious aspersion on the character of his politics. He has further stated that in addition to the statement of Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan, the fact that the Leader of the Opposition did not contradict it had added to the gravity of the charge against him. All these facts were given wide publicity.

Shri Charan Singh has further explained that in view of his illness, he was not in a position to attend the sitting of the House, and consequently he issued the statement in question. He ended the letter by saying that:

"I would, however, like to make it clear that I had no intention of imputing any motive to the Hon'ble Member. But if an impression has been so created, I regret it."

Under the circumstances, I think I will not be justified in according my consent to the motions.

This order should not be taken as a precedent. Any hon. Member aggrieved by any observation in the House should explain his position in the House.

In the result, I withhold my consent to the motions in question.

12.58 hrs.

RE. LAYING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FORMER MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE PRIME MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the question of the correspondence between the former Home Minister and the Prime Minister being laid on the Table of the House or otherwise made available to Members has been raised in the House on several days. I called a meeting of the Leaders of

**Not recorded.