

[Mr. Speaker]

At this stage, I may incidentally inform the House—perhaps new hon. Members may not know—that it is considered to be a contempt of the House and a breach of privilege to give publicity to any notice of motion or question by any Member, unless intimation of its admission is given to the Member. If I mistake not, I think it was yesterday that in the Press there is a mention about Mr. Gopalan's request for raising a discussion. I am not going to take any further step in the matter beyond drawing the attention of Members to this important aspect. Unless a notice is admitted, it is improper to give publicity to it in the press that so and so is going to ask such and such a question, or so and so is going to put this kind of thing or that kind of thing or move this motion or that. It is entirely wrong. It is possible that questions—as it many times happens—which are tabled might not be allowed by the Chair and it is wrong on the part of responsible Members of this House to give publicity to what is not coming before the House.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Malvelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): It might have leaked from the Parliament Secretariat.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should realise that it is no use casting reflection on the Parliament Secretariat. I can vouch-safe, so far as the Parliament Secretariat is concerned, that it keeps everything secret. It is no use taking cover under that kind of defence. The hon. Member's intervention and defence makes me believe that the source was somewhat on his side. He need not have taken it unless the cap fitted him. I never referred to any person as responsible for it. Most probably the information leaked out from the source which gave notice. I never said that they did it intentionally. I have assumed that, it was ignorance on their part of the parliamentary procedure and I was proceeding on that line. It is really a bad defence and his colleagues will perhaps realise that they should be saved from such a friend when he tries to make a defence by throwing the responsibility on the Parliament Secretariat.

I am unable, therefore, either to entertain, much less, to give my consent to this motion.

SUPPLY OF AGENDA PAPERS TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: According to the present practice copies of the following papers are supplied to Members at their residences and they are requested to preserve copies of such papers and to bring them for use in the Chamber when the respective business relating to such papers is subsequently taken up in the House:

- (1) Bills as introduced;
- (2) Reports of Select Committees on Bills after presentation;
- (3) Lists of amendments to Bills, Resolutions and Motions including lists of cut motions to demands for grants.

There are other papers, mention of which was made a few days back in the Parliamentary Bulletin.

Copies of these papers are not included in the daily sets of papers of Members in the House, but a few copies are made available in the Lobby Office and the Parliamentary Notice Office in order to meet the demands of Members who fail to bring their copies. This system has worked well for all these years and has been very economical. Hon. Members might have noticed that certain papers are always placed on the Members' seats—lists of questions, agenda and some other papers. It was the intention to observe as to what the result of the first experiment was and then to follow it up in regard to other papers also, as a matter of economy. We cannot go on spending and wasting money on paper and printing.

I propose to adopt the same procedure in regard to supply of copies of list of business and list of questions which is followed in the case of Bills and lists of amendments and cut motions. The list of business and the list of questions will continue to be circulated to Members in advance as heretofore but will not be placed again on their seats in the House in future. Hon. Members are requested to preserve these copies of agenda papers and question lists and to bring them for use in the House from day to day. Some sets of agenda papers and question lists will also be placed in the Lobby Office; and in case any Member forgets to bring his papers, a set will be supplied to him on request. I end with the hope that Members will not be forgetful in bringing their papers.

Now, we will proceed with the Railway Budget.