

# COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

ELEVENTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*July, 1974/Sravana, 1896 (Saka)*

*Price : Rs. 3.00*

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. Personnel of the Committee of Privileges .	(iii)
2. Report . . . . .	I
3. Minutes of sittings of Committee .*	12
4. Minutes of Evidence . . . . .	33
5. Appendices . . . . .	126

# PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

(1973-74)

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman.*

## MEMBERS

2. Shri Frank Anthony
3. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
4. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
5. Shri Darbara Singh
6. Shri H. R. Gokhale
7. Shri Nihar Laskar
8. Shri B. P. Maurya
9. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
10. Shri K. Raghuramaiah
11. Shri Vasant Sathe
12. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
13. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
14. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi
15. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

## SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*



## PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

(1972-73)

- \*1. Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*
2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri H. R. Gokhale
6. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
7. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
8. Shri Nihar Laskar
- \*\*9. Shri B. P. Maurya
10. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
- †11. Shri K. Raghuramaiah
12. Shri Vasant Sathe
13. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
14. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
15. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi.

### SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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\*Appointed Chairman with effect from 27-2-1973, *vice* Shri R. D. Bhandare ceased to be member of Lok Sabha.

\*\*Appointed with effect from 16-3-1973, *vice* Shri R. D. Bhandare ceased to be a member of Lok Sabha.

†Appointed with effect from 22-3-1973, *vice* Shri Raj Bahadur resigned from the Committee of Privileges.

# **ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES (FIFTH LOK SABHA)**

## **I. Introduction and procedure**

I, the Chairman of the Committee of Privileges, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this their Eleventh Report to the House on the question of privilege raised<sup>1</sup> by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., and referred<sup>2</sup> to the Committee by the House on the 1st December, 1972, regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Lok Sabha Session.

2. The Committee held nineteen sittings. The relevant minutes of these sittings form part of the Report and are appended thereto.

3. At the first sitting held on the 13th December, 1972, the Committee decided to hear Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., in person.

4. At the second sitting held on the 25th January, 1973, the Committee examined Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P. in person. Shri Krishnan Manoharan also submitted to the Committee a written statement. The Committee also decided to examine, in person, the four persons named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., before the Committee as his principal assailants at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972.

5. At the third and fourth sittings held on the 15th February and 13th March, 1973, the Committee considered the matter further.

6. At the fifth and sixth sittings held on the 18th and 19th April, 1973, the Committee examined, in person, on oath, the four persons named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as his principal assailants, namely, Sarvashri C. Panchaksharam, P. Asaimuthu, V. Janakiraman and P. Manickam.

The Committee also examined, in person, on oath, Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., who had accompanied Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., to the Madras Airport on the date of the incident and travelled with him in the same plane from Madras to New Delhi. Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., also personally identified the four

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1. L. S. Deb. dt. 16-11-1972, cc. 215—34.

2. L. S. Deb. dt. 1-12-1972, cc. 212—23.

above named assailants of Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., before the Committee.

7. At the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sittings held on the 11th and 16th May, 20th June, 9th August and 13th September, 1973, the Committee considered the question of making an on-the-spot examination of the place of occurrence of the incident at the Madras Airport and to examine there, in person, the officials of the Madras Airport, police etc., who were present at the place and the time of occurrence of the incident.

8. At the twelfth sitting held on the 31st October, 1973, the Committee examined, in person, the two Madras Airport Officials named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

9. At the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sittings held on the 24th and 25th January and 18th April, 1974, the Committee deliberated on the matter and decided to re-examine Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

10. At the sixteenth sitting held on the 30th April, 1974, the Committee re-examined, in person, Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

11. At the seventeenth and eighteenth sittings held on the 16th and 17th May, 1974, the Committee deliberated on the matter and arrived at their conclusions.

12. At the nineteenth sitting held on the 31st May, 1974, the Committee considered their draft Report and adopted it.

## II. Facts of the Case

13. On the 16th November, 1972, Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., raised<sup>3</sup> a question of privilege regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Lok Sabha Session.

While raising the matter, Shri Krishnan Manoharan stated *inter alia* as follows:—

“At the Meenambakkam Airport (Madras), last evening, 15th November, 1972, when I was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session today, about 30 hooligans... pounced upon me as soon as I alighted from the car in the portico of the Airport. Two members of the

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3. L. S. Deb. dt. 16-11-1972, cc. 215—34.

gang strangled my throat, while some others went to the extent of getting hold of and squeezing my testicles. These were deliberate attempts pre-planned to physically liquidate me before I got into the plane for reaching Delhi. I can identify all these people. I can tell the names of the people—Panchksharam; and R. C. Muthu<sup>4</sup> Mr. Sezhiyan knows him.

.... Two days ago a gang of about 200 people marched on my house in Madras to terrorise me and prevent me from acting according to my conscience.... One Shri Minor Mosses, former Mayor of Madras, came to my house with some rowdy elements one night and he terrorised me and said he would take away my life if I dare to oppose Shri Karunanidhi and join the ADMK.

.... What happened in the airport last evening is according to me only a culmination of these attempts against my life. I am unable to understand how these people were able to collect inside the portico of Meenambakkam Airport without the knowledge of the police. It will not be far from truth if I presume that the police was deliberately conniving with the hooligans....

.... I, therefore, request that the matter should be taken up by this House as a breach of privilege....”

14. After some discussion, the matter was held over till the 17th November, 1972.

15. On the 17th November, 1972, the Speaker observed<sup>5</sup> *inter alia* as follows:—

“I have gone into the old cases. The practice we have been following in the past is that sometimes, when Government departments, Government servants or some dignitaries were involved, the House itself on the spot decided it. That is what happened in the last Lok Sabha also. In continuation of that, in the case of persons, departments or Government servants, employees, or even some dignitaries, we have been following this practice namely, that we have been referring these cases to these States or departments, and then later on, that information was laid before the House, and then the House either referred them to

4. The reference is, perhaps, to Asaimuth

5. L.S. Deb. dt. 17-11-1972, cc. 248-57

the Privileges Committee or gave its own decision. I have also not been able to come across decisions about private members.... In this case if you like, we may follow the old precedent or, if you like, we can refer it, because in this case Mr. Manoharan has deleted the reference to the Ministers or Chief Minister or party. It is now concerned only with private individuals, some members of the public.... I leave it to you to decide whether we could make a reference to the Government of Tamil Nadu or be seized of it, because there are no precedents.... Since the Chief Minister also expressed regret, why not we get the information from the State Government. Then everything would be before the House. I will get the information from the State Government and come again before the House...."

16. On the 1st December, 1972, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri K. C. Pant) informed<sup>6</sup> the House that he had received the requisite factual report<sup>7</sup> in the matter from the Government of Tamil Nadu, which stated *inter alia* as follows:—

"Neither Thiru K. Manoharan nor Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy nor anybody else on their behalf had preferred any complaint to the Local Police about the alleged incident. No case was, therefore, registered by the Police.... According to the Superintendent of Police the enquiries reveal that, when Thiru K. Manoharan arrived at the portico of the Meenambakkam Airport on 15th November, 1972, some persons, who had gathered there, raised slogans for and against his action in having joined the ADMK, that some persons without tickets attempted to enter the Airport, but they were prevented by Airport duty personnel at the main gate and that, in the melee, the M.P.'s shirt was torn. The Superintendent of Police has also reported that the M.P. was taken to the Airport Lounge soon after, by the Senior Traffic Assistant of the Meenambakkam Airport. He has further added that it is not correct to say that a Police force was present at the Airport and that it did not come to the rescue of the M.P. On the other hand, the Sub-Inspector of Police, Meenambakkam, who was attending the security work and standing near the Customs Block, well away from the scene of the incident, on hearing the slogans, rushed to the portico with the available

6. L. S. Deb. dt. 1-12-1972, cc. 21-2-23

7 See Appendix I.

men. But, on arrival, there was no crowd at the portico.

... As regards the observations made by Thiru K. Manoharan on 16th November, 1972, in the Lok Sabha about the alleged threat on his life by Thiru Minor Mosses and a gang of 200 persons, I am directed to state that the Commissioner of Police, Madras, has reported that the police have no information about this. He has further reported that, on a request made by the M.P., on the night of 13th November, 1972, bandobast was provided at his residence by the Police. On the 14th November, 1972, 200 persons, who went in a procession towards the residence of the M.P., for staging a demonstration were prevented from doing so, from a place well away from his residence, arrested and removed by the police.

... Though Thiruvalluvar Manoharan, and Krishnaswamy did not agree to give complaint, on the basis of the statement recorded from the persons present near the scene of the alleged occurrence and on the basis of the statement made by Thiru Manoharan on the floor of the Lok Sabha mentioning the names of two persons as his assailants, the police are proceeding further with the investigation.

In this connection, I am also to state that immediately on learning about the incident through PTI News, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued a statement through the Press condemning such acts of violence."

17. Thereupon, Shri Krishnan Manoharan stated<sup>8</sup> *inter alia* as follows:—

"... This is the statement (from Tamil Nadu Government) obtained from three persons, according to the statement, Shri K. N. K. Naidu, Shri Ethiraj and Shri Johnson. These three persons are my good friends. Let me explain that these three persons were taken to the police station after 8 O'clock in the night and they were detained till 12 O'clock. They were terrorised and intimidated and they got the statement. When I went to Madras, all the three persons came to me. Shri Ethiraj is a ADMK Councillor; he is a good friend of mine. He said that he was intimidated by the police and even then he said, 'I saw Shri K. Manoharan, the Member of Parliament from a distance and his shirt was torn.' Shri Naidu was ter-

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8. L. S. Deb. dt. 1-12-1972, cc. 212-23.

terrorised. He does not speak Tamil; he only speaks Telugu. Something was written and he was asked to sign. He came back and told me, 'I was terrorised and I signed. Shri Johnson also said the same thing.'

**18. The Speaker, then, observed<sup>o</sup> *inter alia* as follows:—**

"I think that the only course that is open to us is to let the Privileges Committee examine all these issues.

Mr. Sezhiyan has raised another point that when there is no police report, what would be the situation, what would be the position. I think in Mr. Manorharan's statement he has said today that he had no time to lodge a police report, but, later on, he said that he did not. This House was the supreme authority to judge it.

He raised two issues. In his statement he made it clear that he did not like to lodge a complaint for criminal proceedings. He says he was only interested in laying it before this House as a matter of privilege and a few facts he has mentioned, and they are already admitted in the statement the Minister has made today on receipt of information from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

So, the Committee may go into all these aspects. Instead of ourselves getting up here and expressing our views off hand, the Committee may study it and go through all these. The member does not like to proceed against the assailants, he only wants this House to judge whether he was prevented or not from coming to this House. If you like, I will refer."

**19. The House then referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges.**

### **III. Findings of the Committee**

**20. Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.,** has alleged that on the 15th November, 1972, when he got down from his car in the portico of the Madras Airport and was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Lok Sabha Session, about thirty persons manhandled and assaulted him with a view to killing him or disable him and thereby preventing him from proceeding to Parliament.

**21. According to the report of the Superintendent of Police, Chingleput East District,** when Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.,

arrived at the portico of the Meenambakkam (Madras) Airport on the 15th November, 1972, some persons, who had gathered there, raised slogans for and against his action in having joined the A.D.M.K. Party, that some persons, without tickets attempted to enter the Airport, but they were prevented by the Airport duty personnel at the main gate and that, in the melee, Shri Krishnan Manoharan's shirt was torn. It has been added in the report that immediately on learning about the incident through a news report the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued a Press statement<sup>10</sup> condemning such acts of violence. It has also been stated in the report of the Superintendent of Police that neither Shri Krishnan Manoharan M.P., nor anybody else, lodged any complaint in respect of that incident with the local police authorities.

22. Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., who was examined in person by the Committee twice and who also submitted to the Committee a written statement<sup>11</sup>, named the following four persons as his principal assailants on the day of occurrence of the incident:—

- (1) Shri C. Panchakshram, 4, Bommaliar Street, Madras.
- (2) Shri P. Asaimuthu, 5, Veerapan Street, Madras.
- (3) Shri V. Janakiraman, No. 8, Pallipan Street, Madras.
- (4) Shri P. Manickam, No. 36, Shengalvaraya Mudali Street, Triplicane, Madras.

All these four persons, who were examined in person on oath by the Committee, have taken before the Committee a plea of *alibi* and denied their presence at the Madras Airport at the time of the incident on the 15th November, 1972.

Shri C. Panchakshram, in his oral evidence before the Committee, read out a prepared statement<sup>12</sup> in which he *inter alia* stated that he was not present at the Madras Airport when the incident with Shri Krishnan Manoharan took place. He said that on that date he had gone out to a village named Tiruvanaikoil, which is about 12 to 15 miles from the Madras Airport, for collecting funds for the renovation of a temple. He left for the village on the morning of the 15th November, 1972, and returned to Madras on the 17th November, 1972.

Shri P. Asaimuthu<sup>13</sup> also submitted a written statement<sup>14</sup> in which he *inter alia* stated that on the day of the incident involving

10. Published in the *Hindu*, Madras, dated the 16th November, 1972.

11. See Appendix. II.

12. See Minutes of evidence.

13. The witness spoke in Tamil. He was interpreted into English by a Parliamentary Interpreter.

14. See Minutes of evidence.



Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., he was not at the Meenambakkam Airport, as he was fully engaged with his Party work in his "Division" known as Netaji Nagar, which is about ten miles from the Airport. He, being a Secretary of his Party, did not move out of his "Division" on that day as he had instructions from his Party that the Secretaries of all the "Divisions" should remain in their respective "Divisions" to attend to the maintenance of law and order because on that day there was *hartal* in Madras. He came to know of that incident involving Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., only on the 17th November, 1972, from newspaper reports covering the proceedings in Parliament.

Shri P. Manickam stated in a written letter<sup>15</sup> and in his oral evidence before the Committee that on the day of the incident involving Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., he had left Madras at about 4 A.M. for his native village Tenpakkam, which is about 60 miles from Madras, to attend to some personal land problems in the village and that he had nothing to do with the incident.

Shri V. Janakiraman, stated in an identical written statement" (as that of Shri P. Manickam) and oral evidence before the Committee that he had nothing to do with the incident and that on the day of that incident involving Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., he was attending to his Party work throughout the day in his Division Office.

23. Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., and the two Madras Airport Officials, namely, Shri N. Sreedharan Nair, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras, and Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras, *inter alia* confirmed in their oral evidence before the Committee that, as complained by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., a crowd of people assaulted Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972, and his shirt was torn during that incident. The Committee observe that this fact is also supported by the reports which appeared in the local newspapers on the day following the incident and also by the fact that immediately on learning about the incident through news reports, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued a Press statement condemning such acts of violence. Thus the factum of assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., on that occasion is established beyond doubt.

24. Since the four principal assailants named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., took the plea of *alibi* on the date and time of occurrence of the incident on the 15th November, 1972, the Committee

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15. See Appendix III.

16. See Appendix IV.

were posed with the question of identification of these four persons Shri C. Panchakshram, one of those four persons who had taken the plea of alibi in his written statement and oral evidence before the Committee, stated that when one of his friends brought to his notice a reference made by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., in a public meeting in Madras on the 17th November, 1972, to a person named "Panchakshram" as being one of his assailants on the 15th November, 1972, he sent a Registered A.D.<sup>1</sup> letter dated the 22nd December, 1972, to Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., requesting him to clarify within a week from the date of its receipt whether he had intended to mean him, i.e. "Shri C. Panchakshram" of 4, Bommaliar Street, Madras. Shri Panchakshram stated that he did not receive any reply from Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

25. The Committee, therefore, requested Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., to appear before the Committee and identify the four persons named by him as his assailants. Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., however, could not attend the sitting of the Committee personally due to indisposition and he requested that Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., who had accompanied him to the Madras Airport and travelled with him in the same plane from Madras to New Delhi on the date of the incident, might be examined by the Committee and permitted to identify the persons named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as his principal assailants. The Committee acceded to the request of Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., and examined Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., in person.

26. Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., accordingly, appeared before the Committee and identified one by one all the four persons, namely, Sarvashri C. Panchakshram, P. Asaimuthu, P. Manickam and V. Janakiraman, named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as being his principal assailants on the 15th November, 1972, at the Madras Airport.

Shri N. Sreedharan Nair, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport and Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, however, stated before the Committee that they would not be able to identify the alleged assailants.

27. From the written statements submitted to, and the oral evidence given before, the Committee by the four persons named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as being his principal assailants, and the evidence given by Sarvashri Krishnan Manoharan and K. A.

17. The postal acknowledgement card was submitted by Shri C. Panchakshram to the Committee. Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M. P., to whom the said card was shown confirmed that he had received the letter of Shri C. Panchakshram but he did not reply in writing. He referred to it in his subsequent public meetings.

Krishnaswamy, M.Ps., the Committee are not impressed by the plea of alibi taken by Sarvashri C. Panchakshram, P. Asaimuthu, P. Manickam and V. Janakiraman.

28. It is well-established that to molest or assault a Member of Parliament while attending the House or when coming to or going from it is a breach of privilege of the House.

The scope and extent of this privilege were stated by the Committee of Privileges of the House of Commons (U.K.), In the *John Lewis Case* (1951) as follows:—

“The privilege of freedom from obstruction in the coming to or the going from the House derives from the undoubted right of Parliament to the full service of its Members. It is a privilege of the House of Commons and individual Members derive their right from the privileges of the House of Commons as a whole, and the right and need of the House of Commons to protect itself, and in so doing to protect its Members.....

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The general privilege is one which has no geographical limits within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A breach of this privilege may occur anywhere there.”

29. On the basis of the evidence before them, the Committee are convinced that Shri Krishnan Manoharan, MP, was abused and assaulted on the 15th November, 1972, at the Madras Airport by a crowd of 25 to 30 persons while he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi to attend the Session of Lok Sabha. There has thus been a clear breach of privilege by all those persons who were involved in the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, MP, on that occasion.

With regard to the identity of the specific persons who might have been involved in the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, although the Committee are inclined to believe the evidence given before them by Sarvashri Krishnan Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy, MPs, the Committee feel that the totality of evidence before them is not conclusive to establish beyond reasonable doubt the identity of the alleged assailants.

30. The Committee regret that a Member of Parliament, or, as a matter of that, any citizen, should be assaulted in this manner at a public place like the Madras Airport.

31. The Committee, while condemning the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan and deprecating the conduct of, and the breach of

privilege committed by, the persons concerned, are of the opinion that taking into consideration the totality of the evidence and circumstances of this case, no further action need be taken by the House in the matter. The Committee hope that the importance of the privilege of freedom from molestation to Members of Parliament while attending the House or coming to or going from it would be appreciated by all concerned and such incidents would not recur in future.

#### **IV. Recommendation of the Committee**

32. The Committee recommend that no further action be taken by the House in the matter and it may be dropped.

HENRY AUSTIN,

*Chairman,*

*Committee of Privileges.*

NEW DELHI;

*The 31st May, 1974.*

# MINUTES

## I

### First Sitting

*New Delhi, Wednesday, the 13th December, 1972.*

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The Committee sat from 15.30 to 16.00 hours.

### PRESENT

Shri R. D. Bhandare—*Chairman*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
4. Shri Raj Bahadur
5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
7. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi

### SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

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6. The Committee, then, considered the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee decided to hear Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P. who had raised this matter in the House, on the 25th January, 1973.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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\*\*\* Paras 2 to 5 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

## II

**Second Sitting**

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 25th January, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 14.30 to 16.00 hours.

**PRESENT**

Shri R. D. Bhandare—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

- 2 Dr. Henry Austin
3. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
6. Shri Nihar Laskar
7. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
8. Shri Raj Bahadur
9. Shri Vasant Sathe
10. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
11. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
12. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

**WITNESS**

Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

2. Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., was called in and examined by the Committee in connection with the question of privilege raised by him regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

Shri Krishnan Manoharan also submitted to the Committee a written statement.

3. Shri Krishnan Manoharan stated that he could identify the following four persons as the principal assailants and against whom he desired the Committee to proceed:—

- (1) Shri Asaimuthu
- (2) Shri Janakiraman

(3) Shri P. Manickam

(4) Shri Panchaksharam

The Committee desired Shri Manoharan to give full addresses of the above four persons as well as names and addresses of his witnesses whom he desired the Committee to be heard. Shri Manoharan promised to furnish the requisite particulars within two or three days.

