

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Is he sure that Mr. Ajoy Mukerjee's letter is not waiting in his office?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: . . . I have not received any complaint against Mr. Bimal Ghosh like that, nor the report. . .

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Is he sure that no wireless telegram is waiting in his office?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: . . . nor the report of the West Bengal Government mentions this particular aspect. In the written report that I received, I was informed that Mr. Bimal Ghosh was humiliated in the course of that. I made enquiries from the I.B. officers this morning and my information is that Mr. Bimal Ghosh was tripped off his clo'hings and was paraded in the street.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Who is that I. B. officers? (Interruptions).

12.54 hrs.

RULING ON QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबई) : प्रारंभ सहोदय, दोन चार दिन पहिले आपले काम वा किश्ती एत० एम० बनर्जी के खिलाफ . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am coming to that.

श्री मधु लिमये : धर्जून प्ररोडा जो ने फिर इन आरोपों को दोहराया है ।

Mr. Speaker: On the 23rd June, 1967, Shri A. B. Vajpayee sought to raise a question of privilege against Shri S. N. Banerjee, M.P. for certain observations made by the latter on the 30th May, 1967 while asking a question on a calling attention matter. Shri Vajpayee laid stress that the question arose out of my ruling on the 31st May, 1967. This request was supported by Sarvaswari Madhu Limaye and George Fernandes. Shri S. M. Baner-

jee submitted that he welcomed the privilege motion against him and that if he committed any offence by trying to defame the two Ministers he was prepared to undergo punishment for that.

The Minister of Law raised two objections: first that rule 338 barred the raising of a substantially identical question on which the House had given a decision in the same session and, secondly, that Shri Vajpayee had not sought to raise the matter at the earliest opportunity. As regards the second objection of the Minister of Law, Shri Vajpayee stated that the Prime Minister had made her statement on Shri Arjun Arora's allegations on the 20th June, 1967 in the House and that he had given his notice against Shri S. M. Banerjee on the same day.

After hearing the Members and the Minister of Law, I reserved my ruling. I have since considered all the points of view that have been urged and I have to state as follows:

(i) On the 30th May, 1967, during the course of proceedings on the calling attention-notice, Shri S. M. Banerjee had sought clarification on the reported news of certain allegations and the two Ministers whom he had named made statements in regard to those allegations the same day. The statements of the Member Shri S. M. Banerjee and the two Ministers are on record. Thereafter, Shri S. M. Banerjee did not move in the matter. The procedure laid down by me in my ruling dated the 31st May, 1967 does not, therefore, apply in this case.

(ii) If as stated by Shri A. B. Vajpayee, his question of privilege arises after the Prime Minister made a statement on the 20th June, 1967, then the objection raised by the Minister of Law that the matter is barred under rule 336 becomes pertinent, as the House has already decided on the question of privilege which directly arose out of the Prime Minister's statement.

[Mr. Speaker]:

I, therefore, do not give my consent to raise this matter as a question of privilege.

12.57 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON REVISION OF COASTAL FREIGHT RATES

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement on revision of Coastal Freight Rates. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-780/67].

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री मधु लिंगदे (मुंबेर) : मेरा जो दूसरा विधेवाधिकार का सवाल है उस के बारे में आपने कहा था कि मुझे आप उठाने की इजाजत देंगे और आप निर्णय भी देंगे। आज नहीं तो कल रखिये उसको।

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 100 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return

herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1967, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd June, 1967, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.58 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SITTINGS OF HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their First Report have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated against each:

- (1) Shri N. Dandekar—20th March to 3rd April, 1967 (First Session).
- (2) H. H. Maharaja Sriraj Meghrajji Dhrangadhra—18th March to 8th April, 1967 (First Session).
- (3) Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur—22nd May to 18th July, 1967 (Second Session).
- (4) Maharani Vijayamala Rajaram Chhatrapati Bhonsale—22nd May to 15th June, 1967 (Second Session).
- (5) Dr. Sisir Kumar Saha—5th June to 2nd August, 1967 (Second Session).
- (6) Shri Jai Bahadur Singh—6th June to 2nd August, 1967 (Second Session).