

[Mr. Speaker]

Hindustan dated the 6th March, 1970, Misreporting the proceedings of this House on the 5th March, 1970, that a sitting of the House had been fixed on the 7th/8th March, 1970.

Subsequently, I receive a letter, dated the 9th March, 1970, from the Chief Editor, *Samachar Bharati*, which reads as follows :—

"I write this to express my deep regret for the release of a wrong news item by our News Agency about the sitting of the Lok Sabha last week.

Our Correspondent reported that the House would observe holiday on Friday, the 6th March 1970, on account of Shivaratri festival, but wrongly said that the House would meet on Saturday to dispose of the business originally fixed for Friday. There was no intention to misreport the proceedings; it was a mistake in hearing the announcement.

It may kindly be noted that some time after the release of the earlier item, the mistake was detected by our Correspondent and action was immediately taken to kill the earlier story. Unfortunately the news paper which used the original item did not notice the later message sent out to kill the story. In fact the newspaper concerned made another mistake and said that the House would meet on Sunday whereas our story did not say such thing.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mandsaur) : It is a frivolous matter. It should end here.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Let us kill the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : There was a privilege motion. Our practice is to refer it to the newspaper concerned. When they send any thing in writing I have to inform the House.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : It should be treated as closed.

MR. SPEAKER : But I have to read out in to the House what the paper has sent in writing.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : All right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The letter goes on to say :

"In any case I express my unqualified apology to the members of the Lok Sabha for the mistake committed by us. Our Correspondents covering Parliament have been asked to be more vigilant so that such a thing does not happen again."

In view of the unqualified apology tendered by the Chief Editor of the "*Samachar Bharati*" if the House agrees, the matter may be closed.

HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) *Rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Singh Deo, I have sent your paper to the External Affairs Minister. He is not here. Let us see tomorrow.

SHRI HEM BARUA : We have submitted an adjournment motion on the pollution of drinking water in Delhi. What about that ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am considering it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : A former Chief of the Indian Army has made a very dangerous public statement and you have rejected a calling attention notice on that. He has said that the Constitution should be scrapped and military rule should be imposed. It is a very important matter.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : These matters are not to be raised here. They are already before me and they will be decided on merits. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

13.11 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY ON CSIR

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 (Part I) of Committee of Enquiry

(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research). [Placed in Library. See. No. L. T.—2788/70]

MR. SPEAKER : Regarding item No. 5, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee, this item is postponed.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1969-70

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. L. CAATURVEDI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget Railways for 1969-70.

13.12½ hrs.

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 rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Press Council (Amendment) Bill, 1970, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th March 1970.”

THE PRESS COUNCIL (AMENDMENT)
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Press Council (Amendment) Bill, 1970, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

13.13 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1970-71—GENERAL
DISCUSSION—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up the Railway Budget. When the member who is on his legs concludes, I will call the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAHC) : Kindly allow one member from this side also. You can extend the time slightly.

MR. SPEAKER : He can speak on the Demands.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : Please allow one member from this side.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. One or two members may have 5 minutes each.

SHRI SHRICHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : So far we have not exhausted our time. You can extend the total time by one hour so that parties which have not exhausted their time may do so.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. All the parties may exhaust whatever time is left for them. Each member can speak for 4 or 5 minutes and give his suggestions.

I am sorry the calling attention motion has been converted into a regular debating hour. The procedure should be, after the Minister's statement, straightforward questions are put so that we can curtail the time and use it for other purposes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I agree no lengthy questions should be asked. But you are rejecting calling attention notices on many important matters. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You can amend the rules. I have no objection.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I do not question your ruling or judgment because you are the supreme and sovereign authority in this House. (Interruptions).