4. The Committee decided to examine in person, in the first instance, the four persons whom Shri Manoharan had named as his principal assailants. The Committee decided that after Shri Manoharan had given the addresses of the aforesaid four persons, they might be asked to appear before the Committee at their sittings to be held on the 15th and 16th February, 1973.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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### III

#### Third Sitting

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 15th February, 1973.*

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The Committee sat from 11.00 to 11.50 hours.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—in the Chair.

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
6. Shri Nihar Laskar
7. Shri Vasant Sathe
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
9. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
10. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi

## SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

2. In the absence of the Chairman, the Committee chose Dr. Henry Austin to act as Chairman.

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4. The Committee then considered the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee considered the letters received from Sarvashri Janakiraman, Asaimuthu and P. Manickam, named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as his principal assailants, in which they had stated that they were unable to appear before the Committee on the 15th February, 1973 as directed, due to the stoppage of train services between Madras and Delhi because of situation in Andhra Pradesh. They had, accordingly, requested that they might be given another date during next month for their appearance before the Committee. The Committee decided to accede to their request and to fix at their next sitting the date for their appearance before the Committee.

5. The Committee decided to cancel their sitting scheduled to be held on the 16th February, 1973.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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IV

**Fourth Sitting**

*New Delhi, Tuesday, the 13th March, 1973.*

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The Committee sat from 15.30 to 16.15 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat

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\*\*\* Paras 3 relates to another case and has accordingly been omitted.



3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
5. Shri H. N. Mukerjee

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

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4. The Committee then took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee decided that Sarvashri V. Janakiraman, Asaimuthu, P. Manickam and C. Panchaksharam, named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan as his principal assailants, might be asked to appear before the Committee in person for oral examination on the 18th and 19th April, 1973.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

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**V**

**Fifth Sitting**

*New Delhi, Wednesday, the 18th April, 1973.*

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The Committee sat from 15.00 to 17.05 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
6. Shri Vasant Sathe

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\*\*\*Paras 2 and 3 and 5 and 6 relates to other cases and has accordingly been omitted.

## SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

## WITNESSES

1. Shri C. Panchaksharam, 4, Bommaliar Street, Madras.
2. Shri P. Asaimuthu, 5, Veerappan Street, Madras,
3. Shri V. Janakiraman, No. 8, Palliappan Street, Madras.
4. Shri P. Manickam, No. 36, Shengalvaraya, Mudali Street, Triplicane, Madras.

2. The Committee took up consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

3. Shri C. Panchaksharam, named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P. as one of his assailants, was called in and examined by the Committee on oath (*Verbatim record was kept*).

*(The witness then withdrew).*

4 Shri P. Asaimuthu, named by Shri Manoharan as his another assailant, was then called in and examined\* by the Committee on oath (*Verbatim record was kept*).

*(The witness then withdrew).*

5. The Committee felt that it would be helpful if the four persons, named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., as his assailants, were identified by Shri Manoharan. The Committee accordingly decided that Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., might be requested to appear before the Committee on the 19th April, 1973.

6. The Committee decided to continue their examination of the witnesses on the 19th April, 1973.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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\*The witness gave evidence in Tamil which was interpreted into English by a Parliamentary Interpreter who was also administered oath.

## VI

## Sixth Sitting

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 19th April, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 15.00 to 17.05 hours.

## PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

## MEMBERS

2. Shri Panchaksharam
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha

## SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

## WITNESSES

1. Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P.
2. Shri C. Panchaksharam
3. Shri P. Asaimuthu
4. Shri V. Janakiraman
5. Shri P. Manickam.

2. The Committee took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

3. The Chairman informed the Committee that Shri K. Manoharan, M.P., had conveyed a message on telephone that due to illness he was unable to attend the sitting of the Committee and had requested that Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P., who had accompanied him to the Madras Airport on the date of the incident (15th November, 1972) might be examined by the Committee and permitted to identify the persons named by him as his assailants.

The Committee acceded to the request of Shri K. Manoharan, M.P., and decided to examine Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P. as a witness.

4. Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P., was then called in and examined by the Committee on oath.

5. Sarvashri C. Panchaksharam, P. Asaimuthu, V. Janakiraman and P. Manickam were then called in one by one and were identified by Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P., before the Committee, as the persons who had allegedly assaulted Shri K. Manoharan at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972. (*Verbatim record was kept*).

(*Sarvashri C. Panchaksharam, P. Asaimuthu, V. Janakiraman and P. Manickam then withdrew respectively after their identification by Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P.*)

(*Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P., also then withdrew*).

6. Shri V. Janakiraman was then called in and examined\* on oath. (*Verbatim record was kept*).

(*The witness then withdrew*).

7. Shri P. Manickam was then called in and examined\* on oath. (*Verbatim record was kept*).

(*The Witness then Withdrew*).

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

## VII

### Seventh Sitting

*New Delhi, Friday, the 11th May, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 9.30 to 10.15 hours.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri B. P. Maurya

\*The witnesses gave evidence in Tamil which was interpreted into English by a Parliamentary Interpreter who was also administered oath.

\*\*\* Para 8 relates to another case and has accordingly been omitted.

5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
7. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

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5. The Committee then took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee felt that it was necessary to make an on-the-spot examination of the place of occurrence of the incident at Madras Airport and to examine there in person the officials of the Madras Airport, Police etc., who were present at the place and time of the occurrence of the incident. The Committee, therefore, decided to visit Madras and to hold a sitting there for this purpose during the first week of July, 1973. The Committee authorised the Chairman to fix the date for the sitting at Madras.

6. The Committee then adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 16th May, 1973, at 15.00 hours.

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**VIII**

**Eighth Sitting**

*New Delhi, Wednesday, the 16th May, 1973.*

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The Committee sat from 15.00 to 16.00 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Darbara Singh
3. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
4. Shri Nihar Laskar

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\*\*\*Paras 2 to 4 relate to another case and have accordingly been omitted.

5. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
6. Shri Vasant Sathe
7. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
8. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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4. The Committee then considered the question of privilege regarding the alleged assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee decided that before making an on-the-spot examination of the place of occurrence of the incident at Madras Airport and to examine there in person the officials of the Madras Airport, police etc., as decided earlier at their sitting held on the 11th May, 1973, Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., might be requested to appear before the Committee for further oral examination on the 20th June, 1973. The Committee also decided that Shri Manoharan might be requested to furnish a list of witnesses whom he might wish to be examined in his support.

The Committee then adjourned.

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**IX**

**Ninth Sitting**

New Delhi, Wednesday, the 20th June, 1973.

The Committee sat from 10.00 to 13.45 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Nihar Laskar

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\*\*\* Paras 2, 3, and 5 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

PARLIAMENT

6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
8. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi
9. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

## SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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8. The Committee then took up further consideration of question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee pursued the letter† dated the 8th June, 1973, received from Shri K. Manoharan, M.P., expressing his inability to attend the sitting of the Committee due to his prior commitments. The Committee also pursued the names and addresses of some witnesses furnished by Shri K. Manoharan for oral examination by the Committee.

The Committee decided to examine the following persons named by Shri K. Manoharan, at their sitting to be fixed later:—

- (1) Shri K. M. K. Naidu,  
19, East Road, West C.I.T. Nagar, Madras-35.
- (2) Shri N. Sridharan, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras-27.
- (3) Shri G. Krishnamoorthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras-27.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

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**X**

**Tenth Sitting**

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 9th August, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 16.00 to 17.10 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri B. P. Maurya

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† See Appendix V.

\*\*\*Paras 2 to 7 and 9 and 10 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

4. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
5. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
6. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

#### SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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6. The Committee then took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

The Committee decided to hear the following two Madras Airport Officials on a date to be fixed later:—

- (i) Shri N. Sridharan, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.
- (ii) Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

### XI

#### Eleventh Sitting

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 13th September, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 11.00 to 12.50 hours.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee

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\*\*\*Paras 2 to 5 and 7 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.



4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Nihar Laskar
6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Shri Vasant Sathe
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma

#### SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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5. The Committee then took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session. The Committee decided to take oral evidence of the following two Madras Airport Officials at their sitting to be held on the 31st October, 1973:—

(i) Shri N. Sridharan, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.

(ii) Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.

6. The Committee decided to hold their next sittings to consider the matters pending before them on the 30th and 31st October, 1973.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

## XII

### Twelfth Sitting

*New Delhi, Wednesday, the 31st October, 1973.*

The Committee sat from 11.00 to 13.00 hours.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

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\*\*\*Paras 2 to 4 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

## MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri H. R. Gokhale
5. Shri B. P. Maurya
6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Shri K. Raghuramaiah
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
9. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
10. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

## SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

## WITNESSES

- (1) Shri N. Sridharan, *Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.*
- (2) Shri G. Krishnamurthy, *Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.*

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6. The Committee then took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

7. Shri N. Sridharan, Cashiar, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras, was called in and examined by the Committee on oath (*verbatim record was kept*).

*(The witness then withdrew).*

8. Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras, was then called in and examined by the Committee on oath (*verbatim record was kept*).

*(The witness then withdrew).*

*The Committee then adjourned.*

**XIII****Thirteenth sitting**

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 24th January, 1974.*

The Committee sat from 14.30 to 15.30 hours.

**PRESENT**

Shri H. N. Mukherjee—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Nihar Laskar
6. Shri Vasant Sathe
7. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
8. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
9. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

2. In the absence of the Chairman, the Committee chose Shri H. N. Mukherjee to act as Chairman.

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4. The Committee then deliberated on the question of privilege regarding the alleged assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., at the Madras Airport on the 15th November, 1972. The deliberation was not concluded.

*The Committee then adjourned to meet again on Friday, the 25th January, 1974, at 11.00 hours.*

**XIV****Fourteenth sitting**

*New Delhi, Friday, the 25th January, 1974*

The Committee sat from 11.00 to 13.00 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

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\*\*\* Para 3 relates to another case and has accordingly been omitted.

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Nihar Laskar
5. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
6. Shri Vasant Sathe
7. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
8. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
9. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

2. The Committee took up further consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session. After discussing the various aspects of the matter in the light of the evidence tendered before the Committee, the Committee decided to hear Shri Krishnan Manoharan in person again.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

**XV****Fifteenth sitting**

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 18th April, 1974*

The Committee sat from 14.30 to 15.55 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri H. N. Mukherjee
4. Shri Vasant Sathe
5. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
6. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

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\*\*\*Paras 3 to 5 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

## SECRETARIA.

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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6. The Committee decided to hold their next sitting on the 30th April 1974, *inter alia* to examine Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., in person.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

**XVI****Sixteenth Sitting**

*New Delhi, Tuesday, the 30th April, 1974.*

The Committee sat from 15.00 to 15.50 hours.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi
7. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

**WITNESS**

Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.

2. The Committee took up consideration of the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M. P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M. P. was called in and examined by the Committee. (*Verbatim record was kept.*)

*(The witness then withdrew).*

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\*\*\*Paras 2 to 5 relate to another case and have accordingly been omitted.

The Committee decided to deliberate on the matter at their next sitting.

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5. The Committee decided to hold their next sittings on Thursday, the 16th and Friday, the 17th May, 1974, to consider to matters pending before them.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## XVII

### Seventeenth Sitting

*New Delhi, Thursday, the 16th May, 1974.*

The Committee sat from 15.00 to 17.20 hours.

### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Nihar Laskar
5. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
6. Shri Vasant Sathe
7. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
8. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi
9. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

2. The Committee deliberated on the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M. P., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session. The deliberations of the Committee were not concluded.

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

\*\*\* Paras 3 and 4 relate to another case and have accordingly been omitted.

## XVIII

**Eighteenth Sitting***New Delhi, Friday, the 17th May, 1974.***The Committee sat from 11.00 to 14.35 hours.****PRESENT****Dr. Henry Austin—Chairman****MEMBERS**

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Darbara Singh.
5. Shri Nihar Laskar .
6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Shri Vasant Sathe
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
9. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi

**SECRETARIAT****Shri J. R. Kapur—Under Secretary.**

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8. The Committee then deliberated further on the question of Privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him by certain persons at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament Session.

After considering all aspects of the matter, the Committee were inclined to believe the evidence given before them by Sarvashri Krishnan Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.Ps., regarding the incident at the Madras airport on the 15th November, 1972 when slogans were raised against Shri Krishnan Manoharan and he was assaulted by some persons while he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi to attend the Session of Lok Sabha. Although, Sarvashri C. Panchakshram, P. Asaimuthu, P. Manickam, and V. Janakiraman, who were named by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M. P., and personally identified by Shri K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P., before the Committee, as the persons who, among others, in the crowd, had assaulted Shri Krishnan Manoharan on that occasion, had taken a plea of alibi before the Committee and denied their presence at the Madras airport on that occasion, the Committee were not impressed by

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\*\*\*Paras 2 to 7 relate to other cases and have accordingly been omitted.

their evidence. The Committee were of the opinion that Shri Krishnan Manoharan was abused and assaulted on that occasion by a crowd of twenty-five to thirty persons while he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi to attend the Session of Lok Sabha and there had been a breach of privilege in that case by all those persons who were involved in the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan on that occasion.

9. The Committee, while condemning the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan and deprecating the conduct of, and the breach of privilege and contempt of the House committed by, the persons concerned, were of the opinion that taking into consideration the totality of the evidence and circumstances of this case, no further action need be taken by the House in the matter. The Committee hoped that the importance of the privilege of freedom from molestation to Members of Parliament while attending the House or coming to or going from it would be appreciated by all concerned and such incidents would not recur in future.

10. The Committee decided to hold their next sitting on Friday, the 31st May, 1974, to consider the matters pending before them.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

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## XIX

### Nineteenth Sitting

*New Delhi, Friday, the 31st May, 1974.*

The Committee sat from 11.00 to 13.05 hours.

### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Nihar Laksar
6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Shri Vasant Sathe
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
9. Shri Maddi Sudarshanam
10. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee



## SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

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3. The Chairman informed the Committee of the telegram received by him from Shri R. P. Ulganambi, MP., a member of the Committee, requesting postponement of finalisation of the draft Report on the question of privilege raised by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, MP., regarding the alleged assault on him by certain persons at the Airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Lok Sabha Session. The Committee were of the view that as that was the last day of the term of the present Committee and also that the views expressed by Shri Ulganambi on this matter at the earlier sittings of the Committee had been taken into consideration in the draft Report of the Committee, it was not necessary to postpone consideration of the draft Report of the Committee on this matter.

4. The Committee considered their draft Eleventh Report on this matter and adopted the same with substitution of the following for paragraph 29 thereof and renumbering of the existing paragraphs 30 and 31 accordingly.

"29. On the basis of the evidence before them, the Committee are convinced that Shri Krishnan Manoharan, MP., was abused and assaulted on the 15th November, 1972, at the Madras Airport by a crowd of 25 to 30 persons while he was proceeding to emplane for Delhi to attend the Session of Lok Sabha. There has thus been a clear breach of privilege by all those persons who were involved in the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, MP., on that occasion

With regard to the identity of the specific persons who might have been involved in the assault on Shri Krishnan Manoharan, although the Committee are inclined to believe the evidence given before them by Sarvashri Krishnan Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy, MPs., the Committee feel that the totality of evidence before them is not conclusive to establish beyond reasonable doubt the identity of the alleged assailants.

30. The Committee regret that a Member of Parliament, or, as a matter of that, any citizen, should be assaulted in this manner at a public place like the Madras Airport."

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*The Committee then adjourned.*

**MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE  
OF PRIVILAGES**

*Thursday, the 25th January, 1973*

**PRESENT**

**Shri R. D. Bhandare—Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

2. Dr. Henry Austin
3. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat,
4. Shri Darbara Singh
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
6. Shri Nihar Laskar
7. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
8. Shri Raj Bahadur
9. Shri Vasant Sathe
10. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
11. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
12. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi

**SECRETARIAT**

**Shri B. K. Mukerjee—Deputy Secretary.**

**Shri J. R. Kapur—Under Secretary.**

**WITNESS**

**Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P.**

*(The Committee met at 14.30 hours)*

**EVIDENCE OF SHRI KRISHNAN MANOHARAN, M.P.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Manoharan, you have given the statement. More or less the statement made by you on the floor of the House is the same except that you have modified the last para that your witness came to your rescue. Therefore, I do not think it is necessary for us to ask you to repeat the same statement. Now have you anything further to add to your statement made by you in the House or submitted to the Committee?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes, one thing I want to add and that

is this. On 13th when I joined Anna D.M.K. the ex-Mayor of Madras Mr. Minor Moses came to my house and told my brother as well as my nephew that what he heard through the radio, that is obviously my joining of the Anna D.M.K. and said that he must vacate his house. Incidentally, I might mention that this house is neither mine nor his. He also said that if I did not vacate the house, I would be murdered. On the 14th, while I drew attention of the press, I told them what happened the previous night. In the evening, at one of the meetings which I addressed, I stated the lawlessness which was prevailing in the State and how colleges were continuously closed and how students had been beaten down and how tranquility was completely smashed.....

**SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI:** Is it necessary to go into all this?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** You must hear me. I am a witness, and you are a Member of the Privileges Committee. This is a relevant point. You may please have some patience. You should be conscious of the fact that you are one of the Members of the Privileges Committee and not a partyman. That is my first request.

Then I explained everything and I said at the meeting that all these facts would be brought to light on the floor of Parliament when I went. This was on the 14th.

On the 15th, the moment I reached the airport, 30 people had collected outside and shouted. You have received a report from the Government of Tamil Nadu saying that there were shouts and counter-shouts. In regard to this, my explanation is this. Along with me, there were only three people; altogether there were 4 Anna-DMK people, myself, another Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, namely Shri Krishnaswamy, then my councillor member Shri A. P. Rajan and then Mr. Johnson. So, there is no question of shouting and counter-shouting. These 30 people were there and they had singled me out from out of the four of us and started assaulting. I have made that point very clear already.....

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You need not contradict every statement made by the Tamil Nadu Government officers.....

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Why should I contradict? Nothing is to be contradicted. They had said that there was shouting and counter-shouting. That is why I am mentioning this. What I say is that facts must be submitted before the Committee. That is why I am submitting all the facts. Regarding the statement obtained from the three people, namely Ethiraj, Johnson and K. N. K. Naidur who drove the car, which is noted in the reply given by the Tamil

Nadu Government, they told me that the statements were obtained from them by the police under duress.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going to call them as witnesses?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Definitely; if the committee is pleased to call them, they are prepared to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want them to be called, then we shall do so.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Necessarily; it is a 'must', because the statement that had been obtained from them were under duress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reason for my interrupting you is this. If they are not coming, then it will be simply hearsay.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Those three people must be called and you must take note of what they say.

Another thing in the statement from the Tamil Nadu Government is this; they have stated the police superintendent's statement. There was no police at all. One policeman was working somewhere. We have been going to the airport often and coming back, and we know that normally when the Delhi flight is about to take off, a minimum of four to five policemen will always be there. But on that particular day, I came to understand that there was no police at all. That was accepted by the police superintendent. That also is recorded in the note. Why did it happen, and how did it happen? Was there any ulterior motive behind it? These are all questions which the Committee is expected to examine.

So, my only submission about this is this that it was a deliberate attempt on the part of these people to prevent me from proceeding to Delhi, thinking that I might raise certain issues pertaining to my State on the floor of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything else?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: If you ask me on anything else, then I am prepared to answer.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I have not followed the last sentence that you uttered.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Kindly listen to me very carefully. It was a deliberate attempt on the part of the DMK men assembled there at the airport to prevent me from proceeding to Delhi, thinking that I might bring in certain issues, important issues of extreme political importance on the floor of Parliament; so, they wanted to stop me; I do not know whether they wanted to physically liquidate me, I do not know whether they may think so; because they are my

old friends, probably they may not; or they wanted probably to hurt me in such a way that it might prevent me from proceeding to Delhi.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: A clear statement has been made by the hon. Member that he was obstructed from coming to Delhi because of the fear that he would raise certain issues in Parliament and highlight them and draw the attention of the country at large to them.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: It is only an assumption. It is only a presumption.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: What presumption?

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: We do not know what you spoke at the public meeting. The Committee is not also interested in knowing it.....

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: How do you say that the committee is not interested in knowing? The Committee is very much interested in knowing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then hon. Member can ask a counter-question or cross-examine the witness, but after the other hon. Members have had their chance.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: It is a clear case of assault as per the press reports. The question is whether it amounts to only breach of privilege or it amounts to something else, because it is a criminal case, so to say.....

MR CHAIRMAN: That will be for the Committee. After hearing everything, then we shall determine whether it is a matter of privilege or whether it is something else.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: I do not want to say anything on this point, because it is a statement of a Member of Parliament about his being obstructed from coming to Delhi or about his having been prevented from coming to Delhi.....

