

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सम्बन्ध में मेरी प्रार्थना यह है—आपको याद होगा कि मध्य प्रदेश के हरिजनों के मामले पर मैं ने जो बहस उठाई थी, वह कोरम के कारण खत्म हो गई थी। अगर उसी को अगले सप्ताह रख लें तो ठीक रहेगा। कल उत्तर प्रदेश के बुन्देलखण्ड में भी घटना हुई है...

MR. SPEAKER: I would say that the discussion need not be kept confined to just one incident. When the question is taken up, Shri Madhu Limaye can highlight one thing, and some other Member may highlight something else and so on. So, we can take up for discussion all these atrocities together.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : (मधुवती) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रूस के यूरे गगारिन वृष्टना में गुजर गये हैं, मेरा सुझाव है कि उन के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि व्यक्त की जाए।

12.11 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377 RE. AIR's "TODAY IN PARLIAMENT"

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD (Kurnool): I rise to seek the leave of the House under rule 225 for moving a motion of breach of privilege against the Director-General of All India Radio. On the 4th of this month, in a broadcast under the title 'Today in Parliament', the commentator said as follows:

"For the rest of the day the Lok Sabha continued general discussion on the Railway Budget. The discussion now seems to have reached the stage when Members have little to say."

As you are aware, the suggestion of the Business Advisory Committee allotting 12 hours for the railway budget had been accepted by this House.

By the end of the sitting on the 1st March, only 4 hours and 2 minutes had been exhausted, and about 8 hours still remained. The emphasis on the words 'have little to say' is really an insinuation against the Members of the House. That means that the Members had been discussing points not worth mentioning.

This was what the commentator actually broadcast:

"For the rest of the day the Lok Sabha continued general discussion on the Railway Budget. The discussion now seems to have reached the stage when Members have little to say. Mr. George Fernandes of the SSP, however, was able to make a point or two which needs to be mentioned."

On that particular day, about 11 Members including myself participated in the debate and all of us had made some points, some of national interest and some of local interest. Therefore, to say that only Shri George Fernandes was able to make any point worth mentioning is really a serious reflection on the capacity and performance of the Members of this House. I take very strong objection to it. I could have understood a private organisation or a newspaper announcing like that, but it is a Government organisation which has done it. Being a Government organisation it should have been more cautious and impartial. That a Government organisation should announce like that is really a very serious thing.

I would appeal to the Members not to treat this as a party matter but to grant me leave to move this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing like a motion here. It is only under rule 377 that he has made a statement.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli): The names of all the Members could have been mentioned.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): 'Today in Parliament' programme is a commentary. Could it be possible for the commentator within the course of ten minutes to mention all the names?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of mentioning. He need not mention. The objection is to the statement that except one Member, the others made no points worth mentioning. If he had not mentioned any names, then hon. Members would be very happy; the objection is to that portion where it has been said that ten Members made speeches with points not worth mentioning. It is not that every name should be mentioned. I think that would be impossible also. But to say that only one Member made a point and that the speeches of others were useless is something which offends the whole House.

SHRI HEM BARUA: The commentator did not say like that.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East): There is no point in spending much time over this. Should this be prolonged?

SHRI HEM BARUA: Where is the motion?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of any motion. The hon. Member has made a statement, and now the hon. Minister would make a statement on it. There is nothing more to be done about it.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): I wish to assure the House that there was no intention to cast any reflection on the House and if any such impression is conveyed I wish to convey my sincere regrets of the Director-General, All-India Radio.

The script, portion of which has been objected to, was written by an eminent journalist covering the proceedings of Parliament dated the 4th

March. The portion objected to is as under:—

'For the rest of the day the Lok Sabha continued general discussion on the Railway Budget. The discussion now seems to have reached the stage when Members have little to say. Mr. George Fernandes of the SSP, however, was able to make a point or two which needs to be mentioned.'

'Today in Parliament' is not an objective presentation. It is a commentary. Judged from the context in which the observation is objected to, it is submitted that no privilege is involved. What the commentator wanted to say was that the discussion having been held for quite some time a stage seemed to have been reached when Members had little new to say. The omission of the word 'new' was unfortunate and is regretted. As stated above, there was no intention to cast reflection on the Members. The House is requested to take into consideration the fact that the commentator has to hear the proceedings for the whole day and has to condense the entire proceedings in a commentary of 10 minutes.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara): Of both the Houses.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Taking into consideration the pressure at which he has to work the House is requested to accept the regrets.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: There is nothing to regret.

SHRI GADILINGANA GWOD rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not continue this. We have a debate on a much more important matter like defence.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA (Gurdaspur): I like the commentary; it is very objective.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD: In view of the regrets expressed by the hon. Minister, I am not pressing my motion.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: Was there any privilege motion? The Member says that he has moved a motion.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no motion. He had raised the matter under rule 377. He is not pressing even that because he is satisfied with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Is it not necessary for us in Parliament to make it clear that we do not mind in a commentary of parliamentary proceedings any expression of views in regard to our work? I personally never hear this radio commentary and I do not wish to hear it, nor do I think that I would miss much if I do not hear it. But the point is that if in a commentary there is no criticism then it is not a commentary. So, why should we object to criticism?

MR. SPEAKER: The newspapers also make criticisms. We cannot help it.

SHRI HEM BARUA: I hear the commentary and I like it.

12.17 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1968-69—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

I have received a number of calling-attention-notices on defence matters such as the supply of Patton tanks

*Moved with the recommendation

to Pakistan and things like that. Now, here is an opportunity to raise those issues. If I have to admit the calling-attention-notices on the same subject which we are discussing now, it would be difficult. Therefore, I have disallowed some of the calling-attention-notices pertaining to matters of defence.

श्री मधु लिवये (मुंगरे) : ठीक है, मंत्री महोदय सभी प्रश्नों का जवाब दें, कोई एतराज नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members can refer to these matters during the course of the discussion. Particularly when the Demands are under discussion, this is the most appropriate time when hon. Members can discuss the important points. Now, Shri G. S. Dhillon may continue his speech.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): May I seek one clarification from you? You will allow Members to participate in the discussion on the Demands relating to the Defence Ministry. But then there are Members who are not going to participate in the debate but who have tabled calling-attention-notices. . .

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai): They may be passed on to the Minister.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Will those Members also be allowed?

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow all the five hundred odd Members to participate. Whoever participates must raise these points. How can I allow all the five hundred odd Members? That is not within my power.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Let us frame a questionnaire and send it to the Minister.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti): Let him get it typed. We shall all sign it.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON (Taran Taran): I mentioned yesterday that we had learnt certain lessons after the President.