

MR. SPEAKER: Don't be verzealous. I think this is not the Speaker's person but, this is an administrative matter and so I am allowing it.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: My submission is this. The very prestige of the Speaker might be enhanced. That is not the question. The question that is very pertinent before the House is this. Since the question is relating to the Speaker and the dignity of the Speaker, I request Prof. Dandavate to withdraw this question. That is because you have not been consulted and you have not been taken into confidence. You know nothing about this. The Minister's reply might or might not enhance your prestige. He should inform you in advance anything that concerns you.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly sit down. May I tell you one thing? When I saw the question, it was not concerning me or my prestige or anything of that kind. Somehow it has come. If I do not allow it, it will create another confusion. Why should I not allow him?

So far my own staff is concerned, I am not going to ignore them. So far as that comes between the Minister and myself he should have informed that he is sorry for that.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

*Unauthorised Occupation of seats
Alloted to V.I.P.s. Escort.*

SNQ. 3. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is true that when the Speaker of the Lok Sabha was travelling by the Frontier Mail from Jullundur to Delhi on March 11, 1974, the compartment next to the Speaker's air conditioned coach was shown as occupied by the Speaker's police escort, though the escort was not accompanying the Speaker,

(b) Whether complaints have been lodged with the Railway authorities that the seats shown as allowed to Speaker's escort were in reality allotted to other passengers after unauthorised payment to the Railway staff by the passengers; and

(c) if so, what steps are taken to prevent such malpractices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) One bay consisting of 10 seats in a third class unreserved coach running by 32 Dn. Frontier Mail of 10.3.74, in which the Speaker, Lok Sabha, was travelling from Jullundur to Delhi, was earmarked for the escorts of the Speaker is the police personnel had approached the station staff at Amritsar for this purpose.

(b) At Delhi Main Station some passengers approached the Speaker, Shri Dhillon, and complained that his escorts had not travelled upto Delhi and that this accomodation had been sold to other passengers on some consideration. The matter is under inquiry.

(c) Instructions have been issued that any complaint against misuse of accomodation by GRP personnel should be immediately investigated and authorities concerned intimated to take remedial action. Railway checking staff is also being alerted to check such malpractices. This case has been forwarded to the police authorities concerned viz. AIG/GRP, Patiala, for further action.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I ask the supplementaries I must make it explicitly clear if I had forced this question, I am convinced, by placing this question before the House the dignity and the prestige of the Speaker will be enhanced. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, in the reply that has been made by the hon. Minister there are certain contradictions. I am glad that some portions have been omitted but even after omission there is a degree of contradiction that still exists. I would first

like to ask a definite question regarding contradictions. I would like to know specifically whether you want to confirm or contradict that when the hon. Speaker was travelling by this train whether there was any police escort that was accompanying the Speaker at all? In the modified statement you neither confirm that nor reject that. So, I would like to have a categorical answer in this regard.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The information received by us from the GRP lines, Patiala headquarters was that they had deputed four GRP staff for escort duty with the Speaker. This was on 10th March, 1974 ex Amritsar to Ambala.

MR. SPEAKER: I came from jullundur.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This was the information received by the railways from GRP lines, Patiala. So, accordingly these people travelled from Amritsar to Ambala. At Ambala the new escort had to be provided upto Delhi by somebody else. But they did not turn up. As I have already stated, the matter is under inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: We leave it here. I tell you the whole story. It is much better if any person—Speaker or Minister—is travelling he should be told that he is accompanied by some escort. I came and just entered the train. I did not know. Nobody informed me at jullundur that there was any escort for my protection. When I got down at Delhi the people in the next compartment, of whom two of them were known to me, said they wanted to complain to me. And pointing to three or four constables, they said "Those persons had occupied an adjoining compartment and outside they have written on "Escort to Dr. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha". I took serious objection to it and I said "What a strange type of escorts you are! You have written outside that Mr. so and so is sitting here inside so that even if anybody does not know where I am, he

may feel tempted to come in on reading it. Then, pointing to those persons who had occupied the compartment they said that they had allowed other to enter, that is, other passengers to enter, who paid Rs. 4 each to the police. There and then on the platform, I called two railway staff officers. I said, "Well, this is a complaint made to me in your presence, and you are to inquire into it".

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Has any action been taken?

MR. SPEAKER: Then, when I came at the platform, Prof. Madhu Dandavate met me, and I said 'Look, what has gone wrong? If in the name of my escort, knowing that I am sitting there, this could happen, what about others?'. Then, the first thing that I did on reaching my residence was to send a complaint to the AIG of Railway Police, and I have heard nothing after that.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, आप इन से पूछिये कि 25 दिन हो गये उसकी जाच अभी तक पूरी हुई या नहीं

MR. SPEAKER: I think we may proceed to the next item.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Did you write to the Railway Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I will write only after hearing from the officers

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

.Offer from Kuwait for supply of more furnace oil

*444. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:**
SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuwait has offered to supply more furnace oil to India to meet our needs; and