

[Shri Hem Barua]

by Jawaharlal Nehru. The Speaker himself most shamelessly chose to be the second fiddle in the hands of the ruling party, so unlike late V. J. Patel of hallowed memory. Thus every sacred institution of the country is being debased by the accursed leadership which is purblind and is in the leading strings of others who are stone-blind. Parliament has lost its dignity in the hands of docile and "Jo-Hukum" members. Are we not already witnessing the dictatorship of Congress Party in operation? Look at the arguments put forward by Jawaharlal and Govind Ballav Pant in favour of postponement of the Assam debate *sine die* encroaching on the sacred democratic rights of Members of the Parliament to debate the issue. A child would hate to sponsor such silly arguments. But all the same, they carried the day with help of an obliging Speaker. The whole thing was fraud on the conscience of the nation."

This, I think, constitutes a breach of the privilege of the House. Irrespective of the depth of feeling or passion of anyone on happenings anywhere in the country, no man or rather nobody could be permitted to cast aspersions and reflections on you, the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House, as also on this House without that man being brought to book.

At this stage, I do not want to take the time of the House unnecessarily, because the passages that I have read out speak for themselves. But I am confident of one fact that the Members of this House would rally round you in your efforts to maintain the dignity and authority of this House, which I am sorry to say have been challenged, so unwisely in a moment of passion.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): May I know whether he belongs to the PSP party?

Mr. Speaker: It does not matter; whoever he might be or to whatever party he might belong.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur): I am one with Shri Hem Barua in his submission to you that the dignity of the Chair and the dignity of the House should be maintained at all costs and in all events. On that proposition, there can be no compromise and there should be no compromise. We are all one with him in his attempt. I thank him for having drawn your attention to it and request you to uphold the dignity of the House and the dignity of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that the House gives leave to the hon. Member. Under the rules, if leave is granted under rule 225, the House may consider the question and come to a decision or refer it to the Committee of Privileges on a motion made either by the Member who has raised the question of privilege or any other Member. Is the hon. Member making a motion?

Shri Hem Barua: Yes, Sir; I beg to move:

"That this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges for consideration and report."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges for consideration and report."

The motion was adopted.

12.17 hrs.

RE. STARRED QUESTION NOS. 872
AND 903

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West-Reserved—Sch. Tribes): Mr. Speaker, before you proceed further, I have a submission to make. It is with regard to Questions Nos. 872 and 903. Look at these two questions. Although they are similar, they are not identical. You were pleased to give a ruling that because the hon. Member, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, indicated

that he would not put the question if it should be reached, you said that the answer should be scored off, your view being that it would unnecessarily get credit in the Press, because it is a written reply.

My submission is that much effort and much labour have been put in producing the written answer and it is unfortunate that this House should be precluded from knowing the information any Member might ask for. The position is this. At the time of my tabling a particular starred question, I may not have the information. But if by the time it reaches the day when I am due to put it, I am already in possession of the information I was seeking, surely you do not insist, if I am present in the House, on my putting the question. But in this particular case, the position is, the rest of the House should not be precluded from having that information.

Mr. Speaker: The position with respect to these questions is this. When an hon. Member tables a question, if it is admitted, the question is printed. Those hon. Members will be allowed to call the questions who are present in the House. If they are not present, all the same those questions are printed and the answers are laid on the Table of the House. They are available to the Press and they are published. As a matter of fact, those outside the House may not know that an hon. Member might not have been present at all. Sometimes it so happens that on account of answers being placed on the Table of the House and being reported, no distinction is being made between a Member who stood up and called a question and another Member who was not present, it will appear to the outside that all these questions were put in the House. We do not want to withdraw any answers that are made available merely because of shortness of time, for the question might not have been called. All these questions are not in possession of the House. It is open to an hon. Member to withdraw a question.

We will assume that an hon. Member writes to me that he should be allowed to withdraw the question. Of course, if a matter has been placed before the House, the permission of the House is required to withdraw the question. Otherwise, I can allow an hon. Member to withdraw his question, which I have admitted. Since, Shri Shukla did not put the question when he was called, I treated it as having been withdrawn, in which case it will not appear in the debates. Merely because it is printed in the list, the House has no right over it. If the hon. Member withdraws it, it would not appear in the proceedings. If a question is not reached, it will form part of the records but if an hon. Member has withdrawn a question it would not be printed, because it will not form part of the record. If an hon. Member refuses to put a question I will treat it as having been withdrawn.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Baloda Bazar): I actually did not refuse to put the question. An hon. Member opposite suggested that this question should be clubbed with the question I am going to ask. Then I submitted to you that if both the questions are asked together it will destroy the effect of the first question, because, though the subject is one, one question related to the good work and another related to the bad work. So, I wanted to be permitted to put my question when it comes. But you were pleased to say "If he does not put it, it does not matter. I will treat it as having been withdrawn."

Mr. Speaker: It is open to me to call both the questions together when the hon. Member has put both of those questions. I had separated those questions because. I do not want to allow one single hon. Member to monopolise all the questions. Therefore, I split it up. It is always open to me to ask both questions to be put together if they relate to the same subject, if the hon. Minister is willing to answer them and if the

[Mr. Speaker]

hon. Members are willing to put them. In this particular case, the hon. Member said "No, I am not willing to put the question" and, therefore, I treat that question as having been withdrawn. It is not open to any hon. Member to dictate to the House in what order the questions ought to be put. I have got the right to do so. In this case, I rightly treated this question as having been withdrawn. The House has no right to have it printed or circulated.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): May I make a submission? When you call the name of the person who has tabled a question, it is left to the discretion of the Member to call the number of the question or not to call it. Even if he is in the House, if he does not want to stand up and does not want to call the question, you only pass over that question. It does not essentially mean that the question is withdrawn. I submit that such questions are always treated as unstarred and their replies are supplied although they are not actually put.

Mr. Speaker: The other day when I called a question the hon. Member was talking to Shri Sharma. I did not treat it as having been withdrawn. I passed over to the next question. Some hon. Members may be a little absent-minded, in which case I pass over the question. I do not want to treat those cases as Members having withdrawn those questions. Here there was a suggestion that this question may also be answered together. When I definitely asked him to put the question, he says "No, no, I am not willing to put that question now, because one question conflicts with the other". He has put two conflicting questions with totally conflicting answers. It was an accident that one question was separated from the other. I could have directed both the questions to be clubbed. When I called the question and definitely asked the hon. Member if he is willing to put it, he said "No". Ordinarily, when I call an hon. Member to put a

question, if he is not present, I will give him an opportunity later on to put the same question. I am not going to allow that concession here. So, I treat this as a deliberate act of withdrawal of the question and I am not going to allow it to be printed. Now let us proceed to the next item.

12.26 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT AND REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I beg to lay on the Table:

(i) A copy each of the following Notifications issued under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951:—

(a) S.O. 1791 dated the 18th July, 1960.

(b) S.O. 1886 dated the 28th July, 1960. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2326/60].

(ii) A copy of each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951:—

(a) Report (1960) of the Tariff Commission on the Revision of Raw Rubber Prices.

(b) Government Resolution No. 16(4) Plant (B)/60 dated the 23rd August, 1960.

(c) Statement explaining the reasons why a copy of each of the documents at (a) and (b) above could not be laid on the Table within the period prescribed in the said sub-section. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2327/60].