12.51 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 799

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Sir, while answering Shri Kodiyan's supplementary question on 2nd September, 1958, I had stated that so far as the new agricultural colleges are concerned, the Central Government had promised to pay 75 per cent of the non-recurring and 25 per cent of the recurring expenditure by way of loan only and that there was no subsidy.

The correct position, however, is that insofar as the new agricultural colleges are concerned, the Central Government has promised to pay 75 per cent of the non-recurring expenditure as grant (i.e. subsidy) and 25 per cent of the non-recurring expenditure by way of interest bearing loan.

12.52 hrs.

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE

STATEMENT BY CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA

Mr. Speaker: I had promised to give my ruling regarding my consent on the privilege motion. I have heard all sides and I have practically made up my mind on what ought to be done in this matter. I hold under rule 225(1) that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order and I give my consent under rule 222.

Shri M. R. Masani (Ranchi-East): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for the consent that you have given, and I formally move for leave of the House to raise a matter of privilege arising out of the action of Shri E. M. S Namboodiripad, Chief Minister of Kerala.

The facts briefly are that on the 21st of September, the Times of India of Delhi, the Amrit Bazar Patrika of Calcutta and some other newspapers published the text of a Press Trust of India message dated Trivandrum.

September 20th, which reported the news of a telegram being issued bу the Chief Minister of Kerala Home Minister. The message alleged that this information reached Press Trust of India through official sources in Trivandrum. It went on to say that this telegram requested the Home Minister to request you, Sir, not to permit a debate on the situation in Kerala until the Communist Ministry of Kerala had an opportunity to state their view on the memorandum submitted to the Speaker. The message then went on to quote extracts from this telegram, one of the extracts being the allegation made by Mr. Namboodiripad that some Members of Parliament, who raised the question "had tried to slander the State Government in the name of explanation." This re-port of the contents of the telegram has remained uncontradicted till this day.

The fact of the telegram is not denied and it is now in the possession of the House. The fact of this telegram was mentioned to us by the Home Minister the other day when he said that this telegram was the reply to the one which he had himself sent at your instance to elicit certain information from the Kerala Government.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I did not exactly say that.

Shri M. R. Masani: It is in the proceedings I saw this morning.

Pandit G. B. Pant: A telegram has been received.

Shri M. R. Masani: I will quote what the Home Minister said if I am given a minute. It is in the proceedings of the 23rd that the Home Minister said that he had sent a telegram to the Chief Minister of Kerala to elicit certain information and this telegram came in reply to that.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I never said that.