

Mr. Speaker: May I request the Prime Minister to say something in this matter? Here is the statement which was given to me this morning.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): He will say it himself.

Mr. Speaker: I join with the appeal made by the hon. Members that Shri Shukla himself may say it.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I will read the whole statement again.

I rise to clarify certain points arising out of the allegations made by Shri A. K. Gopalan, M.P. in his statement under rule 357 on 27th March, 1967.

When this question first arose on March 11, 1965, the then Hon'ble Speaker observed as follows:

"If someone writes to me that this was incorrect, certainly I would find out from the Member from where he got it and the House has the authority to take action against the Member if any wrong statement is made. That is the usual practice."

After this, my comments were called for by the Hon'ble Speaker on 1st July, 1965. I furnished my comments and also sent certain documents for the Speaker to be satisfied that the allegations made by me were *prima facie* justifiable on the basis of the evidence. No further action was taken by the Speaker. I was, therefore, well justified in presuming that the material furnished by me had satisfied the Speaker in view of his observations quoted above. Shri Gopalan may dispute the probative value of evidence. But I logically presumed that the Speaker was convinced of there being *prima facie* ground for what I had alleged. And this is all that I mentioned on this point on 18th March, 1967.

About my remarks on the issue of expunction, there is no justification in motives being attributed to me. It is a matter of record and what I spoke from memory could always be checked with the record and duly corrected. The mistake is *bona fide* inadvertence but even for this very minor slip I have hardly any hesitation in saying that I am sorry.

12.28 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

CENTRAL SILK BOARD

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3)(c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, for the term commencing from the 9th April, 1967."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, for the term commencing from the 9th April, 1967."

The motion was adopted.

12.29 hrs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Kunte had agreed to accept nomination on the basis of an understanding that, as the unanimous choice of the Opposition parties, he was acceptable to the Prime