14709 Re: Alleged VAISAKHA 9, 1882 (SAKA) Breach of Privilege 14710

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I introduce† the Bill

12.37 hrs.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS BILL*

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport workers and to regulate the conditions of their work.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport workers and to regulate the conditions of their work."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Nanda: I introduce the Bill.

12:38 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed that motion. I have not given my consent. I can state it here. Under the rules, if any hon. Member seeks to raise a question of privilege, when consent is not given, I may indicate to him that consent is not given. On other occasions, when I find that the hon. Member is anxious to raise that point, I state it here that I do not give my consent.

The hon. Member has written to me that for the last two days, his telephone is constantly being tapped, and he suspects that this is being done in order to prevent the satyagraha which they are going to start from the 1st

May 1960, or his taking part in that or something of that kind.

Hon. Members are aware that so far as that is concerned, that is not a privilege of this House here.

Under Article 105 of the Constitution, whatever an hon. Member says here or does here is privileged, and nobody can take exception to it; he is only subject to the discipline of this House, but when he is outside....

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Telephones are supplied as a privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Supposing he is outside at the post office, or let us say, he gets into a train, but the ticket is not given to him, he cannot come immediately here and say that the privilege of the House has been infringed.

Hon. Members are awar that it has been said repeatedly, both in England and here, that except in the discharge of their duties, for which they have some privileges here, Members ought not to claim any special privileges outside which an ordinary citizen does not have. If the same thing had happened with respect to any ordinary citizen, it could not be brought up here as a breach of privilege; those things may be taken up with the Government in other ways. Therefore, I refuse to give my consent.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It is not a question of breaking the law. If I break the law, I shall not complain to you and say that I should not be punished for that. That is not my point. I am here at Delhi at my residence, and I have been having my normal parliamentary duties. I am telephoning to somebody, somebody is ringing me, and in between, it is being tapped; I do not hear the other party. That is obstructing my parliamentary duties. That is my point.

[†]Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

^{*}Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2. dated 29th April, 1960.