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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE Monday, 23rd June, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

DEATH OF SHRI A. S. NANDKAR

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Anant Savalaram Nandkar who died on the 22nd June, 1952, in Nasik in tragic circumstances. He was elected to the House of the People from Thana-Reserved—Sch. Tribes constituency.

The House will join me in conveying our condolence to his family. The House may stand in silence for a minute and express its sorrow.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

CERTAIN PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
BY DR. S. SINHA

Mr. Speaker: During the course of the debate on the 11th instant on the Demands for Grants under the head "Defence", Dr. S. Sinha—the hon. Member from Saran East—said the following with reference to the speech made by the hon. Member Shrimati Renu Chakravartty on the 10th instant:

"I have compared her speech and found that it was word for word— I would say the general line—from

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an article written by one Lemin in the month of February".

This statement of his provoked interruptions from a section of the House, and the hon. Lady Member challenged Dr. Sinha to put the papers before the House. It is not clear what her object was; but it appears, she probably wanted the papers before the House for a comparison, which would, according to her, show that her speech was something different from the article, or, at any rate, it was not a word for word copy, as alleged.

Later on, there was heat in the debate on Dr. Sinha making certain remarks. These are irrelevant for my present purpose. At the end of that small storm, the Deputy-Speaker remarked as under:

"If any hon. Member refers to any document, or reads any extracts from it on the floor of the House, he must place it on the Table of the House."

This direction of the Deputy-Speaker, though apparently couched in general terms, has to be interpreted in a limited sense in the context of the speeches and the situation. The incident, if I may use that expression, ended there, and nobody had, till then, raised any question of breach of privilege, either of the House or of any member thereof; nor the question of genuineness or otherwise of the documents referred to by Dr. Sinha was raised. Obviously, such a question of genuineness or otherwise could not be raised, as the papers were not before the House.

Next day Dr. Sinha asked for permission to lay on the Table of the House the documents referred to by him in his speech the previous day. He did this in pursuance of the advice given by the Deputy-Speaker. He was permitted and the documents were laid on the Tuble of the House on the 12th.