MR CHAIRMAN: Let him not come to any final conclusion now.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Here is a clear statement before us, and I do not want to cross-examine him on this.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: From these reports and other reports, it appears that some slogans were being shouted. They also say that he should not be allowed to come to Parliament? Do they also say that or do they say anything of that kind that those

people who had surrounded you and attacked you, said anything like that?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: They shouted in filthy language 'He is a traitor'.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, it was not part of the slogan?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Nobody told me 'You do not proceed to Delhi'. I had got my ticket and I was determined to go.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: I am not here to contradict every statement. But I only want to point out this contradiction. He had made a statement in the House once and again for a second time after a sufficient interval. Nowhere in his statement has he stated that they wanted to prevent him from speaking in the Lok Sabha....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is a lawyer. If there are contradictions which the hon. Member is able to find out between his statement in the House and his statement before the Committee, later on, we can discuss it. He may now ask any specific question which he likes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The contradictions should be put to the person before we can use it later on, according to the well known criminal procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My language is plainer than that of Shri Vasant Sathe.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: I want to ask of my hon. friend Shri K. Manoharan this question. Is it a fact that the police approached you to make a complaint when he returned from Delhi on the 19th after attending Parliament? Did the police approach you to make a complaint on the 19th November?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes, shall I explain?.....

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: Did the police approach you?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes, the police approached me.

The sub-inspector and the Circle Inspector, St. Thomas Mount Police Station, approached me. They came very near to the aircraft. They wanted me to give a written complaint about what happened on Nov. 16 at the airport. I said 'I am not going to give any written complaint to you because there is a breach of privilege involved. What I wanted to speak, I have spoken on the floor of the House. If you want to have anything, you can depend upon that statement. Nothing else'. Then I left.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: Then the police officials approached you in your residence also?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes, the same man. He was the Circle Inspector. To him also I said the same thing.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: You refused to give a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was on 16th or 19th?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: 19th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement regarding the incident on 16th or 15th?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: 15th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you said 16th.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I am sorry. You are so meticulous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ulaganambi may confront him with the contradiction.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: While addressing the public meeting, you stated that you were going to raise certain important issues in Parliament, and they wantonly wanted to prevent you from attending Parliament.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: But it was not stated anywhere.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Do you mean to say that I must explain everything in detail?

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: I say it was an afterthought.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: There is no question of afterthought. The point is that I was prevented from proceeding to Delhi to discharge my parliamentary duties and functions. This is my basic point. That is corroborated by the previous one. Probably that might be the reason why these people stopped me.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: In your deposition it was stated that while addressing a public meeting previously you stated that are going to raise certain issues in Parliament.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Lawlessness and other things.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: I put it to you this is an afterthought. You did not mention anywhere about this. When this came before the House once or twice you did not mention it at all....

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: You must bear in mind the context. I was prevented from discharging my parliamentary duties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to the question.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I have understood the question. The context has to be taken into consideration. I do not know whether I have put it in clear terms or not.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: If it is specifically and clearly mentioned in the deposition, if it is so, it might have been mentioned on the floor of the House when the matter came up once or twice on the floor of the House. My point is that it is only an afterthought.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: No, no.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: You are trying to build up a case by saying that you were prevented from attending Parliament.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I would just like to point out for the benefit of myself—one sentence which has been clearly quoted from Shri Manoharan's statement in House:

"These were deliberate attempts pre-planned to physically liquidate me before I get into the plane for reaching Delhi".

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is correct. It is there.

I will just put the question in a clear language. Why is it that you have not mentioned in your statement either on the floor of the House or in the statement submitted to the members that you were to be prevented from coming to Parliament because had you reached in time, you would have been able to make a statement which you wanted to make and therefore, the members of the other party wanted to prevent you from coming to Parliament? Why did you not mention it either on the floor of the House or in the Committee? That is the question.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: That is precisely what I explained. Of course, had I thought of that, I would have definitely spoken about it on the floor of the House. But I was confident of a particular fact, the context, my joining the Anna DMK, my talk with people there, and these people wanting to prevent me from making a statement on the floor of Parliament. That is why I thought the context should explain the position fully.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Round about the 15th Nov. 1972, the atmosphere in Madras was such that perhaps some sort of demonstration for and against the different parties was not unlikely at



the time of your arrival at the airport. But can I take it that your point is that whether a demonstration took place or not is a different thing, but there had been a nearly murderous attack on you at a point of time when you were going to attend the session of Parliament and your assaulters had the objective of disabling you from attending it?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: That is right.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: On Nov. 19, 1972, according to your statement in the House as well as your deposition, some police officials approached you and asked you to give a statement about your allegations but you refused and you told Parliament that you did so because you wanted to say nothing any other body than Parliament. Could you please explain this a little more clearly, because after all, you wanted to see your assailants punished, and for that purpose, some local investigations were necessary? Was it on account of your political feeling that you could not expect any principled response from the State Government at that point of time, or was it any other reason?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I refused to give any written statement to the police for the simple reason—excuse me for saying this—that I doubt the *bona fides* of the police officials. While the assault was on some people went to the telephone to telephone the police station very near to the airport, the Meenambakam airport, the Meenambakam St. Thomas Mount police station. These people contacted the police officials, but information was given to them that 'No high police officials are available; nobody is there; so sorry'. The Supdt. of Police himself accepted in his statement that he came to know of this only by 7.30. If anything happens in the airport, an international airport, the duty of the police is to transmit this news somehow immediately to the police station. Whether that was done, I do not know. But our people immediately contacted the police station and they were told that no high officials were available. Even in the airport, according to the SP, only one policeman was there, who was near the Customs Block. It was quite an unusual procedure adopted on that particular day, because usually 5-6 policemen would always be there. On that particular day only one policeman was there, and he too was far away from that particular place.

A question was asked why I refused to give a written complaint. I did not do so because I consider that I as a breach of privilege. I am a Member of Parliament and I am on my way to Delhi. So, I do not like to give a written statement to the police. On the contrary,

I thought I might place this matter before the sovereign body of the country, where the will of the country is expressed. I thought I can express anything and everything regarding the breach of privilege on the floor of the House. It is not a criminal case; it is a clear case of breach of privilege of Parliament. So, Parliament is the only place where my privilege and interest can be protected.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** I can understand your feeling from what you say. You tell us that you were convinced that the *bona fides* of the local police could not be trusted. You made a statement that three of your friends or acquaintances, Shri K. N. Naidu, Shri Ethiraj and Shri Johnson, give some kind of statement to the police but they were doctored or recorded differently. I suppose these gentlemen might be called before the Committee. But are you positive that the police had changed the record of their statements?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Shri K. N. K. Naidu does not speak Tamil or English. He speaks Telugu. He knows only colloquial Tamil. Something was written by the police and he was asked to sign it under duress. Shri Ethiraj and Shri Johnson belong to a railway union where I have some hold. These two people told me positively that these statements were obtained from them under duress and that they are prepared to give evidence before any body—obviously, they had in mind the Privileges Committee—as to what had actually happened.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** You also say that four people, Shri Asai Muthu, Shri Janakiram and others, you could identify them as the people whose names and addresses are available. Do you say that the State police has taken no steps whatsoever against these four people?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** No steps were taken.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** You were definitely telling us that these four were the assailants whom you could identify.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes, because they were with me when I was in the DMK. They used to come to my house to get my name for public meetings. I have been associated with them for the past 25 years.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** As an experienced Member of Parliament, would you say that the violation of the privilege in so far as trying to prevent you from attending the session of Parliament is an

offence committed mainly, as far as you could ascertain, by these four people?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Will you be satisfied if the Committee take note of the obstacles that were put in your way, or otherwise prevented you from coming, when you were coming to Delhi, by these four people? In other words, do you want us to confine our attention to these four people?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: They are people who are familiar to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you be able to give their addresses also?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Sure.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Do you know any police officer who was on the spot?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Even though the police stations of Meenambakkam, Pallavaram and St. Thomas Mount are very near to the airport, when telephoned all the police stations said either "the sub-inspector is out of town" or "the circle inspector is away on duty".

SHRI HENRY AUSTIN: Was any responsible employee of the airport present at that time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not widen the scope.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We can very well anticipate that these four persons who have been named by Shri Manoharan will not, and cannot perhaps be expected, to assist an old DMK member. So, Shri Manoharan will have to fall back upon his three friends who accompanied him. So it will be a statement of one person *versus* the statement of another person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the Committee to accept the veracity or otherwise of the statements.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Are there any other names of people which you could give who are supposed to be non-aligned?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Do you mean the officials working in the airport?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Since you are a heart patient, when you were hurt were you attended by any medical attendant?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Where was the time for all that? I had to catch the plane.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Have you in your mind the name of any person who could come before the Committee and support what you state?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I have already given you the names of three people. In addition, I can produce some airport officials who are prepared to give evidence.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** On page 3, line 3, six persons are listed.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I do not know who these people are. Perhaps these are people picked up by the Tamil Nadu Government. We must take that also into account.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Can you say, apart from you, any other persons along with you were also obstructed by this hostels crowd?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** No. Mr. K. N. K. Naidu was driving the car along with me. Mr. Krishnaswamy, M.P., Rajya Sabha was there and followed by that, there was another car in which Mr. Ethiraj and Mr. Johnson were there. Nobody else was singled out except myself. Immediately, I was surrounded by all the 30 persons with shoutings going on. My shirt was torn and they started giving me blows. Had they wanted to do something against Anna D.M.K. Men, Mr. Krishnaswamy could have been beaten, others could have been beaten. But I was the only person singled out. This is the first thing.

Secondly, we were only four persons. There was no point in counter-shouting and all that. They were more than 30 persons I never expected such a kind of nasty thing happening at the international airport.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Did anyone at the airport try to protect you or separate you from the persons who attacked you?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** One Senior Assistant Traffic Inspector. I do not know his name. But I can identify him. I know these people for the last so many years.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Can you say, apart from these four persons whom you can identify as having assaulted you, did any other person among those 30 persons assault you?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** The whole crowd.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He has said that. Out of that crowd, you can identify four persons whose names are given here.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I had a great shock because in my whole public life, I never experienced such a kind of thing. As to whether any other fellow can be identified, those persons can be identified by these three persons who were with me.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Would you tell us as to how much time this incident took from the point when you were pounced upon by the crowd and when you were finally rescued and separated.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I reached the airport at 5.30 and I was separated, I think, at 5.40 or 5.42.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: That means about 10-15 minutes.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: You have further stated:

"After I was rescued, phone calls were also made to the police station nearby and to the senior police officials concerned. Even though the message reached the police officials, none of them arrived at the airport either to protect me or to take complaint from me before I boarded the plane."

I would like to know how much time were you at the airport after you were rescued?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I was in the Lounge. This was done by Shri S. D. Somasundaram, M.P. He had been frantically telephoning the police station. The plane was also delayed a bit.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Can you say how much time approximately you were at the airport after this incident was over, say, half an hour or 45 minutes?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: say, 20-25 minutes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you take it that apart from taking action by the Parliament through the Privileges Committee, you did not and you do not intend to have these culprits brought to book under ordinary law?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Firstly, I do not want it. I do not like to waste my time going to the court.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: You say, there was a hostile crowd who pounced upon you. Was there a friendly crowd also?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** There were only four persons with me.

**DR. HENRY AUSTIN:** Did any policeman appear on the scene or even sometime after you were taken to the Lounge?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Nobody except the Senior Assistant Traffic Inspector.

**DR. HENRY AUSTIN:** Here, it is stated:

Some sub-inspector of police who was attending to security work and standing near the Customs block, well away from the scene of the incident, on hearing slogans, rushed to the portico with men. But, on arrival, he found, there was no crowd."

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I was in the Lounge; I did not see anybody.

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:** Whatever reaction was there was against you, not in favour of you. This is what the Government has said...

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** That is very interesting and very amusing, 30 or 35 people against me were there, shouting against me.

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:** Some officials were there,—that is what the Government says. Do you admit their presence?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I do not know whether a particular ticket collector was there or somebody else was there. As I said, I was surrounded by 30 or 35 people. I am not allowed to see this side or that side.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** I take it that you welcome dignified political battle even if it comes to fistcuffs. But what you object to is not any kind of demonstration,—you would welcome it as political leader,—even against you,—that is an indication of your prominence. But, as Member of Parliament what you have tried to draw the attention of the House to is the fact of your molestation and assault practised on you, on the eve of attending Parliament. We want to know only what you know, that is, of your having been assaulted to the extent of your very likely being prevented from attending Parliament on that date.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** You mentioned certain names on the basis of your first hand knowledge or second-hand knowledge. The

fact of your having been assaulted is your primary evidence and as far as you can put it, there is some definite indication of an attempt to assault, of even murder.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: In spite of necessary intimation to the police, in spite of being a major airport where there is bound to be police presence felt, there was no police at airport or nearby police station. Do you view it this way that it was a deliberate attempt not to send you to Delhi?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I have told you about it. I am not very positive in this matter, I was told, the moment I reached the airport police disappeared. Before I reached, I was told, 4 to 5 policemen were there. The moment I reached all these police disappeared.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Disappeared means, you have seen or what?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I was told.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: You were not there....

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I was told. As I said, I am not positive in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That statement is only hearsay.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Might be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not dwell on that.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is, no policeman was present there. Can you say?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He only said, he did not see any policeman near about.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you tell us when you were taken to the lounge after the assault, did you get any first aid treatment in the lounge at the airport?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: There was no first aid treatment provision at all.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: \*

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: \*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN This question and the answer will not form part of the record. The extent of injury is not a subject of our inquiry. That will be a criminal matter for him to proceed with; he can proceed to a criminal court. Any other questions?

The evidence given by Mr. Manoharan will be circulated to all the Members. They may kindly correct it and return the same to the office.

*Mr. Manoharan may please give names of those persons, who assaulted him or prevented him, as also the names and addresses of those persons, whom he wants to produce as witnesses.*

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: The question of factum of the incident is not in doubt. Aggravation of the offence may be due to any reason, but the fact of the incident is there. There are newspaper reports, Chief Minister's report, report of International Airport Authority etc. We need not have any further evidence on that score.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are more concerned with the privilege for obstructing Mr. Manoharan from coming to attend the Parliament session. We cannot go beyond that.

We will meet on 15 and 16th February, 1973 at 11.00 a.m. Now the meeting is adjourned.

*Wednesday, the 18th April, 1973*

#### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
6. Shri Vasant Sathe

#### SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*



## WITNESSES

1. Shri C. Panchaksharam, 4, Bommaliar Street, Madras.
2. Shri P. Asaimuthu, 5, Veerappan Street, Madras.
3. Shri V. Janakiraman, No. 3, Palliappan Street, Madras.
4. Shri P. Manickam, No. 36, Shengalvaraya Mudali Street  
Triphucane, Madras.

*(The Committee met at 15.00 hours).*

EVIDENCE OF (1) Shri C. Panchakasharam

(2) Shri P. Asaimuthu!

*(The witnesses took the oath)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we begin now? The four witnesses are present. Only one witness speaks English. The other three speak only Tamil; so, the office has arranged for a Tamil Interpreter, who is here.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I declare that the evidence which I shall give in this case will be true. I will conceal nothing and no part of my evidence shall be false.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What does he know of the incident?

SHRI C. PANCHAKASHARAM: I want to lay my statement before this august body. I will read it now:

"From

C. Panchaksharam,  
4, Bommaliar Street,  
Madras-600001.

To

The Chairman,  
Committee of Privileges,  
Lok Sabha,  
New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

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\*The witness gave evidence in Tamil, which was interpreted into English by a Parliamentary Interpreter who was also administered oath.

With reference to your letter dated 14th March 1973, requiring my presence before this august Committee, I beg to present myself and state the following:

I am deeply pained to note that Mr. K. Manoharan, Member of Parliament, has made an allegation that I was one among those who assaulted him at the airport of Madrs on 15th November, 1972. This is totlly a baseless allegat on.

I would like to submit that I was not present at the airport on that day. A friend of mine brought to my notice a news item relating to the allegation made in Parliament by Mr. Mancharan involving the name of "Panchaksharam" in the alleged assault. I was not sure whether he referred to me or somebody else.

On 17th December 1972, Mr. Manoharan, in a public meeting near my residence referred to that incident and stated that "Panchaksharam of this locality" was one among the assailants. This was brought to my notice by a friend of mine who attended the public meeting. When it became evident that Mr. Manoharan was maligning me, I sent a letter dated 22nd December 1972, asking him to clarify whether he referred to me. I was prepared to take legal action against him for defamation. But so far, I have not received any reply from him.

I would like to state categorically that this allegation against me by Mr. Manoharan is false and baseless. It appears to me that the allegation is politically motivated.

Yours truly,

Sd. Panchaksharam.

, 18-4-1973.

I am also reading the letter which I sent him. It is dated 22nd December, 1972:

From

C. Panchaksharam (Land Lord), Member of Madras D.M.K. District Committee; Chairman of the Board of Trustees & Tiruppani, Committee of Shri Vedagareeswarar Temple, Tirukallikundram, Chingleput District, Tamil Nadu.—No. 3, Bas: Water Works St., Madras-1.

To

Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharam, M.A., M.P., Mookathal Street, Madras-7.

Dear Comrade,

It seems you have addressed a public meeting at the "Kannappar Thidal" (near my locality) at Madras on 17th December 1972, at 9-30 P.M. and in which you have pronounced the name "PANCHAT-SHARAM" and accused that name in connection with the incident that happened at Meenambakham Air Field, Madras, on 15th November, 1972 concerning you and also spoke using defamatory language and using most damaging statement against that individual so named by you as "PANCHATCHARAM."

I have no objection to your so speaking, if it does not concern me. I possess the same name as "C. Panchaksharam". It means "Cavi-thandalam Panchaksharam", aged 59, of a renowned and respectable family of this locality for the last eight years and of spotless political life, for the last forty years and a doubt is raised whether it refers to me. Therefore, you please elucidate me within a week on receipt of this letter, of my above findings for further action in the matter, legally, so that I want to protect my esteemed and my privilege of prestige personally in the respectable society to which myself and my family belongs in this locality. The public in large, close to me, in this locality, began to enquire of this in person since 18th December 1972, whether I am the person, whom you have pronounced on 17th December, 1972 in the said public meeting above mentioned and so this letter is sent to you, for clarification, if it refers to me and amounts to defamation as my esteemed in the eyes of the public is lowered."

Yours

Sd/- C. Panchaksharam.

Copy to (1) The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, New Delhi.

(2) Hon. Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu.

(3) Commissioner of Police, Madras.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is your residence?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** First I was living in 3, Basin Water Works Street, Madras-1 and now I living in 4, Bommaliar Street, Madras-1. Both these houses belong to me.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Have you got any complaint about serving of the notice on you?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** When the notice was served on me, I questioned the Collector who served the notice because it was without my surname. I was having doubt whether it was pertaining to me. On 11th February, 1973, when the first request came through the Collector, I gave this comment:—

“Received this letter this day, 11th February, 1973. On doubt whether it concerns me as no categorical reply is sent to me by Shri K. Manoharan, M.P. for my letter dated 22nd December, 1972, and a copy to Hon'ble Speaker's office on acknowledgement received by you dated 16th December 1972. The above-reference letter is addressed without my surname but only as Panchaksharam.

Sd/- C. Panchaksharam

11-2-1973.

and sent to you through the Collector.”

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** For how long are you associated with DMK?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** 18 years:

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you know any other person of DMK by the name of Panchaksharam?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** A councillor of Corporation is there.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you know any person of DMK by the same name as you have?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I do not remember.

**SHRI DARBARA SINGH:** You have two residences. Did you shift your first residence after getting the letter of Mr. Manoharan?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** After receiving your letter, I shifted from that place and intimated your office that in future please correspond me to my new address.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Where were you at the time when the incident took place?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I was out of station.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Is there any evidence to show that you were out of Madras?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, I had an official duty.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: When the incident took place, where were you?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I was out of the station.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Is there any evidence to show that you were outside Madras?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, I had an official Temple duty.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: You have said that you were on official Temple duty. Where did you go?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I went for collecting funds for the Temple. I leave on Thursdays or Wednesdays or Saturdays.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I am putting you a specific question. Where were you on 15th November, 1972 at 5 p.m.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I was out of the station, Sir. I had gone to a village to collect funds for the Temple.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What is the name of the village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The name of the village is TIRUVANA KOIL

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: On what date did you leave for that village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On that morning.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: When did you come back?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I arrived on 17th, after finishing my Temple duties.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Normally speaking, you remain out for two or three days?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Often I stay for Saturdays and Sundays there.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Do you remember the date?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I do not remember the date.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** What is the distance from your residence to the airport?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** It is about 12 to 15 miles.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Have you subsequently heard about this incident?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I heard it on 13th or 14th. A friend of mine told me at the Temple that my name had been referred to in the Parliament.

