

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Not at present. That question is over. Now, I am going to another matter.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

ARREST OF SHRI V. G. DESHPANDE

Mr. Speaker: As regards the question about the privilege of this House and its Members raised yesterday by Shri Chatterjee, I have already referred the matter to the Privileges Committee, as the House knows. Yesterday, after that was done, I received at 4-45 P.M. the following communication marked "Secret" from the District Magistrate of Delhi.

An Hon. Member: But it is secret.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, upto the time it was communicated to me it was secret, but I cannot keep it secret as between me and the House. It would have been secret had it reached me at a certain stage, but unfortunately it came to my hands at 4-45 P.M. This is how the letter reads:

"District Magistrate's Office, Delhi,
May 27, 1952.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty in the exercise of my powers under Section 3 of the Preventive Detention Act of 1950 as amended to direct that Shri V. G. Deshpande, M. P., be detained. Shri V. G. Deshpande was accordingly taken into custody this morning and is at present lodged in the District Jail, Delhi. The communal situation in Delhi has been tense during the last three days over the intended celebration of an inter-communal marriage. Shri V. G. Deshpande, among others, took a leading part in organising and directing meetings and demonstrations which led to a breach of the peace on May the 26th. Their subsequent conduct in continuing to hold meetings and demonstrations was calculated further to provoke a breach of the peace and as such it was considered necessary to detain them in the interest of maintenance of public order.

Yours sincerely,

RAMESHWAR DAYAL."

Of course, the subject is not open to any discussion, but I mentioned this letter and its contents to the House merely for information. A reference has already been made to the

Privileges Committee and I am forwarding this letter also to that body. It will take this matter into consideration along with the other matters under investigation and then make its report.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): When was this letter received?

Mr. Speaker: I said, at 4-45 P.M.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Did your office receive it at about that time, or was it lying in your office?

Mr. Speaker: It came directly to me at my residence.

Shri N. S. Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): What is the time of its despatch?

Mr. Speaker: It is dated the 27th and looking to its contents, obviously it was despatched after the arrest and after Shri Deshpande had been taken into custody.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: And after it was known that you had referred the matter to the Privileges Committee?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether it was known to him. It all depends upon whether the District Magistrate was watching the proceedings of this House from moment to moment. I do not know that. He may have known or he may not have known. Anyhow, it is for the Privileges Committee to enquire into the matter now.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury (Gauhati): May I know whether Shri Deshpande will be allowed to attend the sittings of the House if he desires to do so?

Mr. Speaker: Let us await the report of the Privileges Committee.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: I am making an application to you now to permit him to attend the sittings of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Even if an application is made just now, I will await the report of the Committee. I have already instructed the Committee to expedite its work, and the first meeting of the Committee is going to be held today at 3-30 P.M.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY BILL.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of Commissions