

15.03½ hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF CONTEMPT OF HOUSE

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification with regard to item 7 of the Order Paper? Shri Jaganatha Rao has laid on the Table of the House a statement regarding the action taken by Government on various assurances etc., the usual stuff. But in this connection, I would like to invite the attention of No. 2, I mean, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Leader of the House, to what was discussed in the House on the last occasion, that is, in April, on this subject. I had then reminded the House of the letter that he had written, that is, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Leader of the House had written to all Ministries and Departments....

Mr. Chairman: Is the hon. Member referring to some assurances given?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, no.

On that occasion, when there was a similar item on the Order Paper, I had accused the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of having committed contempt of the House through contempt of a Parliamentary Committee, and the Speaker had assured the House at that time that he would have the matter looked into and then let us known on the next occasion when a similar item came on the Order Paper. Today is that next occasion when a similar item has come up. I want to know what the Speaker has done in the matter, because his assurance was a solemn assurance. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had committed contempt of the House by writing to all Ministries and Departments that no information should be supplied to the Parliamentary Committee on Government assurances directly, when the committee asked for it. Under the rules, a parliamentary committee, as you are well aware—I need no remind you, because as chairman you are a person with rich experience and wisdom—is entitled to call for all

documents, all papers, and even summon witnesses. But there is the guilty man, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who has committed contempt of the House by writing to the Ministries and Departments of the Government not to supply information direct to the Committee on Government Assurances. When I raised this matter on the last occasion, I accused him of having committed contempt of the House through having committed contempt of the Parliamentary Committee, and the Speaker had assured me that he would have the matter looked into. I would like to know what he has done in the matter.

Mr. Chairman: I have caught his point. He may kindly write to the Speaker, and this will be found out and things will be made known to him.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Who should write to the Speaker?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may send it in writing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not going to write. Why should I write?

Mr. Chairman: Because he had objected to it. Anyhow, it will be conveyed to the Speaker:

16.06 hrs.

STATEMENT ON RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): I beg to lay on the Table....

15.06½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I was seeking the permission of the Chair to place the statement on the Table of the House, because it is a long statement. [*Placed in Library.* No. LT-6431/66].