**CHAIRMAN:** When did you hear about this alleged incident? What was the date?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I cannot remember the date.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** In answer to a question put by my colleague you said that you heard about this incident on the 13th or 14th. But in English papers no names were supplied.

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** In the Tamil papers of 13th or 14th the name of Panchaksharam and some other names were referred. But I did not take much note of it.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** When did you come back to Madras?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** On the 17th.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** After three days of the referring of the matter in Parliament, you heard in the village that some Panchaksharam's name was mentioned. Is any other Panchaksharam holding a key post in the D.M.K.

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I am the only Panchaksharam who is holding a key position in the Party.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Did you ascertain from your Party what happened at the airport after coming back from the Temple work.

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I did not attach much weight to it.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** You are a very important member of the D.M.K. You read about it in the newspapers and did not make any inquiries.

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No, I did not read the papers. Newspaper was brought to me. I saw in the newspapers that at the airport an incident had occurred, that an hon. Member had been assaulted.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Did you try to ascertain from your Party as to the true nature of the incident?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No, I did not take pains.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** As a very important member of the D.M.K. did you not think it necessary to ascertain about the incident especially when the name of the D.M.K. Party was involved in it.

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** As my caste (surname), i.e., "C" was not mentioned along with my name, I did not take much notice of it, whether it refers to me or to somebody else.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** I am not asking you whether it refers to you or to somebody else. Apart from your personally being involved in the incident, did you not think it necessary and proper to ascertain from your own Party as to what had happened at the airport? As an important member of the Party was it not your duty to make inquiries, especially when the D.M.K.'s name was involved in the incident?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** As I thought it did not concern me, I did not make any inquiries.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** In spite of the fact that a name which you bear was involved in the incident and inspite of the fact that your Party's name was involved in the incident, you did not think it proper and necessary to ascertain the facts about the incident?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Will you be able to probe before this Committee that on all those days you were in the village and not in Madras?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Yes, Sir.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Mr. Panchaksharam, do you know how to read and write?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which languages?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: English and Tamil.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Are you sure that you were in the village on the day of the incident?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How far is it from Madras?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It may be about 43 miles.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you leave for this village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the morning of 15th November.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And you learnt about the incident in that village. Which newspaper did you get in that village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Indian Express. It is not available in the village; but a friend of mine brought it to me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the name of your friend?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: My own colleague and Trustee of the Temple.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is his name?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: You want to know the name. His name is Mr. Ramakrishnan.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Ramakrishnan brought Indian Express. What is the address of Mr. Ramakrishnan?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Mr. Ramakrishnan is a Trustee of the Temple, Chengleput, Madras, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This Temple is of what?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: This is called Shri Vadogree-swaran Temple, otherwise called Panchatirtha Temple.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where from did this Mr. Ramakrishnan bring this Indian Express to you?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It was available in the town.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is this village a town?



SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Chengleput is a town. It is eight miles from the village and he stays in that town.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Or he had gone to that town?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: That day we were all together in that village for the collection of the money for the Temple. He left on the 15th. Then of necessity he brought it to me on the 15th or 17th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Kindly tell me on which date did he bring that newspaper, Indian Express, to you?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I think on the 17th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: So, you were there on the 15th and 16th in the village and he brought the newspaper to you on the 17th—V here?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: To the village.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But, you were there only on the 16th and 17.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Just now you have stated that you were there for two days—15th and 16th and you left on 16.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No, I left on the 17th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Were you there in the village on the 17th also?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I remember, I was there upto 10 o'clock in the morning.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When was this newspaper brought to you? Was it 16th or 17th? What was the time?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The time was between 9 and 10 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you tell me the edition of the newspaper?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It was the Indian Express, Madras City Edition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You got this paper in the village. Did you read the newspaper of the 17th morning or the previous day i.e. the 16th?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The date of the paper is 16th or 15th. I do not know the exact date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You read the newspaper issue of the 15th. What was the date of the paper which was brought to you in the village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I do not remember the date of the newspaper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Indian Express was brought to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You were in this village for 2 days and the third day in the morning. When did you arrive in this village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the 15th at about three or four o'clock.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did this incident take place?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I do not know the date but the newspaper said it was evening time.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How much time does it take for a passenger to cover the distance and what was the mode of travelling?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: We go by bus.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which bus—private or State bus?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: From Madras to Thirukali Kundram I went by State bus and from Thirukali Kundram to Thiruvanaikoil by private bus. I reached Madras in the morning and arrived at Thirukali Kundram at about 1.00 p.m.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you leave Madras?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the morning of 15th I left by bus.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Have you preserved that bus ticket?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No. I go 7 to 10 times to the village in a month and I throw it away. We do not claim T.A. Therefore, we do not preserve it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: With whom did you go? How many persons were there when you left for Madras?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I went to Tharukali Kundram at 1 p.m. collected my colleagues at 2 p.m. and went to the village at 3 p.m.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Were there three or four persons?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** With four persons I reached there for collection.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** What is the special reason that Shri Manoharan should identify you as one of the salients at the airport? Have you got any special animosity with Shri Manoharan?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** He was my friend and is friend to me yet.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is there no other reason for him?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I am deeply pained to know all this.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** On the 17th you read the paper. What was written in the paper?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Whatever Mr. Manoharan raised in the Parliament asking for privilege was given there. All these things I read and he mentioned some names there. On that day I was not sure what those names were. Again I saw the paper on the 17th, the name of Panchaksharam was there. I left it away because there are three or four Panchaksharam. Active part and the keen interest of my name in the party is more important, that I have to admit.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** On the 22nd you wrote a letter to Shri Manoharan. Why did you not write on that day to Mr. Manoharan that you were out of station on the 17th? Why did you not mention that it was improper on the part of Mr. Manoharan to suggest your name because you were out of station on the 17th?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** I was not sure that I was the person whose name was given.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Why did you not point out to him when the people of the locality came to you? Why did you not tell the persons of the locality that you were not there?

You wrote in your letter: "The public in large close to me, in this locality began to enquire of this in person since 18-12-1972 whether I am the person."

Why did you not point out to the public that you were not there on the 15th?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I am sorry, I did not point out.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: This is a fact that you were not in Madras on the 15th. It has escaped your notice either at the time when you wrote this letter to Shri Manoharan or at the time when you met the people on the 18th. When you sent a copy of the letter to the hon. Speaker, did it not occur to you that it is better to point out that you were not there on the 15th.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I did not attach much weight to the name, whether it pertained to me.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Before telling us that you were out of Madras on the 15th, did you mention this fact to anybody else?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No, Sir. I had a discussion with my party.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Was it formal or informal?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Formal.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Did that make part of the proceedings?

SHRI PANCHAKSHARAM: I just mentioned to them. It may not be there.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Though it was a formal meeting, there is no mention of this in the proceedings.

Is there any record of the proceedings of the Committee of Temple?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Only the scheduled meetings are entered in the proper minutes book.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What about this meeting? What was the amount collected?

SHRI PANCHAKSHARAM: I have to see that.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: After collecting money, do you give some receipt? Your signature will be there in the receipt book.

SHRI PANCHAKSHARAM: It will be there.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will you be able to produce that?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is it serially numbered?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you produce it?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Not now, Sir. I will produce if given a chance.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: In that letter which you have given to us today, have you pointed out in writing that you were not there on the 15th?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I was not present at the airport on that day.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: You say, you were out of station on the 15th. Have you mentioned this in this statement given to us today?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I thought, it is not necessary.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Don't you think, it is the most important thing? You didn't think it necessary to communicate the most important thing that you were out of station on that date. Even today when you have appeared before the Committee in response to the summons, you have not thought necessary to incorporate in your statement this very fact that you were not in Madras on the 15th.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I will write it now. I thought, it is superfluous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said, you had gone to the village to collect money for the temple. Was there any decision of your Trust Board to raise money?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was there any formal sitting of the Trust where this decision was taken that the money should be raised from such and such village and such and such member should do this?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: There is a regular resolution passed for collection of money by the Temple Committee under my chairmanship. This was six months before this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What was the decision?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The decision was that in consultation with the Chairman, the members should go for collection of the money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What was the purpose of collection of money?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Renovation of the temple.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any decision of the Trust that the temple should be renovated? Are there any papers to show this? Can you produce any evidence in your Trust files to show that the temple required renovation?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The estimates have been approved by the Religious Endowment Board and the grant is being given by the Madras Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When was the decision for renovation of the temple taken?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I do not remember the date now, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As a Chairman of the Committee, you should know that.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It was in 1971.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much money have you raised?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Some 58,000 rupees have been spent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But how much have you collected?

*(The witness takes time to answer)*

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: To the extent of thirty one thousand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many time have you collected the money?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Three times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Each time you collected the money, you report to the Trust.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It is recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When did you collect money for the first time?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I do not remember.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you remember the 2nd and the 3rd time?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No, Sir, for the 2nd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When did you remit the third instalment of collection?

*(The witness takes time to answer)*

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The remittance is always made to the back. I cannot commit now as I do not keep the record, now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That means, you do not know the date when the money was remitted. How much money did you collect third time?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: In that particular village, it came to Rs. 500 and Rs. 200.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got receipt book?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you produce receipt books of the money collected?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are prepared to show the receipt books showing collection on the three occasions for the temple?

Who are the Members who accompanied you?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Shri Ramakrishnan and myself. Another gentleman accompanied me on the first day but not on the second day. For the three days, Shri Ramakrishnan was there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who are the other people who accompanied you? Please give the name of those who accompanied you and the addresses of the people.

*(The witness takes time)*

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The other old gentleman's name is Somasundaram. He is Zamindar of Eastkarana Zamir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is his address? Do you know it or not?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I will give the addresses as far as I remember now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only as far as you remember? You don't know?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Not exactly of his home address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the name and address of the third person?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Somasundaram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said there is another person.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: We are the only three.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said one person came only one day; who is he?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: He is Somasundaram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the other days only you and Ramakrishnan were there?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you collect money, must all the three sign or only you sign?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The Chairman and the Treasurer sign.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who is the Treasurer?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: He is the Executive Officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is his name?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Kolappan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under your Trust's Board regulations or rules, who is empowered to collect money?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: All the members.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: In the absence of the Chairman, is to collect or the Treasurer is to collect.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: In the absence of the Chairman, all the members can go.



MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer this question; you can take your time. Did you inform the Treasurer that you are going to collect money? Did you invite him?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: We did go to the Temple to take him along when we all assembled in the temple on that day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you went for collecting, did you invited the Treasurer?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What did he say?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: That if he is in a position to do so, he will come along; otherwise he won't come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this occasion, did you ask the Treasurer to come with you?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What did he say? What is his name?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Kolappan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You invited him also to come along with you? What did he say?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: He said it was a late hour. I had said I would come by 10 o'clock on the day but went late. He had to go to attend other work in the office, so he handed over the book to the Chairman and he did not come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the Trust Board rules you are empowered to collect money. Who can sign?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Myself and the Treasurer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this occasion only you signed?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: For receiving either the Treasurer or the Chairman can sign; but both should sign for remitting or drawing.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is the receipt book signed by both of you or by one of you.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Sometimes the Treasurer and the Chairman sign. When the Treasurer is not there the Chairman signs and when the Chairman is not there the Treasurer signs.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is it printed on the receipts—Chairman, Treasurer, etc?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Suppose the Chairman is absent, a rubber stamp will be put. If I am present, I will sign.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** So in any case, on every receipt your name is there either in signature or in stamp?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Yes, either my signature or my stamp or the Treasurer's signature or the Treasurer's stamp.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Either the Treasurer's signature or the Treasurer's stamp or your signature or your stamp is there on all these receipt books; now, if a third person goes to collect, will he sign it?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** The one who receives money...

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Before that, they take our rubber stamps. Suppose they go without the Chairman and the Treasurer, they will take our rubber stamps and the book to make collections.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** You mean to say they carry rubber stamps in their pockets?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No, for 10 or 15 folios we give rubber stamps.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** So stamped receipts will be given to them?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** They are stamped receipts only when the Chairman and the Treasurer do not go.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** So all these receipts are rubber-stamped receipts?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** No, it is so only in the case of the inability of the Chairman and the inability of the Treasurer to accompany them.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Ten, all the receipts are not stamped?

**SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM:** Suppose the Chairman does not go along with the members, or the Treasurer also does not go along with the members, we ask them how many receipts they will need and we give them stamped.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: So you know in advance how many they are going to collect? You will know this in advance and give them only that much?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Suppose the book consists of a hundred receipts and upto fifty have been collected already, only when the Chairman and the Treasurer do not accompany, Nos. 55, 56 etc. will be stamped and given to them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In the book you give them, the remaining receipts of the book will be stamped before handing them over to them?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Only in the absence of the Chairman and the Treasurer.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And the man who receives the money is not supposed to sign?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No, he is not supposed to.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is he supposed to put the date on the day on which he gives the receipt?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The Stamp is put on that day and then given to him.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Supposing you give it to him today, you will put today's date in advance on the receipt which is to be given to him?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Supposing he goes on the 17th, 17th will be put.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But supposing he goes on the 17th but collects on the 18th.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The book is returned on the same day to the office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If the Chairman himself is going?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: He will put it in the office, lock it and go away.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How many villages have you visited up till now as Chairman to collect money for this purpose?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: More than forty to fifty villages.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On one day?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On three occasions.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On three occasions you visited 40 to 50 villages; on each occasion how many villages did you cover?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Supposing we go to a village in the morning and we cannot go back again to station, we stay the night there; on the next day we start again for the next village. We do not want to waste public funds by unnecessarily taking a taxi.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On this fund raising session, you spent how many days?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Two days and the third morning.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You spent two days and the third day till 10 o'clock? How many village did you cover?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the 15th and 16th I would have visited eight to ten villages.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On the 17th morning?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the 17th I did not visit any.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On the 15th you arrived at about 5 o'clock?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: 3.30.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And straightaway started for the villages?

SHRI C. PANCHAKASHARAM: No. I stayed in Tiruvanaikoil village.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the population of this village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The population of Thiruvanaikoil village is about 500 to 600.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Were you in Thiruvanaikoil on 16th?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The population of Thiruvanaikoil koil, that is about half a mile around this village.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I asked you whether you stayed at that village on 16th.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I stayed at Thrivanaikoil on 16th but I was going to other small villages for collection purposes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you make any distinction between a small village and a big village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir. We cannot get 'khana' in small villages.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not interested to know whether you can get 'khana' in small villages. But can you tell how many villages did you visit on 15th?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Three villages.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you name those villages?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: They are: Vichur, Molaganimani and Mambakkam.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How many miles are these villages away from this village Thiruvanaikoil.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Vichur is about three furlongs away from Thiruvanaikoil.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the population of Vichur?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It will be about 100 to 150.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What about the second village?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Molaganimani village is also about 3 furlongs away from Thiruvanaikoil and the population of this village is about 80 to 100.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What about the third one?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Mambakkam village is about half a mile away from Thiruvanaikoil village and regarding its population there is only one mirasdar and some labourers.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That means there is only one family in that village.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: There is only one family there but the labourers are living in huts.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On 15th how much did you collect?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: They asked me to go to them the next day and therefore I stayed at the village. They promised me to give money the next day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How much money did they give the next day?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: One gentleman gave Rs. 200/- in the morning and another gentleman gave Rs. 500/- in the evening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are the names of those persons who gave the money?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Mr. Doraiswamy of Vichur gave Rs. 200/- on the morning of 16th. Rs. 500/- was given to me on the 16th evening. The name of the person who gave this money is....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you give receipt for this amount with your signature?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARM: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who is the other gentleman who gave you Rs. 500/- on 16th evening?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: The person's name is.....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If he brought all the records with him it would be easier for him to give these particulars.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I remember his father's name and I will be able to tell the name of the person who gave Rs. 500/- on 16th evening, after verifying the same.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You can tell his father's name.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: His father's name is Mr. Nagaraj, Mirasdar.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: So, this completes your first day's visit. On the second day how many villages did you visit?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: On the second day I sent messengers because they promised to give the money next day. So the next day the messengers went and collected the money and it was handed over me on the 17th morning. Then I left the village.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: So on 16th you did not visit any village.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I was expecting the money to be brought from Vichur.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On 16th you did not visit any other village. On 17th also you did not visit any village because you expected the messengers to bring money from other villages. So you were staying in Thiruvanaikoil on both the days, 16th & 17th.

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: 15th evening and 16th whole day and 17th morning you were staying in Thiruvanaikoil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it an independent Board or a private Trust or a Trust controlled by Governments? What is the nature of the Trust?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: It is a Body constituted by the Endowment Board, Government of Madras. The Commissioner certifies the conduct and business of the Board.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is there any audit being done in respect of the accounts of this Board?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Audit is done every month. They have audited upto 1972.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When was the latest audit done?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: Upto July 1972 audit was completed.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: When you left for some villages, before that, that is on the 13th, was there any meeting or the meeting of DMK party?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: No public meeting was held on that day nor was there any party meeting on that day.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: What is your position in the party?

SHRI C. PANCHAKSHARAM: I am a member of the Madras District Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will have a discussion, after the witness leaves.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The witness wrote a registered letter to Mr. Manoharan; and he says there is no reply to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, shall we call the next witness? Mr. Panchaksharam you be available; don't go away.

*(The witness then withdrew)*

*2nd witness examined: Shri P. Asaimuthu*

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU\*: I, P. Asaimuthu, solemnly declare that the evidence which I shall give in this case shall be true and I shall conceal nothing and that no part of this shall be false.

*The Parliamentary Interpreter:* I, S. Narasimhan, Parliamentary Interpreter, swear in the name of God that I will interpret correctly and truthfully, what is stated by the witness Shri P. Asaimuthu and other witnesses.

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\*Statement made in Tamil by the witness, and interpreted into English by the Parliamentary Interpreter.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I have got a statement written in Tamil, which I will read out:

“From

P. Asaimuthu,  
5, Veerappan Street,  
MADRAS-600001.

To

The Chairman,  
Committee of Privileges,  
Lok Sabha,  
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated March 14, 1973, I beg to state the following:

- (1) The allegation made by Mr. Manoharan, M.P. against me is completely untrue and fabricated. I did not go to Meenambakkam airport on that day, as I was fully engaged in my division, with party work.
- (2) It is evident that the allegation against me is purely politically-motivated. I have been an ardent follower and active worker of the D.M.K. Party for the past 20 years. I am the D.M.K. Secretary for the 38th Division of Madras district. Since the defection of some members from the DMK to form a separate group called ADMK, I have been singled out for attack by the defectors. On 30th October 1972, two persons belonging to ADMK party, attacked me at my residence. There is a criminal case pending against them in the court. I think I have been deliberately implicated in this incident, because of that case.

Yours truly,  
P. Asaimuthu.

*The Parliamentary Interpreter:* It is signed by him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Don't you know English?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: No, Sir.



SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are following a wrong procedure. In any trial, the first thing is identification. Our energy is wasted. Tomorrow, some other fellow can say that this is not the fellow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as identity is concerned, the previous witness has raised that question. But this person has not raised it.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: He is the right person. He says there is a case against the other people.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He says he is implicated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In the past, was cross-examination by the witness allowed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the past experience?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are judges more or less. We are not prosecutors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not want to assume the role of prosecutors.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are not a commission of enquiry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who has prepared that statement for you?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: My friend, on my instructions, prepared the statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is the name of that friend?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Mr. Damodaran, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where was it prepared—in Delhi?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: It was prepared in Madras.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: On 12th April.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who decided that a statement should be filed by you before the Committee?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: It is my own decision. Since I do not know English, I told my friend in Tamil and he prepared it in English.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I take it you were in Madras on the 15th November, 1972.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I was in Madras in my division known as Netaji Nagar on 15th November, 1972.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How far is it from the airport?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: From airport it is about ten miles away.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was there any meeting on that day that you attended or addressed?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: As there was a *hartal* on that day by ADMK throughout Madras, my Party decided that the secretaries of all the divisions should place themselves in their areas and attend to the maintenance of law and order in particular divisions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was there *hartal* on that day?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: There was a *hartal*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you know that Mr. Manoharan was coming to Delhi on that day?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I did not know.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have referred to a criminal case. When did you file that case?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I filed my complaint to the Police on 30th October, at about 6 p.m. Now it has become a Police case. The number of the case is 1395. There is a hearing tomorrow. Tomorrow's hearing is third hearing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When was the incident?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I have got here a paper-cutting from a Tamil newspaper. The incident took place on the 30th round about that time in the evening. Immediately I complained to the Police. If the Committee desire, I can read it out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know any gentleman by the name of Mr. Panchaksharam who is a member of the DMK in Madras?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I know that there is one Panchaksharam in the DMK Party.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The gentleman who gave the evidence early.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I know Shri Panchaksharam who gave the evidence before the Committee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know any other Panchaksharam of DMK?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I do not know any one of that name.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know anyone in the Madras council by the name of Panchaksharam?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I am not sure but I remember there is one Panchaksharam belonging to Congress.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Panchaksharam, whom you know belonging to DMK, does he belong to the same division of which you are the Secretary?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Shri Panchaksharam whom I know, does not belong to that division.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: To which division does he belong?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: 37th division.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know anybody by the name of R. C. Muthu belonging to DMK?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I do not know anybody by the name of R. C. MUTHU.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Where were you on the 15th morning?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I had been in my division from morning because there was a bandh and I could not go out of my division from morning.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Do you know P. Jankiraman?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I know P. Jankiraman.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What is he?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: He is secretary of the 37th division.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Do you know Mr. P. Manikam?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I know P. Manikam. He also happens to be secretary of that division. He is secretary of a division belonging to the constituency of the Education Minister of Tamil Nadu Govt.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: When did you hear about this incident of 15th November, 1972?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** What happened in Parliament came in Tamil papers on 17th November, 1972. Then I read.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Before 17th November, 1972, you did not know about this incident at all?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I did not know. Manoharan is in Chingleput District. I belong to Madras District.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** You only knew that Manoharan was assaulted on the 17th November, 1972.

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I came to know about the incident only on the 17th.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Through which newspaper?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** Through three newspapers: Dina Thande Malai Murasu and the Indian Express.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Did you come to know at any time that Manoharan has involved you also in the incident?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I came to know on the 17th only that Manoharan has dragged my name also. The report was from a Superintendent of Police to the Inspector-General of Police, which appeared in the newspapers.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Was there any other name?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** There were three names. Shri Janakiraman and Shri Manickam's names were also there.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Did you contact Janakiraman and Manickam after that.

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** No, I did not meet them.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** When have you last met Jankiraman and Manickam?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I met them at the railway station just before my departure for Delhi.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Did you discuss this matter in your Party?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** There was no discussion in my Party about this matter.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Was there any informal discussion in your Party about it.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: There was no informal discussion also. When I am not concerned with it, I did not want to drag the Party in it.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Did you complain at any time that though you are not concerned, your name has been dragged in it.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: After seeing that report by the Superintendent of Police to the Inspector-General of Police involving my name, I approached my Party higher-ups and told them about it.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What did the Party higher-ups say?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: They said that they would inquire into it.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Did you at any time think it necessary to consult any other persons whose names were involved in this case.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: It did not occur to me that I should meet them.

I have been advised that since the matter was raised in the Lok Sabha, I should not talk about it outside and that whatever was required to be told, I could tell Parliament. So, I kept quiet.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Who gave you this advice?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: This is my friend's advice.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Now, who are the persons involved in the incident of the 15th?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I do not know.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Have you any knowledge that Mr. Manoharan was involved in the incident of the 15th November?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I do not know.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Did you ever try to inquire from your office whether there was any clash between the Parties?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I came to know of this clash on the 17th from the newspapers. I did not inquire about it.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Have you got any grudge against Mr. Manoharan?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I have no animosity with Mr. Manoharan, because till recently he was my leader.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Please tell me who was the person who wrote the translation? What is his name?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** Damodaran.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is this Damodaran a Member of Parliament?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** He is not a Member of Parliament.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** What is he?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** He is a member of the D.M.K. Party.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is he a lawyer?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** No, he is not a lawyer. He is an experienced draftsman in English.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** What is his profession?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** He is working in an Advertising Agency. He procures advertisements for commercial products.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Tell me, after reading this news report on the 17th in the newspaper, did you meet any Party leader and talk to him about it?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** No, I did not talk to anyone.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Did you not talk about it even in your own District?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** The news item appeared in the papers on the 17th. Five days thereafter I mentioned it to my District Secretary, since my name was mentioned in the Police Report.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** What is the name of the District Secretary?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** The name of the District Secretary is Shri Neelanarayanan. He is a M.L.C.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** What did you tell your District Secretary?

**SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU:** I told him about the inclusion of my name in the Police report. I also told him that as there was hartal

on the 15th, I did not move out of my Division. So, I asked him as to how he would help me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What did he say?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: When I referred to him about the inclusion of my name in the police report, he said he would enquire into it and let me know. After a few days he sent for me and said that he came across the proceedings referring to the issue of the Privileges Committee of Parliament and then he said whatever you want to say you tell it to the Privileges Committee.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What advice did he give to you so as to help you?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: In the first instance he said that he would enquire into it and then after a few days he told me that my name had been mentioned in the police report, but since as per his understanding the matter had gone to the Privileges Committee of Parliament and I had to appear before the said Committee, so whatever I wanted to say I should say before the Privileges Committee of the Parliament.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you receive summons from Parliament?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: The letter dated 31st January, 1973 was received by me either on the 3rd or 4th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When was it reported that the issue was before the Privileges Committee?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: On 2nd December, 1972 there was a report about the issue having been referred to the Privileges Committee. It appeared in Tamil paper on 2nd December, 1972.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Does that report mention your name?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: In Tamil newspaper my name did not appear.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did it appear in any other newspaper?

Shri P. ASAIMUTHU: I am told in the Hindu and such other English paper *my name* appeared, but since I do not know English I did not see that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What are the names mentioned in Tamil newspaper earlier?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Three names were there that appeared on the 17th November, 1972. Two were Jankiraman and Manickam.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know these two gentlemen—Jankiraman and Manickam?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Jankiraman is the Secretary in the adjacent Division.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you meet Jankiraman and Mamkam after the incident any time?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: On the 15th there was a hartal by ADMK. We had not met.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: At what time was the meeting?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: In the morning of 15th myself and Jankiraman alone on the way met and talked about the hartal which was likely to take place on the same day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you know on the 15th morning that Manoharan was in town?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: *I did not know.*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was there any public meeting held by the D.M.K. on the 15th morning?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU I do not know.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On the 14th or earlier was there any public meeting?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: *I did not know.*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was there any procession organised by the D.M.K. either on the 14th or 15th?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: There was no procession on the 14th or 15th but on 15th there was hartal organised by ADMK.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What was the programme of hartal?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: All the shops were to be closed and there would not be any public utility movement in the city. Aeroplanes would also not leave the Madras City. This decision was announced by ADMK Leader.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Aeroplanes had also not to be the Madras City. When did the meeting of the Secretaries decide this programme of stopping traffic take place?



SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: There was no big meeting of the secretaries of the D.M.K. Jankiraman, the Secretary of the adjacent Division said that we should maintain law and order inside our two Divisions. This was the discussion I had.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Nothing about the air-port.

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: There was no necessity for us to talk about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you go to the air-port?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I did not go.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you know Panchakshram who came to give evidence here?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I know him. Panchakshram who came and gave evidence was a friend of Anna, a colleague of Anna, a class-mate of Anna and was quite intimate to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since how long do you know him?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: I was a Divisional Secretary as early as 1953 and he was a Member of the Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he a leader in the D.M.K.?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Yes, he is a leader in the D.M.K.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is his profession?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: He is a landlord and has got a house.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he got any other public service items of work?

SHRI P. ASIAMUTHU: For 37th and 38th Division, there is a volunteer crops. They do not belong to DMK. It is a voluntary organization receiving milk powder from the Central Government and distribution of that is made by me and he takes part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Apart from this, has he got any other connection with the religious bodies?

SHRI P. ASAIMUTHU: Previously Panchakshram was a Managing trustee and now is a trustee of the Tirukulugukundran temple.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is there any other person by the name of Asiamuthu in your party?

SHRI P. ASIAMUTHU: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Asaimuthu, you can go now. Thank you.

*(The meeting then adjourned)*

*Thursday, the 19th April, 1973*

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Henry Austin—Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi
5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha

**SECRETARIAT**

**Shri B. K. Mukherjee—Deputy Secretary.**

**Shri J. R. Kapur—Under Secretary.**

**WITNESSES**

1. Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P.
2. Shri C Panchakshram
3. Shri P. Asaimuthu
4. Shri V. Janakiraman
5. Shri P. Manickam

*(The Committee met at 15.00 hours)*

**EVIDENCE OF:**

**Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P.**

**Shri P. Manickam\***

**Shri V. Janakiraman\***

*(The witnesses took the oath)*

**SHRI KRISHNASWAMY:** I, K. A. Krishnaswamy, Member of Parliament, do solemnly affirm that the evidence which I shall give in this case shall be true, that I will conceal nothing and that no part of my evidence shall be false.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Mr. Manoharan in his deposition said that you were with him on the date of the incident and, therefore, can you name the persons who assaulted him?

**SHRI KRISHNASWAMY:** Mr. Panchakshram, Asaimuthu) Manickam and Janakiraman.

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\*The witness gave evidence in Tamil, which was interpreted into English by a parliamentary interpreter who was also administered oath.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you identify those persons if you see them?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You had been a member of the DMK?

SHRI KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, formerly.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Are these four gentlemen connected with the DMK?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is Mr. Panchakshram in the Party?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was one of the senior Members. I think he was formerly a District Committee Member.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which District?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Madras District.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know his occupation?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is an agriculturist professionally.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is Mr. Asaimuthu?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is also a party worker. He was also a Member of the District Committee.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which District?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Madras District.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Does he hold any office in the Party?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was a District Committee Member.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What about Janakiraman?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He does not hold any office, but he is one of the active workers.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In Madras.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: In Madras.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And the other gentleman Manickam?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is the same.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know the initials of Panchakshram?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not know exactly.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How many Panchakshrams do you know in the DMK?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: One only.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know anybody by the name of R. C. Muthu?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is the only Asaimuthu in the D.M.K.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know anybody by the name of R. C. Muthu in the D. M. K.?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is the only Asaimuthu in the DMK.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know anybody by the name of R. C. Muthu in the D.M.K.?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No.

*(At this stage Shri C. Panchakshram was asked to come in)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can you identify this gentleman who is sitting there?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Who is he?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Panchakshram.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is he the Panchakshram who was present at that time?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir, he is the same man who was present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manoharan alleged that he was assaulted on the 15th November. At what time?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Evening 6 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you see him on that day there?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you see the assault as alleged by him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What did this Panchakshram do at the time of that incident? What was the part played by him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: There is a gate at the aerodrome on entering the main portico. This gentleman was standing and, when we entered, he obstructed us and raised some slogans and all those things. Actually, he assaulted Mr. Mahonharan when he entered.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am asking a specific questions. What is the nature of the assault? What did he do?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually, he caught the shirt of Mr. Manoharan and tore it; and he caught the chain of Mr. Manoharan and all those things.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He tore his shirt?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: As per your estimate, how many persons were actually there at the airport?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: There were more than 25 persons. Since there was some excitement, we could not identify all of them.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Out of 20—25 persons, you can identify only Mr. Panchakshram who came forward and assaulted Mr. Manoharan. There must be some sort of enmity between Mr. Panchaksharam and Mr. Manoharan.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It might have been pre-planned.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: When there were other persons also, why did you not recognise them?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am narrating what had actually happened on that particular day.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: When there was a group of 20—25 persons, out of that group, why only a single individual should come forward and assault him? Was there any provocation?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Some political constraint was going on there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did he alone assault him or some other persons also assaulted him?

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: If it is a question of assaulting, all must have assaulted him.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually, we were excited. When we saw this unpleasant thing happening, we could not identify others. Actually, some passengers came and rescued Mr. Manoharan. Immediately, these persons left the airport. This was a matter of three to four minutes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: According to you, who took the leading part in this assault?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: These four persons.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: All of them assaulted him physically.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But so far as this gentleman is concerned, he only tore the shirt of Mr. Manoharan.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Almost all the people.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know the signatures of Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will you please look at this signature and tell us whether it is his signature?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know that Mr. Manoharan had received a letter from Mr. Panchakshram?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not aware of it, Sir.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Since how long have you been knowing him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: For the past 20 years.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: As you said, he is a party worker. What are the other activities in which also he is involved?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is a member of District Committee; he is also one of the senior members of the Dravidian Movement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you know any other activity of the public nature in which he is involved?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not know. But he is a member of the DMK Party. That is all.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Before you entered the airport, were those persons, whom you have named, present at the airport?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Nobody informed you earlier about this?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know that Mr. Panchakshram is a trustee and he is also chairman of some religious trust?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Panchakshram, now, you may withdraw.

*(Shri C. Panchakshram withdraw)*

*(Then Shri P. Asaimuthu was called in)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Krishnaswamy, do you recognise this gentleman?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is his name?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Shri P. Asaimuthu.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was he present at the airport on that day?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What part did he play in the incident?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was standing near the gate of the airport. When we entered the airport, he assaulted Mr. Manoharan, MP and tore his shirt.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I see. Out of the four persons, only he tore the shirt and did nothing else?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually, they beat him and pushed his body and did all those things.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did he beat him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: This gentleman caught his shirt and tore it and then pushed him to the other side.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This was all.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was there any hartal in Madras on the 15th of November?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was it successful?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who called it?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, leader of the ADMK at Mylapore.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who were the persons who accompanied Mr. Manoharan when he reached the airport?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Myself and Mr. Manoharan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nobody else.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was there anybody by the name Mr. Johnson?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not remember.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In whose car did you travel to the airport?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: In the car of Mr. S. D. Somasundaram, M.P. He was behind us in another car.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know Mr. K. N. K. Naidu..... anybody by that name?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who is he?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: A friend of Mr. Manoharan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was he present at the airport at that time?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did he come there to see Mr. Manoharan off that day?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.



SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was he present at the place and at the time when this alleged incident took place?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Myself and Mr. Manoharan were present.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was Mr. Naidu present?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not sure.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know Mr. Ethiraj?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was he present?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Are you sure about it?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you meet him subsequently at any point of time?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: A few minutes later, they followed us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were they also there to see Mr. Manoharan off?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, only two of you were there when this incident took place.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: The whole wrath of all these 25 persons was upon Mr. Manoharan. How did you escape?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Since he joined the party the previous day, the provocation against him was more grave. Since I was in the party from the very beginning, I escaped. I joined the party two months earlier.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: When you personally accompanied him, did you not try to protect him—and you escaped?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was the target.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: It is not a small assault. Actually, there was some wrestling. When a person like you was with him, how could this squeezing of private parts happen?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: We tried to avoid it, but they were 20 or 25 persons.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: That means both of you were over-powered.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They were numerically larger in number.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: You said that you escaped unhurt. Were you a silent spectator? It would have been better if you had tried to intervene. You are a member of the Rajya Sabha and you could have raised it there.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They carefully and systematically attacked him. They did not care for anybody else, but Mr. Manoharan. It took only two or three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was Mr. S. P. Somasundaram also there at the time of the occurrence?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was there at the airport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you make any effort to contact the Air-port Officer or the Police officer?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Immediately, within two or three minutes, they themselves came and enquired from us.... I mean the airport officers and other passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you yourself make any attempt to inform the airport officer?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you colleague, Mr. Somasundaram do anything.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He was there after a few minutes. He immediately contacted these persons and made representations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Asaimuthu, you can go now; but please wait outside for sometime.

*(Shri Asaimuthu then withdrew)*

Let Mr. Krishnaswamy identify them first; and after we examine him, we can call them again.

*(At this stage, Shri Manickam was called in)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishnaswamy, do you know who this gentleman is?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is Mr. Manickam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he the same Manickam about whom you mentioned earlier?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What was the part played by him in the incident?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: While Mr. Manoharan and myself entered into the airport, he stood in the gate and caught the shirt of Mr. Manoharan and pushed him to the other side.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is the position of this gentleman in DMK?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: He is one of the active workers in the DMK.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Of which area?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Tiruvallikkeni constituency.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The entire incident, according to you, took place in two or three minutes and in that, all these four gentlemen took part. Was there anybody else whom you could recognize?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No; I could not recognize anybody else.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You could recognize only these four persons?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: When you went to the airport, did the car go as far as the portico; or was it stopped earlier?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It was going upto the portico. Between the portico and the airport, there is a gateway. They stood in the gateway and obstructed us. They stood near the gate; through the gate, only two or three people can enter. It is a very narrow passage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you not go up to the gate?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They stood near the gateway and obstructed us.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: How long are you associated with the DMK?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: For the last twenty years.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: You must be knowing them.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, very intimately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manickam, you please go out and sit outside for sometime. We will call you again.

*(Shri Manickam then withdrew)*

*(At this stage, Shri Janakiraman was called in)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Krishnaswamy, do you recognize this gentleman?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir. He is Mr. Janakiraman.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Since how long have you known him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: For the past 20 years.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was he the person present at the time when the occurrence took place?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What was the role played by him?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: While we entered into the aerodrome, he stood near the ticket collector's gate and obstructed our entry. He caught the shirt of Mr. Manoharan and tore it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is that all?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We asked you a question as to what did he do. If you later on say this thing or that thing, that won't help. You specifically say what he did at that time, that will go on record.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually, when we entered the airport he stood near the gate and he caught the shirt of Mr. Manoharan and gave some fist blows on the left part of his chest.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: On 13th itself there was a demonstration in front of Mr. Manoharan's house. Naturally, you

could have expected some trouble at the airport also. Why is it that you did not take some sort of escort along with you?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They followed a few minutes later. They came after ten minutes. So, they were late by a few minutes.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Is it wrong that somebody pressed the testicles of Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, they did it.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Who did it?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Somebody in the crowd.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did they say anything while they were obstructing entry?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They raised some political slogans like down with traitors, down with Mr. Manoharan, down with Malayalee Manoharan, down with trator Manoharan since he came from DMK to Anna DMK. Since he belongs to Kerala, they shouted down with Malayalee Manoharan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You said that this gentleman was standing near the Ticket Collector's counter.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Not at the counter but at the entrance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What would be the distance between the airport where one gets down and the counter?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Four or five feet.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where were all these gentlemen standing?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: They were standing near the entrance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please try to remember the place was it the place where you got down or where you were going to enter the porch?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: The portico is very near. It is only three or four feet.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, you got down and immediately they raised slogans.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then they rushed towards you.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Somebody rushed towards us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, since Mr. Manoharan got down from the car, some persons whom you are not able to identify, rushed towards you and then as you were going to enter the main building from the door, these four gentlemen assaulted Mr. Manoharan. That is your case.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How is it that Mr. Manoharan was dealt with this way at the airport? Why did they choose airport?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Because in the previous night meeting we announced that Mr. Manoharan was going to attend it.

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Were these persons leading the crowd which was going to attack Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes.

*(Shri V. Jankiraman then withdrew)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When this incident took place at the airport, was there any Police official present there?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not think any Police official was present at that time.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was any Airport official there?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: No.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did anyone of them come to rescue Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: After the incident, they came and enquired about it. They did not rescue Mr. Manhoran.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Please tell us who rescued Mr. Manoharan and you from this crowd?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not sure about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How did you get through this gate?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Our volunteers and our leader Mr. M. G. Ramachandran followed us to the airport and helped us in getting through the gate.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You said that they came after ten minutes. Is it your suggestion that this *gherao* or assault or obstruction was going on for ten minutes?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It was going on for four or five minutes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Am I to believe that for four or five minutes you remained *gheraoed*?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes. After these people saw our people entering the aerodrome, they dispersed.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you also accompany Mr. Manoharan in the plane?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, I also accompanied him.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you have a meeting in Madras on the previous day?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, we had a meeting on the previous day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was it a public meeting? And, where was it held?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, it was a public meeting and it was held in Mylapore.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you announce in that meeting that Mr. Manoharan was going to Delhi?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, we announced that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Who made that announcement?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I made that announcement. I was presiding over that meeting.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What was the announcement made by you at the public meeting regarding Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I announced in that meeting that Mr. Manoharan had joined our Party, that day after tomorrow he would be leaving for New Delhi and that he would reflect on the floor of the House (i.e., Lok Sabha) all the things happening in Tamil Nadu for the past one and a half months.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You said day after tomorrow. When was the meeting?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: The meeting was on the 14th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If the meeting was on the 14th, then day after tomorrow would fall on the 16th. How do you account for it?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not remember the exact date.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is why, I ask you again about it.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: The meeting was held on the 14th, and I stated there that Mr. Manoharan would leave for Delhi on the 15th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But earlier you said that the meeting was held on the 14th and you announced there, that Mr. Manoharan would leave day after tomorrow, that would be 16th.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not remember the exact date. I am not quite sure when the *hartal* took place. Since 14th was Pandit Nehru's birthday, I think the *hartal* was postponed to 15th. Actually the meeting was held on the 14th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: So, Shri Manoharan was to leave on the 15th evening?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Shri Manoharan was to leave on the 15th evening, by the 6 o'clock plane. And, on the 16th Shri Manoharan would raise on the floor of the House all the issues facing the Tamil Nadu politics.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did Shri Manoharan speak in that meeting?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, Shri Manoharan also spoke in that meeting. Actually, this was the first meeting he participated in after joining the Party.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Has your announcement made at the public meeting appeared in any of the newspapers.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not remember whether it appeared in any of the newspapers. I actually spoke about it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am asking whether it has appeared in any of the newspapers?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not sure of it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Now, I want to put to you a specific proposition: It is the case of Shri Panchaksharam that he was not present in Madras on that date at all and that he had gone to some village for collection of some trust money. How do you say that he was present at the airport?



SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually, he was present at the airport. He has made an incorrect statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Krishnaswamy, you say after ten minutes Shri Ramachandaran and your party volunteers came to the airport. Is it right?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, that is right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Was there any arrangement that they would come to see Shri Manoharan off?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, there was a prior arrangement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How many of your followers came along with Mr. Ramachandaran?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: More than 50 volunteers came along with Shri Ramachandaran.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Until they came, you were unable to enter the airport building. Is that your evidence?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Actually we were moving with these unpleasant happenings.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you mean to say that you were not able to enter the airport building till Shri Ramachandaran arrived with Party followers?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: We were able to enter the airport *verandah* after crossing the ticket-collector.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you mean to say that after you entered the airport *verandah* the assault ceased and no scuffle was going on?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Scuffle and assault was going on for three or four minutes after we entered the airport.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You say that Shri Ramachandaran arrived after ten minutes but the scuffle and assault lasted only for three or four minutes. How do you account for it?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: During these three or four minutes passengers at the airport were intervening in the scuffle. After three or four minutes some of our Party followers along with

Shri S. P. Somasundaram, M.P., came in another car. Only Shri Ramachandaran arrived after ten minutes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it your stand that after your Party followers arrived, there was no further trouble?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: Yes, after our Party followers arrived, these people dispersed and we entered the airport lounge. And, there was no trouble thereafter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was there no trouble after you entered the airport lounge?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: After we entered the airport lounge, there was no trouble.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the width of the entrance? Is it like an arch gate and how is the passage from the portico to the verandah?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It is a sort of a passage, two or three feet wide. The gate is very narrow.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the width of the gate?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It is about two feet wide. Only one man can enter at a time.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Is it not a fact that you and Mr. Manoharan were also accompanied by two more persons in the first instance? Do you know Mr. A. P. Rajan?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I know Heti Raj; he was not with us. They were following in another car.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Who was driving your car in which you and Mr. Manoharan were travelling?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not remember his name.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Was it not Mr. Naidu?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not aware of his name.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Have these people given any kind of statement to the Madras Government?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am not aware of that.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Was Mr. Johnson there?

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: I do not know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Krishnaswamy. You can go now.

*(The witness then withdrew)*

*(Next witness examined: Shri P. Manickam)*

**\*\*SHRI P. MANICKAM:** I, P. Manickam, do swear in the name of God that the evidence which I shall give in this case shall be true and I shall conceal nothing and that no part of my evidence will be false.

SHRI S. KRISHNAMURTHY, Parliamentary Interpreter: I, S. Krishnamurthy Parliamentary Interpreter, do swear in the name of God that I shall truthfully interpret the evidence given by the witness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manickam, have you any statement to make in regard to the incident in question?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I have already sent a letter in answer to your letter on the 9th February.

*The letter is as follows:*

Madras-5.

7th February, 1973.

From

P. Manickam,  
No. 36, Chandalvaroya Mudali Street,  
Triplicane, Madras-5.

To

Thiru B. K. Mukherjee,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
Parliament House,  
NEW DELHI-1.

Sir,

**SUBJECT:** Question of privilege raised by Thiru Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him on

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**\*\*Statement given in Tamil and translated into English by the Parliamentary Interpreter.**

15 November, 1972—My evidence before the Privileges Committee regarding.

Ref: Your letter No. 18|3|CI|73, dated 31-1-1973.

I have received your letter referred to above mentioning my name as "SHRI VATHALKARA MANICKAM", but actually I am not the said person. But I am doing pandal business and I received the above letter only as Pandal Manickam.

I am surprised to note the contents of your letter that I have been made a party in the alleged assault which took place on the 15th November, 1972 at Airport at Madras for which I submit that I have nothing to do with the above incident.

Anyhow, as a citizen of India, I have to honour and obey the directions of the Lok Sabha and therefore I have prepared myself to go over to Delhi on the specified date but due to the unavoidable circumstances which stand in the way of attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on the above said issue, I regret that I am unable to attend the enquiry on the specified date since the conveyance by train is being hindered due to the confusion and chaos due to the political upsurge prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

I have also tried to go over to Delhi on the specified date but because of my economic difficulties, I could not prefer going by plane and hence I express my inability to attend the Privilege Committee on 15th February, 1973 and also request you to kindly postpone the enquiry date next month so that I may be able to attend the Committee's enquiry positively without fail.

My absence which I am conveying before hand is neither wanton nor deliberate but only due to the aforesaid fact and circumstances. I also submit that since I have been made a party somehow in the above said incident, it is my duty to clear the doubts which have arisen in the minds of the Committee.

Therefore in view of the above stated facts and circumstances, I state that a suitable convenient date may be intimated to me for attending the Committee's enquiry or if any other alternative conveyance is arranged for by you, I have no objection in attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on 15th February, 1973.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(P. Manickam)

9th February, 1973.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Triplicane.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is there is any person in the DMK by the name of Batakkaran Manickam?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I am not aware of any such person. I am in the DMK Party and my profession is to erect Pandals. I am not aware of any such person as Batakkaran Manickam in the DMK.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is there any other Manickam in the DMK who stays in Madras?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I do not know.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where were you on that day?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I went to my native village of Tenpakkam.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How far is it from Madras?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: It is about 60 miles from Madras.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you go to that native place?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I left for that place at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 15th.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you know that there was to be a Hartal on the 15th in Madras?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I was aware that the Hartal was to take place on the 15th, but as I had some personal problems like land difficulties etc. I left for my village.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How did you go to your native place?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I went by car.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Private car?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: No, a friend's car.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the name of that friend?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Krishnamurthy.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What car was it?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: This Krishnamurthy normally lets out the car to certain people on hire. Since I wanted the car urgently, he gave it to me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which make?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I am not aware of the number.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I did not ask for the number. What make?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: It was an Ambassador.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How much did you pay towards the hire of the car?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I spent only for petrol.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: When did you come back?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I left my native place on the 16th at 10 o' clock and reached Madras round about 12 o' clock.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What was the nature of the work for which you went there?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I went there to get a Patta for some Poromboke land.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: From whom?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: The Panchayat Board had sent a message that they are holding a Committee meeting and that if I was present there, they will make arrangements to give the Patta to me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you meet the Panchayat Board there?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I met the Panchayat Board President as well as the Munsif.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the name of the Panchayat Board President?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: The Panchayat Board, President's name is Dhanapal and the Munsif's name is Doraiswamy.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did they give the Patta?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: They did not give the Patta. I requested for it. They said after a resolution is passed by the Panchayat Board they would give the Patta. They promised that such a resolution will be passed by the Panchayat Board.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you apply for that land on that day?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I had applied as early as 1970.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: On that day, was this decision reduced to writing there?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: The Panchayat Board met among themselves.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But when they met you, did they record anything?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I am not aware that any decision was taken, but I know there was a meeting to discuss this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How many persons were there in the Panchayat Board?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I do not know exactly; there were six or seven persons.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Six or seven persons were there at that time? Apart from you, did they meet any other persons?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Nobody else met the Panchayat Board.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did the Panchayat Board hold a meeting only to meet you that day?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Yes.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Here is the letter in which he has given his statement. Now can the witness say who has drafted this statement for him in English?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: My friend has drafted the letter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is his name?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Mr. Elumalai.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What does he do?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: He is working in the Department of Industry and Commerce, Government of Madras.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you have any meeting with any of your leaders? Did you discuss with your leaders about this Privilege Committee notice?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: I did not have any discussion on this issue.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you have any consultation with your leaders?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: No, Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did you have any consultation on this with other persons who have come here to give evidence?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: No, Sir. I did not have consultation with them.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Before coming here but after the incident at the air-port did you meet any time Mr. Panchaksharam Mr. Asaimuthu or Mr. Janakiraman?

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Mr. Panchaksharam paid money for buying tickets for all the four persons.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That means only on that day you all met.

SHRI P. MANICKAM: Yes, Sir.

*(Shri Manickam then withdrew.)*

*(At this stage Shri V. Janakiraman was called in. He took oath in Tamil, which was interpreted into English by Shri Krishna-murthy, Parliamentary Interpreter).*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where were you on 15th November, 1972?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I was in my own Division on that day because there was a hartal called by Anna DMK on that day. Therefore I did not leave my Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please read the letter sent by Mr. Janakiraman to the Committee?

The letter is as follows:

Date: 7-2-1973.

From

V. Janakiraman,  
No. 8, Palliappan Street,  
Madras-1.

To

Thiru B. K. Mukherjee,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
Parliament House,  
New Delhi-1.



Sir,

**SUB: Question of privilege raised by Thiru Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him on 15-11-72—My evidence before the Privilege Committee—Regarding.**

**Ref: Your letter No. 18/3/CI/73 dated the 31st January, 1973.**

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I have received your letter referred above wherein I was directed to appear before the Privileges Committee on 15th February, 1973, for adducing evidence.

I am surprised to note the contents of your letter that I have been made a party in the alleged assault took place on the 15th November, 1972, at Airport at Madras for which I submit that I have nothing to do with the above incident.

Anyhow, as a citizen of India I have to honour and obey the directions of the Lok Sabha and, therefore, I have prepared myself to go over to Delhi on the specified date but due to the unavoidable circumstances which stand in the way of attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on the abovesaid issue I regret that I am unable to attend the enquiry on the specified date since the conveyance by train is being hindered due to the confusion and chaos due to the political upsurge prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

I have also tried to go over to Delhi on the specified date but because of my economic difficulties I could not prefer going by plane and hence I express my inability to attend the Privilege Committee on 15-2-1973 and also request you to kindly postpone the enquiry date on some other date next month so that I may be able to attend the Committee's enquiry positively without fail.

My absence which I am conveying before hand is neither wanton nor deliberate it is only due to the aforesaid facts and circumstances. I also submit that since I have been made a party somehow in the abovesaid incident and it is my duty to clear the doubts which have arisen in the minds of the Committee.

Therefore in view of the above stated facts and circumstances I state that a suitable convenient date may be intimated to me for

attending the Committee's enquiry or if any other alternative for conveyance is arranged for by you, I have no objection in attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on 15-2-1973.

Yours faithfully,

Sd-

(V. Janakiraman)

7-2-1973.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Now, this statement has been sent by you. Can you tell who drafted this statement for you in English?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I do not know the name of the person who typed the letter in English. I dictated my matter in Tamil to the typist and he had typed out that in English.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was the name of the typist Elumalai?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I do not know the name of the typist.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where is he sitting?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: He is sitting on the Thangasalai Road side and he is having a typewriter for job work.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where were you when the incident took place at the air-port?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I was in my Division—Adiyappa Naicken Street Division No. 37.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And you did not go to air-port on that day?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: For no reason I could leave my own Division on that day.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do you know Mr. Manoharan and Mr. Krishnaswamy?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I know them for the last 25 years. I know them from the time they were studying in the college.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did Mr. Manoharan and Mr. Krishnaswamy have any animosity against you?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I have got no animosity against them. But it may be that they may feel some animosity against me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They have stated positively that you were one of the persons who tore the shirt of Mr. Manoharan and

assaulted him on 15th November at the airport. Why have they made this statement? What have you got to say about this?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: In the name of God, I say that I was not there.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Which God?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I swear by God that I was attending to my party work. I was in my division office. I had to attend to my milk business at 5 O' clock. I was there all the time in my division office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Is there any Janakiraman in the DMK Party?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: My division number is 37 and I am the only Janakiraman in my division and there is no other Janakiraman in the division.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know Mr. P. Manickam?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I know Mr. Manickam as the Secretary of a division. Actually, we meet with each other.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you know that the statement he has filed word for word is the same as you have filed?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I am not aware of what he has written. I wrote my letter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Before coming to this Committee, did you know whether he had filed any statement before the Committee?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I did not enquire about it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you come by the same train from Madras?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: We came together in the same train.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In the same compartment.

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: We came in the same compartment. We were discussing all other matters which we have to speak about before the Committee.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: You discussed everything except this particular thing?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** We have not been discussing about this all the time.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Some time did you discuss this?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** No, Sir.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Therefore, all the way from Madras, you came in the same compartment for this evidence and you never discussed this case for which you have come to Delhi? Is that your statement?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** Since the Committee called us, we had to come here to appear before the Committee and there was no point for our discussion.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** How much did you pay to the road typist?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** I paid him Rs. 2/-.

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** Did you have any consultation before you went to the airport?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** I did not go to the airport? Some sort of allegations were made against us, that is why we have come here. We are bound by what you say in the Committee.

**SHRI VASANT SATHÉ:** Do you do any exercise?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** I do not know any exercise. If you happen to come to my division, you will find thousands of people who are ready to testify about my character. After finding about my character, whatever punishment you want to give me, I am prepared to accept it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Manoharan said that you had assaulted him at the airport. Why did he say so?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** I do not know why he has made a charge against me. I have no explanation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Krishnaswamy, MP, has also said that you had assaulted Mr. Manoharan. What have you to say about it?

**SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN:** I do not believe it.....

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All the four witnesses who appeared before the Committee had sent their statements in identical terms, in some cases, word for word. What have you to say about it?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: Each one of us expressed our opinion and we have written it; that is all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you say anything about its identical nature?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: Each one of us has expressed our views about it and I have not seen what the other man has written.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you not discussed this matter or even asked the other witness as to what he has to say? In other words, did you have any discussion on the respective stands taken.

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: No, Sir. I have not talked about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Janakiraman, you can go now.

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I have even published it in the papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says he has already published it in several papers, saying that he did not go on that day to the airport.

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I have given it for publication in "The Hindu", "Malai Murasu", "Dina Thanthi" etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask him to read.

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: I am sorry I cannot read.

SHRI K. KRISHNAMURTHI (Parliamentary Interpreter, LSS): (Reads) "A statement made by the Secretary of the DMK of the 37th Division—Madras, Nov. 23: Mr. V. Janakiraman, the DMK Secretary of Madras 37th Division, has issued a statement....." (Interruption). It is "Malai Murasu" dated the 23rd November 1972.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you give that paper cutting to us?

SHRI V. JANAKIRAMAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The witness can go now.

*(The witness then withdrew)*

*(The meeting then adjourned)*

Wednesday, the 31st October, 1973.

PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri H. K. L. Bhagat
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri H. R. Gokhale
5. Shri B. P. Maurya
6. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
7. Shri K. Raghuramaiah
8. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
9. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam
10. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary*

WITNESSES

1. Shri N. Sreedharan, Cashier, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.
2. Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.

*(The Committee met at 11.00 hours).*

EVIDENCE OF: (1) SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR  
(2) SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY

*(The witnesses took the oath)*

*(Shri N. Sreedharan Nair was then called in and he took the oath)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were you at the Madras Airport on 15th November, 1972 when the incident concerning Mr. Manoharan is stated to have occurred?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will you please tell us what you personally know about it? Do not tell us what you heard from others.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: My duty is in the Indian Airlines Office near the Airport. I came to the Airport after finishing my duty. At the same time Mr. Manoharan's car came, and a group of people, six or eight persons assaulted Mr. Manoharan. With the help of some people, he was pulled inside the Airport. I was one of them. We kept him in the passenger lounge.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How far were you from the place where the assault took place? Were you near?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Could you identify any of those who assaulted him?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For how long did the assault last? Five minutes or ten minutes? How long?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: As soon as the car entered the portico of the main gate of the Airport, some people assaulted him. After two or three minutes, some people gathered and we pulled him inside.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did Mr. Manoharan suffer any injury?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: His shirt was torn.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No bodily injury?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I do not remember having seen any.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many persons were there at the Airport?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: A crowd was there. It was flight time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the time when the assault took place, how many persons were involved?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Eight persons.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Was there any policeman at the Airport at that time?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: One traffic constable was there.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: When the assault started you persuaded Mr. Manoharan to go inside. There was no policeman at the scene?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: One traffic constable was there at that time. That is all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Did something take place inside the Airport also?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Nothing.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Do you know that case had been filed by the police?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I do not know.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Was any slogan raised?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Yes.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What was that?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: It was in Tamil. 'Manoharan Ozhiga', 'Janadhrohi Ozhiga'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It means 'Down with Manoharan', Down with the people's enemy'.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What did the people who accompanied Mr. Manoharan do? Mr. Manoharan was not alone. He came with his colleagues in the car. When Mr. Manoharan got down from the car, he was assaulted. When he was assaulted, what did his colleagues do?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: He was alone with his driver I did not see anybody else.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Do you know Mr. Manoharan personally?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I work in the Airport. I know everybody.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You said that there was only one traffic policeman. Was he a senior traffic assistant?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: He was a police constable.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Did any airport officer go to the assistance of Mr. Manoharan when a passenger was being assaulted?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: After the incident, everybody helped him to remove his shirt.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: From inside the Airport, did one or two airport officers go to meet the crowd and do something to pacify the situation? Or, you did not see anything of that sort?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: It is our duty to help a passenger.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: For how long did this last? About a couple of minutes or more?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Outside incident two or three minutes.



SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were you present at that place before Mr. Manoharan arrived in his car.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why were you there? It was not your place of duty.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I had finished my duty in the Airlines House. I came to the Airport on my way home.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You were present there. There after, Mr. Manoharan arrived?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was there only one policeman posted on that day?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: *I saw only one policeman.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you noticed any change in the posting of policeman? You might have observed. Normally how many policemen are posted at the portico?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: The traffic man is always there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the normal practice? Only one policeman is posted?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Now they have posted many people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the incident, what was the normal practice?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: *Always two or three policemen used to be there.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you notice any change on that particular day with regard to posting?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I do not know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the Madras Airport you have the ticket system. Visitors are allowed only on tickets. You say that a number of people got collected and entered to portico. Do you have any security arrangement of your own Airlines to check the people coming in?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: That is done by Civil Aviation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Were there any Civil Aviation people to check?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: They are always there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can it happen that the people entered the portico without tickets? How could they manage to get into the portico when people are posted there to check the tickets?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: They were at the main gate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only through the main gate they can come to the portico.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: The main gate is outside the Airport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He should show the ticket at the main gate and then come to the portico.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: They were standing inside the Airport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At what point you check the ticket of the visitor?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Inside Airport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This was inside or outside the portico?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Outside the main gate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How could they enter without tickets?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN: Civil Aviation check their tickets.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If they check, how could the crowd get in unless it was rowdy mood or something like that? Mr. Manoharan had stated that some persons without tickets had tried to enter the Airport and they were prevented by Airport duty personnel at the main gate.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Civil Aviation people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you see any of the people trying to come without ticket?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I saw only those people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was there any senior Airport Officer going to help Manoharan? Did you see any such person?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: No, I did not.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: When such incident takes place at Airport, the authorities file complaint in normal course.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: Civil Aviation people.

SHRI B. P. MAURYA: In this case they never made complaint.

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: That I did not know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was the policeman on duty indifferent or something of that sort?

SHRI N. SREEDHARAN NAIR: I can't say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all. Thank you.

*(The witness then withdrew)*

*(Shri G. Krishnamurthy was then called in and he took the oath)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are Chief Traffic Assistant, Indian Airlines, Madras Airport, Madras.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Were you on duty on 15th November, 1972?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: I was.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What are your duties?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Checking tickets passenger instructions..

