

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: After tomorrow we are adjourning for ten days. We were told that on the 15th March there was going to be a meeting. I do not want them to make an announcement immediately, but 28 lakhs of employees and their families are waiting. So, tomorrow a statement should be made. Kindly ask them to make a statement tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: This is in your hands. Are you pressing your motion?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is in order. Let him not provoke me.

MR. SPEAKER: You are already provoked.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: If you ask me not to move, I shall not move.

MR. SPEAKER: I ask you not to move.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Then I do not move, but you tell them to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER. All right

The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th March, 1975."

The motion was adopted.

12.35 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

BLACKING OUT OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE BY ALL INDIA RADIO

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): About two weeks ago I had brought a privilege motion
328 LS-8

against Shri Inder Gujral, I call him Inder Goebbols, there is nothing wrong in that.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will not use it again.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you not do without such language?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That shows that he is so capable that this job has been given to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish that he should meet with the same fate?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That part I do not want.

About two weeks ago I gave notice of a privilege motion stating that All-India Radio had deliberately blacked out two items which were in the List of Business because those items caused embarrassment to Government. One was Mr. Brahmananda Reddy's admission that he had made a mistake, he said "I am sorry", in the matter of the police shooting of Miss Farida. The second relates to serious lapses on the part of the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation, in which there is huge accumulation of stocks, loss on account of bank charges, court charges and so on. Both the issues caused serious embarrassment to the Government. If you read the All India Radio's newsprint that night, you will see that both the items have been completely blacked out.

I took your advice. I will only say that a Government body should atleast faithfully report what goes on in Parliament. When Mr. Dharia came out with a privilege motion against him, Mr. Gujral took shelter by saying that the news room of All India Radio functions in the manner a private newspaper's news room functions. Here in this case if he comes out with the same plea, he will see that next

morning both the items had wide coverage in all the newspapers of Delhi. He has got two standards. If it is embarrassing to the Government, he will do his best to run it down, and if it is in favour of the Government, he will highlight it as much as he can.

I am not pressing the privilege motion. I only desire that you should make suitable observations so that in future they make faithful reporting of what goes on in the House.

Mr. Gujral is here. Let him say something.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): I will not take your time and the time of the House in trying to rebut the adjectives which my hon. friend has chosen to use because I do not think it should be taken seriously.

One thing which my hon. friend has tried to draw a great deal on is whether All India Radio functions as a news room or not. The main point which my friend forgets is that he personally has unfortunately got into this obsessive mood that whatever he says always forms news. He is a very wise man, but even wisdom can be misplaced sometimes.

On this particular issue he has written a letter to your Secretariat, and your Secretariat was kind enough to send it on to me. He has referred to the Parliamentary review. Parliamentary review, i.e., "Today in Parliament" on March 12 was written by Shri A. N. Prabhu of the *Economic Times*. The task of writing the Parliamentary Review in English and Hindi for both Houses is assigned by rotation to experienced journalists who also work in newspapers covering the proceedings of Parliament from the Press Gallery for their newspapers and news agencies, subject to broad guidelines to ensure a balanced and fair coverage of the proceedings. The review has enjoyed a great measure of freedom. On March 12, no

instructions of any kind were given to Shri Prabhu, nor was any change made in the script furnished by him. Only a few lines were crowded out at the time of the broadcast for want of time. These lines, however, pertain to observations made by some other Members during the discussion on the General Budget and not to either of the topics mentioned by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, i.e., the statement about Kumari Farida or the Calling Attention Notice on the accumulation of stocks with the Mines and Metals Trading Corporation. The statement of the hon. Member, Shri Bosu, therefore,—I am quoting his statement—"I am in possession of information that the journalist who was detailed to do the work has given due coverage" is not correct. Nothing written by the journalist on either of these topics was struck off by the News Service Division as alleged by him. A copy of the script I have already submitted to you and you must have seen it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): During the last session you were pleased to observe that you yourself would go into the reporting of the proceedings of the House and see if the proceedings were twisted or distorted. We have cited certain instances. It is time you considered going into this matter personally or ask the General Purposes Committee to go into it, you may also appoint a special review committee of the House to go into the reporting of parliamentary proceedings by AIR whether through commentaries, reviews or normal broadcasts, because it is our concern to see that the proceedings of the House are not distorted by the Government by employing persons of various kinds.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. member is trying to broaden the issue, because I pinned down Mr. Bosu for making false allegations. Mr. Bosu has made the allegation on the floor of the House and said that he has got proof that the script was changed or distorted. Let him prove it before you

229 Matter under CHAITRA 4, 1897 (Saka) Suspension of sub-rule 230
rule 377 (2) of Rule 206

and I will pay the penalty. Or, he should pay the penalty if he cannot prove it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have never said that I will prove. I have said, I have information. He is telling a**

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): He must apologise for making wild allegations.

MR. SPEAKER: You must use proper language. There is no question of that. That will not form part of the record.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You should kindly look into this matter to see that the proceedings of the House are not distorted.

MR. SPEAKER: If any distortion is brought to my notice, I will look into it. Now I am going to the next item.

12.43 hrs.

SUSPENSION OF SUB-RULE (2) OF RULE 206 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA IN RELATION TO DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (NAGALAND)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in relation to the Demands for Grants for expenditure of the Government of Nagaland during the financial year 1975-76, so much of sub-rule (2) of Rule 206 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, as relates to 'a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into

items', may be suspended for the purpose of granting Vote-on-Account by this House."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): One of the main functions of the Government is the presentation of a proper budget for proper fiscal control. Rule 206(2) says:

"Each demand shall"—it is mandatory—"contain first a statement of the total grant proposed and then a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items."

Part II Bulletin which has been circulated says that a few copies of the budget of the Government of Nagaland for 1975-76 received from the Ministry of Finance have been placed in Parliament Library for reference by members. Where are our copies? How can they take a summary decision that there will be one copy for 30 members? How is it possible for the 776 members of both the Houses to go to the library and read the budget papers? What was the great hurry in toppling this ministry?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing that part. You can raise only the technical objection. It is very difficult to contain you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That is so because I reflect the sentiments of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: That means that others are here purposelessly.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Who says that? I submit that this motion should not be allowed to be moved. If that is done, we shall be undermining ourselves, we shall be cutting our own legs; and the House would be reduced to a mockery, if the government is given such an upper hand.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.