

MR. SPEAKER: I think that there should be a free forum for him, not for all.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: People pay us Rs. 51 per day. We must give them some service....

MR. SPEAKER: In that respect, he deserves double.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Your glory will become more if you allow us to focus about the miseries outside.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him not try to sell me his goods.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I never mean to carry coal to New Castle.

12.26 hrs.

ARREST OF MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram, dated the 12th December, 1972, from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Patna:—

"Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh, Member, Lok Sabha, was arrested and remanded to Phulwari Camp Jail, under sections 143/341, Indian Penal Code, in default of bail bond while offering *satyagraha dharna* before Central Revenue Building, Patna, on the 12th December, 1972."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I am concerned about the quantity of food that would be required there.

MR. SPEAKER: At least, I have great sympathy with the hon. Member. We shall see that he is looked after very well.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: (Begusarai): But the Government should have some sympathy with the people for whom he is offering *dharna*.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Imagine our friends Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh offering *dharna*.

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri Shyamnandan Mishra must have seen him. I think he went in consultation with him...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Quite right.

12.27 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to make a personal explanation.

On the 24th November, 1972, I had participated in the debate in the House on the non-official resolution moved by Shrimati Maya Ray on the question of unemployment. Shrimati Maya Ray gave a reply to the debate on the 8th December, 1972. Unfortunately, I could not attend the session of the House on the 8th December, 1972.

On Monday, the 11th December, I was told by a senior Member of this House that Shrimati Maya Ray in her reply had cast aspersions against me personally and had accused me, *inter alia*, of having a double standard. Yesterday, I obtained a copy of her speech and I found that in the course of her speech, she had made allegations against me as follows:

"But I was highly amused to hear of his horror that Rs. 438 crores were owing as tax arrears from private industrialists. We are horrified just as he is, but we shall await with interest to see that his horror is transposed into action. After all, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, double standards should not be maintained. It is very difficult to argue on behalf of the people in this House and then go out and argue on behalf of Mr. Haridas Mundhra defending him in the Supreme Court in the evasion of taxes. Let him not help these private industrialists in furthering evasion by defending them in courts of law."....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Hindustan Motors.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I need not read out the other part of the quotation.

If I had been present on the 8th December in the House, I would have certainly protested against these accusations, with the permission of the Chair. It is absolutely incorrect to allege that I had ever defended Mr. Haridas Mundhra in the Supreme Court in any case relating to evasion of taxes or that I had ever helped private industrialists in evasion of taxes. Of course, I submit that nobody can take away my right as a professional lawyer to appear for such client as I wish to appear for. But I want to have it kept on record of the House that the allegations that Shrimati Maya Ray made personally against me, which were unbecoming of the dignity of a Member of the House and wholly irrelevant to the subject-matter of the debate, were totally unfounded and false.

If I may add, Sir, with your permission, the case in which I had appeared for Mr. Haridas Mundhra in the Supreme Court related to certain shares of Messrs. Turner Morrison Co., and had nothing to do with evasion of taxes at all, and in that very case, when it was in the High Court, I had the honour of being led by no less a person than Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray and a very near relation of Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray had appeared as my junior—I do not want to bring in the name of that person. Therefore, sitting in a glass house, I should have thought that persons belonging to the same profession would not have made such allegations. How can a professional lawyer's right to appear to defend any person be challenged?

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir. May I just have a word? I am very sorry to see that Shri Somnath Chatterjee is so terribly sensitive. It is the hard lot of lawyers and professional persons like us when we join politics to have such allegations hurled at us. Unfortunately, we have to bear them. But the only thing is that as soon as one has made up one's mind about this conflict, which is always there, the agitation of

Shri Somnath Chatterjee will evaporate because he has not yet made up his mind. We have already made up our minds and therefore there is no conflict. There is no hesitation in saying that once one enters this area and comes to the cross-roads, one has to choose. Once Shri Somnath Chatterjee chooses, his agitation will certainly disappear.

As far as decorum and dignity are concerned, Shri Somnath Chatterjee is my senior in the profession, and my senior in Parliament also, as such I am perfectly prepared to take lessons from him in dignity at any time. The only thing is that the word 'dignity' is a relative term and the standards of dignity are comparative.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is certainly something less than dignity to make a statement which is factually wrong.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: Surely, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has appeared for tax assesses in his career being a successful lawyer.

MR. SPEAKER: Normally, we do not have this practice that when a Member gives a personal explanation or something of that sort or refutes the statement made by some other Member, we do not allow the other Member to give a counter-explanation. But, anyway, this has happened. It would have been much better if Shrimati Maya Ray also would have written to me like that. Anyway, she has said what she has wanted to say on the floor of the House.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): She does not know the practice of the House. She is not conversant with the procedure of the House.

**RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE
(QUERY)**

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): I had written to you about a matter relating to the motion of privilege which is pending before the Privileges Committee. I had sought your permission to mention that. It is a very serious matter which has come to light. If you would permit