

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Date: 12.3.2011

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 28th August, 1956

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12-08 P.M.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Sir, I have given notice of a motion of privilege, to be raised with your consent. It is about the comment made in the *Hindustan Times*, dated Sunday, August 26th, 1956, under the heading: 'Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill'. I submit, with respect, that the whole report is tendentious, but I have to complain particularly about one passage. It reads like this: it is as if I was saying:

"Let it be understood that what stood in the way of the Minister and his Deputy were their "physiques"—the word 'physiques' is in inverted commas—"...in that both Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mr. Alagesan are rather short-statured."

We say all manner of things in this House. We criticise people on the basis of their policies. I am sometimes carried away by emotion. However, I do not think that I have ever committed the rather unpardonable mistake of descending to personalities and make utterances of this description. The word 'physique' is attributed to me; it is put within inverted commas. It is purely an

invention. I would ask you to look into my speeches; I made several Speeches that day. You will find that I have not used the word 'physique' anywhere there. The whole passage here is not only an invention, but is it mischievous. It first puts into my mouth the word 'physique' and reads as if I said that they were not fit to be the Minister and the Deputy Minister because of their stature. I never said that at all. What did I say?

I have said he was a good man, and my grievance was that he was a weak man. I also referred to him—you may say that it is colloquialism—as "dear good little chap". That, I submit, anybody who knows English idioms will agree, is an expression not only of esteem but of affection. One does not use it in a disparaging way. And to say from that that I have argued that he should not be a Minister because of his size is quite wrong.

Then, Sir, I would draw your attention to the P.T.I. Report on the same subject. It is an objective and fair report. It has made a reference to what I said: "He is a good man, but a weak man". That is all right. Report me fairly but do not put into my mouth some personal reference to his size, to his physique, when I never made any such reference; that is what I say;

The report also says that I said this about Shri Alagesan. I said a lot of hard things about Alagesan, but nowhere did I refer to any such things. I did not even use the expression of esteem that he is a dear lovable little person because I have not got the same regard for him as I have for the Minister. Then how can it be said that I said all

[Shri Frank Anthony]

these things about him. The whole passage is mischievous.

I have made a complaint about the previous part. The point that I am raising is this. Is it permissible to report like this. Sometimes it is only human that some persons may err in drawing their own conclusions. But even in the first part, in the second paragraph of the report, it is said: "charging it with callousness and dishonesty of purpose in its dealings with the employees". That also is pure fabrication and it has been put in inverted commas. Nowhere have I used these words. As I said, the whole thing is mischievous in order to put what I said in a wrong light.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider this matter. Even that day I felt, referring to an hon. Minister here, who is much in advance of age than the hon. Member who spoke, as "little chap" was only to refer to his physique. How is he little? An hon. Member here in this House is not at all little. That littleness or smallness applies to his stature. I felt it rather awkward that the hon. Member should say "little chap". Is he little? Is Dr. Katju little? Would he say that to Dr. Katju?

Shri Frank Anthony: I am sorry, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: He would not say that to Dr. Katju. This "little", therefore, in that context, I felt referred only to personal appearance. Therefore, I felt a little embarrassed. I did not want to pull up the hon. Member then, who was so enthusiastic in using expressions which equally forcibly could have been expressed otherwise for the purpose of arguing that both hon. Ministers—the junior as well as the senior—did not do their duty properly, if he felt they were not doing so. Anyhow, I am not trying to defend what has appeared in the statement of the paper. I shall look into this and take whatever action is desirable and proper.

Shri Frank Anthony: Sir, you have been unfair to me. Had I used the words "little chap", then certainly it would be objectionable. But when I say: "dear, lovable, little person" anybody who knows English will say that it is an expression of esteem. I say that usually to my dearest of friends. I do not see how you can take offence to that. Certainly the position would have been different if I had said: "little chap". That can be said as referring to the physique. But I said: "dear, lovable, little person".

Mr. Speaker: I am really sorry the hon. Member thinks that he alone knows English in this House and nobody else. I do not want to bandy words with him. Is he little in knowledge? I can understand if he is a young fellow, a little boy to be called a little chap. I cannot understand an elderly man being called a little chap. Would the hon. Member call Dr. Katju as a little chap?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): Why should I be dragged into the picture?

Mr. Speaker: There is no doubt that this "little" means physical appearance. Of course, the very word "physique" was not used, I agree as has been said in the report. It need not have been put there, though it was understood in that way. Anyhow I shall certainly look into the matter, because the hon. Member takes exception to it. I shall see what ought to be done and what can be done.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West-Reserved-Sch. Tribes): Sir, may I just intervene? I am very glad you have agreed to look into this matter. But we are all trying to learn English. There is one thing I should like to say. As far as the English language is concerned, that expression—it is not just one word "little" to which you are pinning down yourself—itsself is certainly one of endearment.

Mr. Speaker: When you say that the little chap is a good chap.....

Shri Chattopadhyaya (Vijayavada): Sir, I venture to suggest that the word "little" was used by our hon. Member here in a very big way.

Mr. Speaker: We will now go to the next item of business.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
REPORT OF PLANTATION INQUIRY
COMMISSION PART I—TEA

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Plantation Inquiry Commission Part I—Tea, 1956, together with Appendices and Annexures. [Placed in Library. See No. S—358/56.]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the States Reorganisation Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 1956."

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
SIXTIETH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Sixtieth Report of Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I would like to announce a slight change in the programme of Government business for this House for the current week as announced by me on 25th August.

Owing to pressure of urgent business awaiting disposal in relation to the time available for it, it has become necessary to postpone for some time the consideration of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bill. Time permitting, this Bill will be brought forward at a later date. Instead the Government Resolution seeking the approval of this House to the continuance in force of the proclamation of the President in relation to the State of Travancore-Cochin will be brought forward during the current week. From the Revised List of Business for August 28 and 30 Members would have noticed that this has already been provided.

I should also like to take this opportunity of correcting a statement made by me on 25th August. With regard to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, I stated that in my absence an announcement was made that the 6th and 7th of September, were allotted for it. I find that while the anticipation of dates for the consideration of this Bill is substantially correct, no formal announcement was made about the particular date. This Bill be taken up immediately after the passing of the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Sir, may I make a submission? As far as the Business Advisory Committee's Report is concerned, 2 hours have been allotted for the discussion of the Report of Mr. Appleby regarding the reorganisation of our administration. One who reads that report will find that he has made very serious sug-