

(iv) REPORTED DISREGARD SHOWN TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN NATIONAL FILM AWARD FUNCTION HELD OF 27-4-78

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon) Sir, under Rule 377, I wish to raise the question of disregard tantamounting to insult, shown to Members of Parliament in yesterday's National Film Awards function conducted by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Members of Parliament were relegated to isolated corners on wooden benches without support, while the officers of Information and Broadcasting Ministry and all sort of visitors were accommodated in Central Block.

In the very first Parliament of India there was such an incident in connection with Air Force Day conducted by the Ministry of Defence. Then the M.Ps. complained about relegating their seats behind ICS and IAS Officers. The then Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Mavalankar, had directed all Ministries that in public functions, they should allot a portion in front seats exclusively for M.Ps. May I request you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to issue such a directive to all Ministries and Ministers to protect the dignity of M.Ps. in such functions?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Just a minute, Mr. Bhattacharya. I think the Minister wants to respond to Shri Nair.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Sir, I have got the notice just now. I would like to assure the House that there is no question of anyone showing disregard to Members of Parliament and, if at any time, such lapse is committed, whoever is responsible for it, would be pulled up.

In this particular case, I would like to make the situation clear because the venue was shifted to the Talkatora Garden indoor stadium this time. Earlier it used to be held in Vigyan Bhavan in order to accommodate more visitors and more M.Ps. because that has a large spacious place. This

time, the venue was shifted and therefore, the entire seating arrangement was with wooden planks in the rows and in the pitch, in the central pitch itself to which a reference has been made. Accommodation was provided only to the award winners, to the Central Ministers (*Interruptions*), to judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court and such, according to protocol, of those including some diplomats also. (*Interruptions*) all the officials of the Government of India including the ministry officials. They were given the accommodation in the space. Therefore, a large number of them, you may have noticed, were vacant in the pitch. A large number, particularly, of those who had given their consent that they would be coming had not come. Even then, there may have been lapses and if any specific lapse has been committed, I would, certainly pull up the person concerned. But, so far as the accommodation allotment is concerned, the allotment was made on the basis on which I have shown. Even so, I regret, I am sorry, for the inconvenience that has been caused to the Members of Parliament and, *prima facie* I would think that the shifting of the venue itself was a mistake and we should revert to the original Vigyan Bhavan Auditorium.

(*Interruptions*)

13 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There cannot be a discussion on a matter raised under Rule 377.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Members of Parliament were treated absolutely shabbily.

SHRI RAM DHAN (Lalganj): Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There cannot be any point of order.

श्री राम धन : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। जो श्री अध्यक्षता हुई जिस का मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया है, उसके बारे में मैं उनसे एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या सेंट्रल

377

हाल में एक्स-एम पीज के एमरजेंसी में सारे पॉसिबल बन्द कर दिए गए थे? अगर हाँ, तो किस ने बन्द किए थे?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with this. It is not a point of order.

(Interruptions)

(V) REPORTED NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WAGE BOARDS FOR JOURNALIST AND NON-JOURNALIST EMPLOYEES BY THE EMPLOYERS

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance. The concerned Minister is here. He should hear me.

The Government of India appointed two statutory wage boards one for working journalists and another for non-journalist employees in 1975. The wage-boards functioned till the end of 1977 and recommended interim relief for journalists as well as for the non-journalists. The majority of employers have not yet implemented this interim relief even the Government has accepted it and made it statutorily binding. Some of the employers have gone to the High Court challenging the validity of the Government order. At the end of 1977 the employers organisations IENS (Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society) ILNA (Indian Language Newspapers Association) withdrew their representatives from wage-board by putting forward a plea that the 'Independent' members of the Wage-boards are not 'independent' but pro-labour. Since the withdrawal of employers nominees from the wage-boards, the work of the wage-boards has stopped and no meetings are held and the Chairman of the wage-board is waiting instructions from the Government of India. The employees in news-paper industry (about 40,000) are greatly agitated over this development and last month they held a convention in Calcutta. At this convention all the four organisations; All

India Newspapers Employees Federation, Indian Federation of Working Journalists and PTI and UNI Employees Federation came together and formed a National Confederation of Newspaper Employees Organisations. This convention has given a call for all-India strike of newspaper employees if the Government does not take any action in the matter. The Labour Ministry called two tripartite meetings. The Labour Minister suggested bipartite talks. The employees were prepared for such discussions but employers refused to cooperate. In this situation, the Government must direct the wage-board to proceed with its work despite the employers boycott.

13.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT ETC. OF ELECTRONICS TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): On behalf of Shri Morarji R. DESAI, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Annual Report of the Electronics, Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1976-77 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) A statement explaining that Government are in agreement with the above Report and therefore no separate Review on the working of the Corporation is being laid.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2198/77].