

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 5th March, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock.[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

CONVICTION OF SHRI BHAJAHARI
MAHATA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication from the Magistrate, First Class, Purulia.

"I am to inform you that I have today convicted Shri Bhajahari Mahata, M.P. and sentenced him to undergo simple imprisonment for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 300 in default one month simple imprisonment under section 9(5) of the B. M. P. O. Act.

He has been placed in division 'A'."

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET
PAPERS

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): I desire, with your permission, to raise the question of break-down of distribution arrangements of budget papers in the Press gallery on the 27th February, leading to the

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leakage of the taxation proposals long before the Finance Minister started reading them to this hon. House. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts are as follows:

Instead of distributing part A of the budget statement, known generally as the 'review', part B, containing taxation proposals, was distributed—some fifteen or so copies—to Press representatives, with the result that, to the best of my knowledge and belief again, though some of the Press representatives, with their high sense of conduct and code of honour, returned them, a few copies left even the premises of this august Parliament.

I raise this question so as to get an enquiry instituted for the purpose of getting the guilty people punished, and more so, to ensure that such a mistake does not occur in the future.

Shri Raghuramaiah (Tenali): May I say something which has got a bearing on this. Immediately after I came to know about this nearly four days ago, I have myself tabled a short notice question on it. Would it not be better, before pursuing this matter, to await the reply of the Government to that question, so that we may know the facts and then decide what to do?

Mr. Speaker: Let us see what the Minister has to say, now that the matter has been raised, and we shall perhaps disallow the short notice question.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): I would like to place before the House the