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are in the airport lounge. It is your place of duty.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Airport; ticket counters.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Are you acquainted with Mr. Manoharan?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: As member of Parliament and frequent traveller. Nothing beyond that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you remember of any incident concerning Shri Manoharan on 15th November, 1972. Tell us what you know personally.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: What exactly that I know is this. I was therein the Airport, inside the Airport. I heard there was some assault on Mr. Manoharan. When I came out I saw him near a book stall. That was inside the lounge. He had a torn shirt. His shirt was torn. He was completely dazed. I extended my courtesy. I took him to a private place. That is the Departure lounge. He said he left his suit case in the car. He gave me the car number. He asked:

Could you help me to picking up my suit case? There was my security officer on duty. With his help we went to the car park and located that and brought his suit case. He took it inside the room. He changed the shirt and he removed the torn shirt.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You did not see what had happened inside?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No, I did not.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you notice any bodily injury?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: I did not notice.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did he complain of physical injury?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You said, he was terribly dazed.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: He was upset.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Were there large number of people in the lounge where you saw him first?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Usual passenger crowd. It was flight time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you hear slogans being raised?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did you know from Mr. Manoharan that there was no police? Did he make any complaint about ineffective police arrangements?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Not to me.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Usually how many policemen are there posted at the airport?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: About 2 or 3 security people to check the passengers going out. Couple of Policemen. One or two outside in the portico to regulate car and crowd, all these things.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is usual number. On that particular date did you see the number was somewhat less?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: I did not particularly observe or know about that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You did not take him to VIP room.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No. He came to Departure Lounge where the crowd is not there. This is a quiet private place. So, I took him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Were you the seniormost officer at that time?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Who was the seniormost officer?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Traffic Officer.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Did he meet Manoharan?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you go to portico?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you make any effort to know as to what had happened?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No. I was engaged in bringing Shri Manoharan's suit case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was said that a contingent of policemen was posted at portico.

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: There was no special contingent

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, how many policemen are posted?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: Two or three.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any information that a special contingent was posted near the portico?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No, I do not have.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Did you see any Police Superintendent at the airport?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did Mr. Manoharan complain of the policemen?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No, he did not. But what we heard was that the policemen did not come to his rescue. That is what we heard from others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was there anybody else with Manoharan?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: I did not see anybody. Later on some other Members of Parliament joined him. Shri K. Krishna-swamy decided to travel along with him to Delhi. I gave a ticket to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did he join Mr. Manoharan bookstall?

SHRI G. KRISHNAMURTHY: No.

*(The witness then withdrew).*

*(The Committee then adjourned).*

*Tuesday, the 30th April, 1974*

### PRESENT

Dr. Henry Austin—*Chairman*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
3. Shri Darbara Singh
4. Shri H. N. Mukerjee
5. Shri Vasant Sathe
6. Shri R. P. Ulaganambi
7. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

### SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary*

### WITNESS

Shri Krishna Manoharan, M.P.

*(The Committee met at 15.00 hours).*

### EVIDENCE OF SHRI KRISHNAN MANOHARAN M.P.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the hon. Members know, we had already examined Mr. Manoharan. But later on when we examined some of the witnesses particularly Mr. C. Panchaksharam, some hon. Members felt that further examination of Mr. Manoharan might be helpful in getting a better dimension of the whole situation. So, accordingly, we decided to call him again. Now, he has come to give evidence. If some hon. Members feel that some further questioning is necessary, then they may put question. But I don't think it is necessary or I shall use my own discretion.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Mr. Manoharan, you will please remember that on the 16th November, 1972, you raised a question of privilege on the Floor of the House referring to certain incidents which you complained as having taken place on the 15th November at Madras Airport? Now, in the course of your speech in the Lok Sabha, you referred to a gentleman amongst others by the name of Panchaksharam. Do you know this gentleman?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes, Sir. I know him for the past so many years.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you know his residential address?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I have already sent his residential address and all that.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Did you know him personally?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I know him personally for the last 25 years.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you know his address?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** That has already been recorded.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you remember his address?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** He is at 'North Madras'. Probably, he might have given some other address—Bommallar Street, Madras, something like that. That is not his address. He is at North Madras near Elephant Gate where he has been staying permanently.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you remember his exact address, that is, the name of the street?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** That, of course, I have written there.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Do you remember having received letter from one gentleman by the name of Shri C. Panchaksharam some time in December 1972?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes, Sir.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Kindly look at this acknowledgement card and see whether it is your signature.

(Acknowledgement card was shown to him)

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes, Sir. This is mine.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** By that letter, the writer wanted you to clarify whether you had referred to him while raising a question of privilege in parliament. Did you reply to him?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I did not reply to him. On the contrary, in several public meetings, I had specifically mentioned his name by saying that he was the man who did it. I simply ignored him. Then on the Floor of the House, I had also referred to him by saying that that was the same Panchaksharam, who, with some people, prevented me from entering the airport as well as coming to Delhi.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** May I draw your attention to a sentence from this letter of 22nd December, 1972? He says that he wanted a verification from you so that he might take suitable steps because it amounted to defination. Don't you remember that he said so?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I remember the letter. On the basis of that letter I had replied to him through the platform and issued a statement also in connection with that signed by myself that these are the people.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Did you issue the statement after receiving his letter?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Immediately after the incident, I came to Delhi. After that I went back to Madras. I addressed various meeting and in one of the meetings, I specially mentioned his name. This letter is the result of my speech. I did not answer it. On the contrary I did say again in the next meeting. I repeatedly said that this was Mr. Panchaksharam I mentioned.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Mr. Manoharan, when this gentleman was trying to find out from you specifically what was in your mind when you referred to one Panchaksharam without initials or address, don't you think the matter was raised as privilege and was it meant as a challenge?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Do you mean to say that according to you I should have put down a reply? I thought it fit not to reply to this man's letter. I wanted to talk to the people. I placed the entire facts before the people and I specifically mentioned his name stating this is the Panchaksharam who did it. This is how I had referred to it after having received his letter. He wrote the letter hoping that I would write back to him. I do not propose to write any letter to him because these are the facts.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** In the public meeting you mentioned it?



**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** In so many public meetings.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Was there any report of your speeches in the newspapers?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** In all the papers it was published. Let me go forward one more step! I have mentioned four names: Panchaksharam, Jankiraman, Asharmuthu and P. Manickam. In the public meetings, I had mentioned the names of these four.

I have also told the Chief Minister to take immediate action. I told the Chief Minister that these were the four people who prevented me and they assaulted me. "Please take suitable action against these people". This was also published in all the papers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You said that you know Panchaksharam for the last 25 years. What is his full name? There seems to be some doubt.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I know Panchaksharam. He is called as "Panchaksharan".

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Do you know him?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** He is called "Panchaksharam" only.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now Panchaksharam says that you had addressed a meeting near his house in Kammappar Pheru on 17th December, 1972.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Where in I had mentioned his name.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** According to him, in his written statement, he has said that you had delivered an address at a meeting near his locality and mentioned the name of one Panchaksharam.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** And may be a different person!

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He says that he is a respectable man and all that thing. When you had mentioned the name of Panchaksharam some people of the locality went round to him and talked to him: "May be, you are involved". Something like that.

Don't you think you have a responsibility to come out and give the full address to identify the person.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** If I am permitted to speak, I may be excused. I do not consider it proper to write a letter to this sort of fellow. It is below my dignity.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Which sort of fellow?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** This sort of fellow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is saying that there are so many people with the name "Panchaksharam". You should give his full name.

How long have you been knowing him? You said for 25 years. Do you know his colleagues in the Party? Was he a colleague of yours?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: In a sense, he had been coming for these meetings. Otherwise I had no connection with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was he a member of the District unit?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: He was a member of the D.M.K., D.K. like that. He knows me intimately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't you know his full name?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: We used to call him "Panchaksharam". This is enough. Who goes in for detailed name of anybody. We used to call him that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says he has a specific name with initials.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: After my speech at (Konnappathirai), he wrote a letter. At one of the meetings I said I had received a letter from him. I now categorically say same Panchaksharam is this Panchaksharam who assaulted me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which Panchaksharam?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Same man.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says his name is K. Panchaksharan.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: K. Panchaksharam?

MR. CHAIRMAN: P. Panchaksharam.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have two points. Do you know of any other Panchaksharam in the D.M.K.?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I do not know

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Was the Panchaksharam you know for 18 years this Panchaksharam?

Having received a letter, have you gone through the contents?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: Yes.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Referring to the letter, you just now said that you spoke in a public meeting clarifying your position in the context of the letter.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I have received a letter from Mr. Panchaksharam who was the man at the airport who tried to assault me and he wanted to know whether this is same Panchaksharam. There is some confusion in the minds of the people. I wanted to give a clarification. I said, you had done it. Very categorically I said so.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is it this Panchaksharam?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Only one Panchaksharam. That Panchaksharam came at the airport. He was the man who did it.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Was the first speech of yours reported in any of the local newspapers?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** Yes.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Have you read those newspapers which contained the clarification of yours about Panchaksharam? Can you have a copy of that newspaper produced before us?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** It was in 1972.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** You can find it out.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I will give it to you.

Another fact which I have now mentioned was this: The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is expected to take suitable action against this Panchaksharam and three others.

I will send a copy of the newspapers.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Please send a copy to us.

The second point is this: The first question which was put to you was whether, as far as you know, any letter was received by you. You had answered in the negative.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** A question was asked whether it was in 1973 or something. The position is that immediately after my speech at Kannappa Theru, he wrote the letter. That letter I had received. I had signed the acknowledgment also.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Can you tell us about the identification of Panchaksharam and what is he normally doing?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** He is a party man and whenever there is any public meeting, he has to come to my meeting.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** We could not have the benefit of your coming and identifying the person. We had called him but you could not come. Now we cannot call him again for your identification.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** You want me to describe the person. He is a tall, dark complexioned and bald headed person. His age is round about 58.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Is he bulky or lean?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** He has a medium build.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Does he participate in the social activities?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I do not know.

This Panchaksharam was in the D.M.K. After some time he fell out. Then he developed some animosity towards leadership and all that. If I remember correctly, he resigned or was suspended from the D.M.K. After that he once again came to D.M.K. He is not a prominent figure. For years together he was in the party.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Where is he now?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** He is in Madras and claims to be a D.M.K. man.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** You say that you did not reply to the letter written by Shri Panchaksharam but you did refer to that in one of your public speeches. Was it very important to refer to that it publically?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I wanted to impress upon the people that the design of D.M.K. was to prevent me from attending the Parliament. I did not give importance to this particular man. In the course of my speech I referred to the incident that took place on the airport.

I want to tell you very clearly that attempts had been made with a view to prevent me from coming to Parliament on that particular day. I had been assaulted. I have already given a note about it. This is 100 per cent truth and nothing but truth.

**SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI:** You are in D.M.K. and have been there for a long time. Do you know how many Members are there in D.M.K. and especially in Madras district [Madras city?

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN:** I shall ask the Chief Minister, as he is a party man.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: Do you know or not?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I do not know.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: In Madras city there are many Members Panchaksharam by name.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I know only one Panchaksharam.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You said in answer to the question put by honourable Chairman, it was not quite in keeping with your position to correspond with a person like that, meaning Shri Panchaksharam. You did not think him to be a suitable person to whom a direct reply could be given. But yet you thought that he had raised some matter which required a clarification in public.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: That is what Mr. Vajpayee asked. I did not give importance to that individual in the public meeting but a reference had been made about the incident. In the course of my speech I had been narrating the whole thing, wherein I said that I had received a letter from the same Panchaksharam and none else.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If he had been a well known or important person than you considered him to be, could you have replied him?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I thought in this case I need not reply but to come to the people and reply. In my speech I replied to the query raised in the letter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You stated that it was below your dignity to reply to his letter but you referred to it in public.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: According to me anybody with nefarious design of liquidating any individual deserves no respect from me.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: You considered below your dignity to send a reply to his letter. You explained this in a public meeting instead.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: That meeting was not arranged for that particular purpose.

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: You replied to the letter in the public meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has stated the reasons for writing such a letter. He says: "I am writing this letter for clarification. If it refers to me, it amounts to defamation as my esteem in the eyes of the public is lowered."

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I understand it fully. As I told you, instead of replying to this man, I referred him in my speeches. He would have gone to the court. If he felt that it amounted to defamation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the incident, you appealed to the Chief Minister to take action against these four people. It is on record. When you returned to Madras after attending the Parliament Session on the 19th, the policeman approached you at the airport itself and requested you to give a written complaint to that they could proceed. What was your reaction?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: I told them, "I am not going to give you anything. What I have spoken on the floor of the House, if you want my statement, you can depend upon that. I was assaulted and being a Member of Parliament, it is a privilege issue. I have raised this issue. You must depend upon my statement made on the floor of the House."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to add anything more?

SHRI K. MANOHARAN: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manoharan, you can go. Thank you.

*(The witness then withdrew)*

*The Committee then adjourned*

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## APPENDIX I

(See para 16 of the Report)

*Factual report received from the Government of Tamil Nadu by the Ministry of Home Affairs.*

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[Copy of letter No. 4890/72-3, dated the 23rd November, 1972 from the Government of Tamil Nadu addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.]

**SUBJECT:—Law and Order—Tamil Nadu—Chingleput District—Alleged assault on Thiru K. Manoharan, M.P., at Meenambakkam Airport on 15-11-1972—Report.**

**Reference:—Your D.O. letter No. 16711/72-Pol. I dated 18-11-1972.**

I am directed to state that this Government called for a report from the Inspector-General of Police about the alleged assault on Thiru K. Manoharan, M.P., at the Meenambakkam Airport on 15th November, 1972, even before the receipt of the letter cited. A copy of the report received from the Superintendent of Police, Chingleput East District in the matter is enclosed (Annexure). It is observed from the report that the Deputy Superintendent of Police, St. Thomas Mount and the Superintendent of Police, Chingleput District rushed to the Airport on receipt of information about the alleged assault and made enquiries. Statements were obtained from Thiru K. N. K. Naidu, who took Thiruvalaragal K. Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy in his car to the Airport and from Thiruvalargal Ethiraj and Johnson, who accompanied the two M.Ps. to the Airport in a separate car. Copies of the statements given by three persons translated into English are enclosed (Enclosures 1 to 3).

2. Neither Thiru K. Manoharan nor Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy nor anybody else on their behalf had preferred any complaint to the Local Police about the alleged incident. No case, was, therefore, registered by the Police. However, the enquiries conducted by the Police on 15th were recorded in the G.D. of the Meenambakkam Airport Police Station.

3. The Superintendent of Police, Chingleput has reported that the Inspector of Police, St. Thomas Mount conducted further enquiry-

ies and recorded statements on 16th November, 1972 from the following persons:—

1. R. Devaraj, S/o E. Ramaswamy, Watchman Meenambakkam Airport, No. 3, Banner St., Nanganallur.
2. N. Muthu, S/o Narayanan, Airport Ticket Clerk.
3. Sivaraman, S/o T. R. Vedachala Mudaliar, Higginbothams Bookstall, Meenambakkam Airport.
4. Thiru N. Damodaran, Indian Oil Company, Aviation Superintendent, Meenambakkam Airport.
5. George Kundson, Traffic Assistant, Meenambakkam Airport.
6. Thiru G. Krishnamoorthy, Chief Traffic Assistant, Meenambakkam Airport.

According to the Superintendent of Police the enquiries reveal that, when Thiru K. Manoharan arrived at the portico of the Meenambakkam Airport on 15th November 1972, some persons, who had gathered there, raised slogans for and against his action in having joined the A.D.M.K., that some persons without tickets attempted to enter the Airport, but they were prevented by Airport duty personnel at the main gate and that, in the melee, the M.P.'s shirt was torn. The Superintendent of Police has also reported that the M.P. was taken to the Airport Lounge soon after, by the Senior Traffic Assistant of the Meenambakkam Airport. He has further added that it is not correct to say that a Police Force was present at the Airport and that it did not come to the rescue of the M.P. On the other hand, the Sub-Inspector of Police, Meenambakkam, who was attending to security work and standing near the Customs Block, well away from the scene of the incident, on hearing the slogans, rushed to the portico with the available men. But, on arrival, there was no crowd at the portico.

4. Meenambakkam Airport is always busy and crowded during peak-hour traffic and it is customary for visitors and others to collect in large number to see off their relatives and friends. Therefore, the collection of a crowd at the portico of the Airport did not attract any special attention.

5. As regards the observation made by Thiru K. Manoharan on 16th at the Lok Sabha about the alleged threat on his life by Thiru Minor Moses and a gang of 200 persons, I am directed to state that the Commissioner of Police, Madras has reported that the police have



no information about this. He has further reported that, on a request made by the M.P. on the night of 13th November, 1972, bandobust was provided at his residence by the Police. On 14th November, 1972, 200 persons, who went in a procession towards the residence of the M.P., for staging a demonstration were prevented from doing so, from a place well away from his residence, arrested and removed by the Police.

6. On their return journey from New Delhi on 19th November, 1972, Thiruvallargal K. Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy were approached at the Meenambakkam Airport by the Inspector of Police, St. Thomas Mount, for enquiry into the alleged incident. Both of them refused to give any complaint or statement regarding the alleged incident. Later in the evening, the Inspector of Police met Thiru K. Manoharan in his house and requested him to give a definite version about the alleged incident. Again, the M.P. declined stating that he had placed the facts before the Lok Sabha.

7. Though Thiruvallargal Manoharan, and Krishnaswamy did not agree to give complaint, on the basis of the statements recorded from the persons present near the scene of the alleged occurrence and on the basis of the statement made by Thiru Manoharan on the floor of the Lok Sabha mentioning the names of two persons as his assailants, the police are proceeding further with the investigation.

8. In this connection, I am also to state that immediately on learning about the incident through P.T.I. News, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued a statement through the Press condemning such acts of violence.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

23-11-1972.

#### ANNEXURE

TRUE COPY

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

From: Thiru M. Ramdas, B.A.,  
Supdt. of Police,  
Chingleput East District,  
St. Thomas, Mount, Madras-16.

To: The Insp. Gen. of  
Police,

Mylapore,  
Madras-4.

Dated: 16-11-1972

Sir,

**SUBJECT:** Alleged assault on Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan Member of Parliament at Meenambakkam Airport on 15-11-1972—Report on.

On 15th November, 1972 at about 6.30 P.M. information was received by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, St. Thomas Mount that there had been some disturbance at the airport when Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan, M.P., went to catch the Delhi flight alongwith Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy, Member of Parliament. Immediately the Deputy Superintendent of Police rushed to the airport and found that Messrs, Nanjil K. Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy had already left for Delhi.

2. He could ascertain from one K.N.K. Naidu who took the M.Ps to the airport in his car that he (K.N.K. Naidu) had dropped them at the portico and drove his car off to the international car park area and that he did not see anything alleged to have happened at the airport. The Deputy Superintendent of Police contacted 2 other gentlemen Ethiraj and Johnson who had followed the M.Ps. in another car. According to them they saw the M.Ps in the domestic departure lounge from at a distance. Ethiraj who is a councillor of Basin Bridge ward would say that he had seen the shirt of Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan torn. Neither Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan nor Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy complained to the local police about any incident. It was further ascertained that Hiru M. G. Ramachandran, M.L.A. saw them soon after the occurrence and sent them off.

3. I came to know about the incident at about 7.30 P.M., visited the airport immediately and heard the above three witnesses i.e. Thiruvalargal K. N. K. Naidu, Ethiraj and Johnson. They reiterated their version before the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Copy of their statements are herewith enclose (Enclosures 1 to 3). Thiru Ethiraj had casually hinted to the Inspector of Police, St. Thomas Mount as if Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy M.P. had seen three individuals in the crowd. They are (1) Asaimuthu (2) Janakiraman (3) Pandakara Mancikam and Thiru Ethiraj would say that these persons appear to be hailing from the park town area in the city. The other gentlemen Thiru Johnson could not say any thing expect that he had accompanied Thiru Ethiraj. The above information was re-

corded in the G.D. of Meenambakkam airport police station. As there was no complaint from any individual no case could be registered. The incident alleged to have taken place occurred in quick succession is under further enquiry.

Sd/- M. RAMDAS,  
Superintendent of Police,  
Chingleput East District.

