

(a) whether any stock-taking of the National Archives of India has been done;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what arrangements have been made for the preservation and longevity of the records;

(d) whether it is a fact that many documents of historical and research importance are lying with various district authorities in the States; and

(e) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to collect and preserve them in the National Archives?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Archives of India has a specialised research laboratory for scientific examination of documents and conducting research relating to their preservation and rehabilitation. It is also equipped with modern appliances like air-clearing Unit to remove dust from records, vacuum fumigation chamber to combat insect or mildew attack and hydraulic lamination press for strengthening and repairing fragile and weak documents.

Facilities for treatment of bindings or rebinding of volumes of records when necessary, also exist. Part of the stack area housing the earliest records has been air-conditioned to provide storage environment conducive to their maximum longevity. Important series of pre-1900 records are being microfilmed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The National Archives of India which is the repository of central records only, is not dealing with the records lying with District authorities. Records with District Government authorities come within the purview of the State Governments.

12.43 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST EDITOR OF "BASUMATI", A BENGALI DAILY

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : On a point of submission to you on the question of privilege.

On the 18th March 1969, a Bengali daily *Basumati* wrote an abusive editorial against me based on my submission to you on the 4th March, 1969 and personal explanation in this House on the 5th March, 1969. This paper has written that I have pleaded for Shri Dharma Vira and no member of the Congress Party could have excelled me in supporting Shri Dharma Vira. You know that in what I said on that occasion I did not offer him any cover, but based on what I had said this paper has abused me and has even tried to instigate the people of West Bengal against me.

Therefore, it is a clear breach of privilege of a member of the Lok Sabha and I request that my motion on this should be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER : I will write to the editor, as we did in another case the other day, and see what he has to say.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : What is it? We appreciate the exercise of your discretion, but let us know what it is about.

MR. SPEAKER : He may read two or three sentences from the editorial.

SHRI NATH PAI : There may be a *prima facie* case to straightway refer it to the Committee of Privileges.

MR. SPEAKER : There is some point in it.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : The owner of that paper is Shri A. K. Sen.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not interested who is the owner.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I shall quote the relevant portion:

"PSP leader from West Bengal, Shri Samar Guha, pleaded for the Governor, Shri Dharam Vira, in Lok Sabha in Delhi. The role that he played in giving cover to Shri Dharm Vira could not have been excelled perhaps by the Congress members even. . ."

SHRI NATH PAI : Disgraceful.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : "Samar Guha is fortunate that there was no election for the Lok Sabha during the mid-term poll; otherwise, his condition would have been the same as is that of Shri Nishid Kundu—there was no doubt about this. Nevertheless, his role in Lok Sabha in support of Dharm Vira will not be forgotten by the people of West Bengal during the time of coming general election."

SHRI NATH PAI : This is more than a *prima facie* case; this is character assassination.

DR. RANEN SEN : It is a compliment given to him.

MR. SPEAKER : The facts are not there. He wanted to make a personal explanation the next day to correct a likely wrong impression of what he said on the previous day. I permitted him to make it. His point is that the facts are not clearly given but something against him has been put in that paper.

Anyway, let us find out. It is not that we are going to punish him. Let us find out what he has to say.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : It is Shri A. K. Sen's paper. It has the authority to write nonsense.

12.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : (बम्बई दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने एंग्लो के बारे में आप से निवेदन किया था।

Decisions on ARC report on Finance, Accounts Audit.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : I beg to lay : on the Table—

A statement (Hindi and English Versions) of decisions of Government on certain recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission in their Report on "Finance, Accounts and Audit." [Placed in Library See No. LT-432/69]

Report and accounts on Central Institute of English

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report on the activities of the Central Institute of English, Hyderabad, for the year 1967-68 along with the Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-433/69]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1969, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th