**Enclosure 1**

*Statement of K. N. K. Naidu, S/o Seshan Naidu, 1, Bharati Nagar, T. Nagar, Madras-17*

I went to the house of Nanjil Manoharan, M.P. this evening at about 4-45 P.M. I went there as the M.P. told me that he was leaving for Delhi that day and that his car was in a state of disrepair. We started from the House of the M.P. at about 5.10 P.M. I was driving my own car TMC 1819. Nanjil Manoharan M.P. and K. A. Krishnaswamy, M.P. came in my car. Ethiraj, M. C. Basin Bridge Division and one Johnson boarded another car. I reached the Meenambakkam Airport at about 5.40 P.M. The car halted at the Portico-Immediately, Manoharan, M.P. and K. A. Krishnaswamy alighted from the car and entered into the Airport building. There were some persons and I took them to be the M.P.'s person who came there to give him a send off. After both the M.Ps had alighted from the car, I took the car to the car park. There was no incident at the Airport. I saw Nanjil Manoharan and K. A. Krishnaswamy going into the Airport building without any trouble whatsoever. Approximately fifteen minutes after our arrival, one Ethiraj and Johnson came by another car and alighted.

This was read over to me. It is correct as stated by me.

Sd/- K. N. K. NAIDU,  
15-11-1972.

(Sd) D. E. CHARLESLY,  
Inspector of Police,  
Mount.

(TRUE COPY)

Sd/- Illegible  
Superintendent.

**Enclosure 2**

*Statement of Ethiraj, Municipal Councillor, Ward No. 27, (Basin Bridge) No. 5, Gadipada, Near Krishna Talkies, Madras-21.*

One Mr. Johnson employed in the Railways, and I went to the house of Thiru Nanjil Manoharan, M.P. at about 5 P.M. to see him off to Delhi. The two M.Ps. went by the car TMC 1819 belonging to K. N. K. Naidu, Johnson and I went by another car. As we started a bit late and had to fill in petrol for our car, we reached Meenambakkam late. When we reached (the Airport) both the M.Ps. had entered the Departure lounge. I was standing outside and from there we saw both the M.Ps. sitting inside. A little later M.G.R. came there. Then both the M.Ps. left by the Delhi plane. I heard that there was a tussle between (M.P.) Manoharan and some persons. When I saw Manoharan (M.P.) in the Departure lounge, his shirt, that is jibba, was torn on the right shoulder.

Sd/- ETHIRAJ,

15-11-1972.

Sd/- D. E. CHARLESLEY,

Inspector of Police,

St. Thomas Mount.

Sd/- Illegible

Superintendent..

**Enclosure 3**

*Statement of Johnson S/o Johnson Senior Instructor of Graduate Trainees, Southern Railway, Madras-23.*

I am an employee of the Southern Railway. I went to the house of Thiru Manoharan, M.P. today to see him off to Delhi. Ethiraj too accompanied me. The two M.Ps. namely, Manoharan and Krishnaswami left for Meenambakkam by car TMC 1819. The car was driven by K. N. K. Naidu. Later, I and Ethiraj came by another car a bit late. There was a talk that when Manoharan came to Meenambakkam, there was some crowd and that there was some tussle.

Sd/- JOHNSON,

15-11-1972.

(Sd/-) D. E. CHARELESLY,  
Inspector of Police,  
St. Thomas Mount.

(TRUE COPY)

Sd/- Illegible,  
Superintendent.

## APPENDIX II

(See para 22 of the Report)

*Written Statement filed by Shri Krishnan Manoharan, M.P. on 25th January, 1973. Submitted to the Committee.*

I am a Member of Parliament having been elected to the Lok Sabha on behalf of the D.M.K. Party during the General Election in 1971 from the North Madras Constituency. On November 13, 1972, I announced my joining the Anna D.M.K. On November 14, 1972, there was a demonstration near my house by about 200 people belonging to the D.M.K. Party. It was at about 5.00 p.m. The demonstration was headed by a few D.M.K. men like Mr. Minor Moses (former Mayor of Madras) and Mr. Neela Narayanan, District Secretary, DMK, who was behind all this. While demonstrating, they shouted that if I would continue to be in the Anna DMK Party my life would be at stake. There was, however, no untoward incident. Immediately after the demonstration, I announced in a public meeting held in a suburban of the City that I would mention the state of affairs of the Tamil Nadu State in the Lok Sabha. There were wild rumours in the City of Madras that the attack on important men of the Anna DMK Party would continue. It is relevant to point out that I was the Leader of the D.M.K. Party in the Lok Sabha for a number of years. It was, thus, apparent that the D.M.K. Party was afraid of my announcement made in the public meeting on November 14, 1972 regarding mention of the state of affairs in the state on the floor of the Lok Sabha. They perhaps wanted to avoid my participation in the Lok Sabha.

On November 15, 1972 at about 5.45 p.m. I went to the Madras Airport to board the plane to Delhi for attending the Lok Sabha Session. I was accompanied by Mr. K.A Krishnaswamy, M.P. (Rajya Sabha) while the car (TMC 1819) was driven by my friend Mr. K.N. K. Naidu. As the car reached the portico of the Airport building where the passengers alight, there was a crowd of about 30 people. Besides, there were a number of small crowds here and there. I could hardly see any police constables or police officer around the place. The moment I got down from the car, I was singled out from the company of my friends and the gathering near the portico surrounded me. They started shouting slogans decrying Anna D.M.K. and its men. In Tamil a few of them shouted that I should

be murdered for the treacherous act of deserting the D.M.K. and joining the Anna D.M.K. While the crowd was continuing shouting, one of them hit me on my chest and another person caught hold of my testicles in an attempt to squeeze it. Another person caught hold of my hairs on the head and tore off my shirt on its right shoulder. As it happened, my friends M/s. Ethiraj and Johnson reached the place to see me off. M/s. K.N.K. Naidu, Ethiraj, Johnson and K.A. Krishnaswamy rescued me along with a few onlookers in the airport building and took me to the lounge.

In the crowd I could identify M/s. Asaimuthu, Janakiraman, Palkaramanickam and Panchaksharam as principal assailants. They are all DMK men. I may incidentally state that except Mr. K.A. Krishnaswamy and two others who arrived to see me off there was no Anna D.M.K. man in the airport. While I was resting in the lounge due to physical exhaustion, some of my friends rang up the Party Office and Mr. M.G. Ramchandran arrived at the place later. Phone calls were also made to the Police Stations nearby and to the senior police officials concerned. Even though messages reached the police officials, none of them arrived at the airport either to protect me further or to take complaints from me, before I boarded the plane. I am sure that the incident was a pre-planned attempt to do away with my life.

On my return from Delhi to Madras on November 19, 1972, I was asked by some police officials at the Meenambakkam Airport to give a statement with regard to the incident which took place at the airport on November 15, 1972. I refused to do so as I had already raised the matter in the Lok Sabha. I also met M/s. K.N.K. Naidu, Ethiraj and Johnson. They told me they witnessed the incident fully and that they could also name the principal assailants. They also stated that statements from them were recorded by the police officials in the night of November 15, 1972. I am told by these people that the statements were extracted from them by the police under duress and their statements are hence not true and voluntary. They are very anxious to depose before the Privileges Committee to explain the whole matter fully and correctly. Mr. K.A. Krishnaswamy, M.P., is also willing to give evidence before the Committee. Besides them, there are a few staff members of the Meenambakkam Airport who witnessed the incident on November 15, 1972.

I may submit that I have also read the reply of the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding the incident. It is not correct to characterise the incident as a scuffle between two parties and that there was only a melee at the main gate of the airport. The entire incident

took place at the portico itself. There was no Anna D.M.K. man except the four persons who accompanied me. About 50 men of the D.M.K. Party having had definite information about my departure (perhaps through the IAC Booking Office) and with the intention to either cause grievous physical injury or to do away with my life were present in the portico of the Meenambakkam Airport. The reply of the Tamil Nadu Government that my friends M|s Johnson and Ethiraj arrived very much late is totally incorrect and hence false. In fact, they joined M|s. K. A. Krishnaswamy and K. N. P. Naidu in rescuing me from the physical assaults made on me by the D.M.K. men. It is pertinent to point out here that while my friends who were present at the airport were not assaulted, I was singled out for the assault. It is thus amply evident that the incident was pre-planned and motivated.

Enclosures: A relevant paper cuttings.

Sd|—

K. MANOHARAN, M.P.

#### CUTTINGS FROM 'HINDU' PAPER

MADRAS, NOV. 15, 1972.

#### "ASSAULT ON MANOHARAN"

Mr. K. Manoharan, M.P., who has joined the Anna DMK, was assaulted by a group of about 10 persons at the Meenambakkam airport this evening.

Mr. Manoharan, who was proceeding to Delhi along with Mr. K. A. Krishnaswami, M.P. and *ad hoc* Organiser of ADMK, got down from a car near the terminal building when, it was alleged he was surrounded by some persons shouting slogans. As he was proceeding towards the booking counter, some of them managed to gate-crash into the terminal building and assaulted him. Other passengers present at the place raised an alarm and the assailants slipped away from the airport in a car.

Mr. Manoharan and Mr. Krishnaswami later left for Delhi.

#### "CM CONDEMNS ASSAULT"

The Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has condemned the



assault on Mr. Manoharan. In a statement, Mr. Karunanidhi said he was sorry to hear a quarrel between those who accompanied Mr. Manoharan to the airport and a crowd that was present there took an undesirable turn and an attempt was made to attack Mr. Manoharan. "Such undemocratic trend in politics should be condemned", he said.

### CUTTINGS FROM "HINDU" PAPER

#### "ATTACK ON MANOHARAN PRE-PLANNED".

MADRAS, NOVEMBER, 16, 1972.

Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, ADMK Leader, said the attack on Mr. Manoharan, M.P. at the airport yesterday was "symbolic" of the "lawlessness" that prevailed in Tamil Nadu.

"If this is what happens to the erstwhile floor leader of the DMK in the Lok Sabha at a public place like the airport you can imagine what will happen to the common man who supports the ADMK" Mr. Ramachandran remarked.

Mr. Ramachandran said when he went to the airport to see Mr. Manoharan off he was asked to find him in physical pain. Because he was a heart patient the severe blows dealt on his chest had made him gasp for breath. He looked pale and could not talk. Mr. Manoharan had also been threatened with sharp instruments.

The ADMK leader said three days back Mr. Manoharan had been warned by some persons who came to his house, of dire consequences if he did not vacate his house within 24 hours. He had asked for police protection but it had not been given although the police authorities assured him of it.

The Chief Minister had attempted to belittle the incident saying there was a "clash" between these who accompanied Mr. Manoharan and another group of persons. What had happened was "pre-planned", Mr. Ramachandran said.

Mr. S. D. Somasundaram said he had sent telegrams to the President, Prime Minister, Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha that Mr. Manoharan "had been man-handled at the Meenambakkam air port, by 30 DMK men and threatened with sharp instruments".

## CUTTING FROM "HINDU" PAPER.

## MORE POWERS FOR AIRPORT AUTHORITY URGED.

MADRAS, NOVEMBER, 16, 1972.

The International Airports Authority of India at Madras has once again urged its Chairman at Delhi to enforce the provisions contained in the IAAI Act of 1971 to vest the Directors with more powers to deal with any situation arising in and around airport terminal buildings, it is learnt.

According to a IAAI sources, the department had written to the Headquarters asking for more powers for the directors to act on issues affecting the security of the airport. Certain provisions of the Act empower the Directors to reserve the right of admission into the buildings and levy a penalty upto Rs. 500 against those contravening the regulations of the Act.

Invariably they had to depend on Police force and to a certain extent their demands were being partially met by the local Police. Even then the source felt, till such time adequate Police force was left under their control or deployed at points suggested by them, they would be helpless. *This was in the context of yesterday's assault incident at the Airport terminal building in which Mr. K. Manoharan, M.P., was involved.*

## CUTTING FROM "THE CURRENT WEEKLY"

DECEMBER 2, 1972.

"CENTRE'S NEGLECT OF MADRAS AIRPORT" (By our Correspondent).

MADRAS:

It is only when the President, the Prime Minister or some distinguished foreign visitors pass through the Madras airport at Meenambakkam that there is semblance of arrangements for individuals' safety.

Only recently Mr. Nanjil K. Manoharan, M.P., who, before he emanated from the airport to attend the Lok Sabha session at Delhi, was surrounded by about 30 ruffians. They hurled abuses at him and nearly choked him to death. He was rescued by a handful of airport staff and some of his friends who had come to see him off. The security police were nowhere around.

Mr. Manoharan is a heart patient and, according to one witness, "he was saved in the nick of time from the clutches of thugs who,

armed with sharp instruments, had rained severe fist blows on his chest".

The shirt worn Mr. Manoharan was torn to shreds and being in great physical pain, he could hardly speak. The incident could well have resulted in a tragedy.

This raises the question, "why does an important and busy international air-terminal like Meenambakkam remain without proper arrangements for the safety of air passengers?"

#### **MORE POWERS FOR STATION DIRECTORS:**

An official of the International Airport Authority of India at Madras, told CURRENT "we have been urging Delhi to enforce the provisions contained in the Authority's Act 1971 which would vest larger powers in the Station Directors to deal with any situation arising at major airports and around them in a direct manner".

It appears that at present the airport authorities have to depend only on the policeforce to come to their assistance when incidents like the one described take place suddenly. What is really required is adequate police strength to be left under the control of the airport or deployed at points suggested by the Authority. In the absence of such an arrangement, the Station Director feels, he would be helpless to deal with an emergency.

Steps are now being taken to impress upon IAAI the need for acting with immediate effect on issues affecting safety arrangements at the airport. Certain provisions of the IAAI Act empower the Directors to reserve the right of admission into the buildings and also levy a penalty upto Rs. 500 against those contravening the regulations of the Act. But this has never been brought into operation so far.

\* \* \* \* \*

The police constables on duty are just lookers-on while the coolie argues with the tired passengers to demand at least Rs. 5 for a single baggage carried from the Customs room to the vehicle outside— a distance of 30 yards. \* \* \* \* \* Safety arrangements at the air port are totally absent at normal times. \* \* \* \* \* Last year, there was the case of a young bride from Singapore who had arrived at the Madras airport unaccompanied by any male escort. Someone took charge of her luggage contained gold jewels worth more than Rs. 20,000 and before she could raise an alarm, the culprit had escaped in a waiting car. The police constables posted there were too busy looking out for their daily 'bakshis' from coolies and taxi drivers to notice that a crime had taken place.

### APPENDIX III

(See para 22 of the Report)

Madras—5,  
9th February, 1973.

From

P. Manickam,  
No. 36, Chengalvaroya Mudali Street,  
Triplicane, Madras-5.

To

Thiru B. K. Mukherjee,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
Parliament House,  
NEW DELHI—1.

Sir,

Subject: Question of privilege raised by Thiru Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him on 15th November, 1972—My evidence before the Privileges Committee—regarding.

Ref: Your letter No. 18/3|CI|73, dated 31st January, 1973.

I have received your letter referred to above mentioning my name as "SHRI VATHALKARA MANICKAM", but actually I am not the said person. But I am doing pandal business and I received the above letter only as Pandal Manickam.

I am surprised to note the contents of your letter that I have been made a party in the alleged assault which took place on the 15th November, 1972 at Airport at Madras for which I submit that I have nothing to do with the above incident.

Anyhow, as a citizen of India, I have to honor and obey the directions of the Lok Sabha and therefore I have prepared myself to go over to Delhi on the specified date but due to the unavoidable circumstances which stand in the way of attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on the above said issue, I regret that I am unable to attend the enquiry on the specified date since the conveyance by train is being hindered due to the confusion and chaos due to the political upsurge prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

I have also tried to go over to Delhi on the specified date but because of my economic difficulties, I could not prefer going by plane and hence I express my inability to attend the Privilege Committee on 15th February, 1973 and also request you to kindly postpone the enquiry date next month so that I may be able to attend the Committee's enquiry positively without fail.

My absence which I am conveying before hand is neither wanton nor deliberate but only due to the aforesaid facts and circumstances. I also submit that since I have been made a party somehow in the above said incident, it is my duty to clear the doubts which have arisen in the minds of the Committee.

Therefore, in view of the above stated facts and circumstances, I state that a suitable convenient date may be intimated to me for attending the Committee's enquiry or if any other alternative conveyance is arranged for by you, I have no objection in attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on 15-2-1973.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

9-2-73

(P. Manickam)

## APPENDIX IV

(See para 22 of the Report)

Date: 7.2.1973.

From

V Janakiraman,  
No. 8, Palliappan Street,  
Madras—1.

To

Thiru B. K. Mukherjee,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
Parliament House,  
New Delhi—1.

Sir,

Sub: Question of privilege raised by Thiru Krishnan Manoharan, M.P., regarding alleged assault on him on 15-11-1972 — My evidence before the Privilege Committee— Regarding.

Ref: Your letter No. 18/3/CI/73 dated the 31st January, 1973.

I have received your letter referred above wherein I was directed to appear before the Privileges Committee on 15th February, 1973, for adducing evidence.

I am surprised to note the contents of your letter that I have been made a party in the alleged assault took place on the 15th November, 1972, at Airport at Madras for which I submit that I have nothing to do with the above incident.

Anyhow, as a citizen of India I have to honour and obey the directions of the Lok Sabha and, therefore, I have prepared myself to go over to Delhi on the specified date but due to the unavoidable

circumstances which stand in the way of attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on the above-said issue I regret that I am unable to attend the enquiry on the specified date since the conveyance by train is being hindered due to the confusion and chaos due to the political upsurge prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

I have also tried to go over to Delhi on the specified date but because of my economic difficulties I could not prefer going by plane and hence I express my inability to attend the Privilege Committee on 15-2-1973 and also request you to kindly postpone the enquiry date on some other date next month so that I may be able to attend the Committee's enquiry positively without fail.

My absence which I am conveying before hand is neither wanton nor deliberate it is only due to the aforesaid facts and circumstances. I also submit that since I have been made a party somehow in the above-said incident it is my duty to clear the doubts which have arisen in the minds of the Committee.

Therefore in view of the above stated facts and circumstances I state that a suitable convenient date may be intimated to me for attending the Committee's enquiry or if any other alternative for conveyance is arranged for by you, I have no objection in attending the Privilege Committee's enquiry on 15-2-1973.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/—

(V. Janakiraman)

7-2-1973.

## APPENDIX V

(See para 8 of minutes dated 20-6-1973)

K. MANOHARAN, M.A.  
(MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)  
LOK SABHA

30A, Mookkathal Street,  
Madras-600007  
Dated 8-6-1973.

To

Shri B. K. Mukherjee,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
Parliament House,  
NEW DELHI-110001.

Dear Shri B. K. Mukherjee,

Received your letter dated 21st May, 1973. Immediately I have sent a telegram intimating my inability to attend the meeting due to my prior commitments. Regarding the assault on me by certain known persons at the Airport of Madras on 15th November, 1972 when I was proceeding to emplane for Delhi for attending the Parliament session.

Hereby I assure you if I could be able to free from my earlier commitments I will with all my responsibilities to attend the meeting.

Hereby I am furnishing the names of witnesses whom I wish them to be examined not in my support merely but to explain actually what happened at the airport of Madras on the 15th November, 1972, when I was proceeding to Delhi to discharge my duties as a Member of Parliament.

I enclose herewith the names and addresses of those whom the Committee of Privileges may kindly requested to be examined.

With regards,

Thanking you,

Yours Truly,

Sd/-  
K. Manoharan



Enclosure to letter, dated 8-6-1973  
from Shri K. Manoharan, M.P.

1. The person who drove the car:

Mr. K. M. K. Naidu,	Phone No. 442343	Residence
Proprietor,	27297	Office
East Coast Seafoods Corporation,	28872	"
Managing Partner		
East Coast Construction Company,		
Director,		
Steel Crafts,		
Managing Partner,		
Film Crafts.		
Office: 21, Sunkurama Chetty Street,		
Madras -1.		
Residence: 19, East Road,		
West C.I.T. Nagar,		
Madras-35.		

2. People who accompanied me in a separate car.

Mr. C. Ethiraj,	Phone No. 31511	Office
Councillor,	34160	Residence
Corporation of Madras,		
Madras.		
Residence: 5, Kathbada First Lane,		
Madras-21.		
Mr. F. G. Johnson,		
10/A, Rly. Quarters,		
Ayanavaram, Madras-23.		
Asstt. Shop Supdt.,		
Loco Works, Madras-23.		

### 3. Airport Officials who witnessed the Scene:

1. Mr. N. Sridharan,  
Cashier,  
Indian Airlines,  
Madras Airport, Madras-27.  
Residence: 26, Bharathiar  
Street,  
Palavalthangal,  
Madras-61.
2. Mr. G. Krishnamoorthy,  
Chief Traffic Assistant,  
Indian Airlines, Madras Airport,  
Madras-27.  
5, Third Main Road,  
Nanganallur, Madras-61.