

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): After the ruling of the Speaker, you should not go on like this. You can find out other method of bringing it up, if you like.

(Interruptions)

This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are familiar with the rules. Do not unnecessarily discuss it.

(Interruptions)

RE POINT OF ORDER

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): The other day, the Leader of the opposition and the Leader of the House, while replying between two business matters—Sir, a specific demand was made about the correspondence between the ex-Home Minister and the Prime Minister.....

(Interruptions)

I am on a point of order. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

You yourself have observed that under rule 199, it could not be done. There are other means under which...

(Interruptions)

You have advised that there are rules, ways of doing it.

(Interruptions)

I have given notices on this subject under Rules 377, 184, 170 and 193. Sir, I have exhausted every single rule for bringing this matter of questioning the order....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Of the Prime Minister by ex-Home Minister. This is a matter of importance. How can the Government go on if a Home Minister questions.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House. This is not before the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to know from you—we are agitating; the whole country is agitating, you know about it—we are entitled to know what has happened to that serious charge of corruption levelled by the ex-Home Minister against not only the Prime Minister but of other Ministers. What has happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We want that correspondence to be placed on the Table of the House. Let the Prime Minister assure us that that correspondence will be placed on the Table of the House. You cannot gag us; you cannot shut us out.

MR. SPEAKER: Who can shut you out?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You cannot. You are deliberately trying to shut me. I have sought every forum. (Interruptions)

You may recall what happened when Mr. L. N. Mishra's case was there. These very people were asking for those papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: This is no point of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: How are you going to allow this? You rejected my Adjournment Motion yesterday. You are rejecting Call-Attention. You are rejecting the notice under rule 377. Here is the notice that I had given under rule 377. What are

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

you intending to do? You have to guide us, tell us. (Interruptions) We are not going to sit down unless the Prime Minister or the Government cooperates to give this correspondence. (Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): This matter comes as a point of order under these circumstances. I am rising on a point of order. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have done everything under the rules. You have to decide. You cannot shut us out.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe's point of order has already been overruled because that is not a point of order. It may be that he may come and ask us why this has not been selected.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am not on that. I am on a different matter altogether.

MR. SPEAKER: Then I must hear Mr. Ravi first. He had risen on a point of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You suggest, Sir, what is the method to be followed. I will obey you. But if you want to shut us out, then we will not sit down. You tell us, Sir. Let the Government tell us. You tell us how you are going to allow this. I will obey you. (Interruptions)

श्री उपसैन (देवरिया): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। ये लोग रोज़ सदन का ढाई घंटा समय बर्बाद करते हैं। इस तरह से कैसे काम चलेगा? (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it plain to the Hon. Members that no threat will deter me. I have said that I will certainly go according to the rules, according to my interpretation, subject to any resolution in the House. Therefore, there is no use making a threat. I am selecting Calling Attention notices according to what I consider to be important. I am to decide about it.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, I want to make a submission. The whole thing is here....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: You permitted the Prime Minister to make a statement. I am seeking to make a submission. The whole point, you will kindly understand, is this: the issue projects out of the proceedings of the other day. The other day I stated, after you permitted me.... (Interruptions). I had your permission and I am standing here.... (Interruptions) I have got the floor of the House? I am not yielding now. My point of order comes under this. I said on that day:

"...the Prime Minister...must tell us the reasons why they were eased out of the Ministeries. This is a very important matter; national issues are involved....I demand the Prime Minister to tell us the truth nothing but the truth and the whole truth about this."

You gave a ruling; under Rule 199, two demands have been put forward. One, the Minister must make.... (Interruptions) It is for you to decide whether this is a point of order or not. You gave a ruling and the ruling was.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):*

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The difficulty will arise that if the reporter records yours, others will object and if he records others', you will object. I am not allowing anybody

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: You gave me the floor; I am raising a very vital point.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Unless I spell out, how do you get that?

MR. SPEAKER: You said that I have made a commitment.....*(Interruptions)* He says I have made a commitment; therefore, I am asking him to show me that. According to me, I have not made that commitment. Let him show that to me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Under what rule are you permitting him?

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am in possession of the House. They can interrupt, but I am in possession of the House. I will tell you when I get the House back. I am in possession of the House to-day. They can interrupt....

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Why are you afraid of truth?...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Stephen to point out....*(Interruptions)* He has said that I have made a commitment and I am asking him to point out the commitment.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT (Jaunpur): Under what Rule are you allowing?

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): Now this is a problem for us....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Under what rule are you permitting him? If the House is convinced, you can certainly permit him. But he cannot get up and say anything he wants . . .

MR. SPEAKER: When an hon. Member says that the Speaker has made a commitment—of course, I do not recollect having made any commitment—I must allow him an opportunity to show me the commitment I am said to have made.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If you cannot recollect, you can consult the record.

MR. SPEAKER: I am only asking him to point out the record....
(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He can do that in your Chamber, not here.

MR. SPEAKER: I see no difficulty in asking him to point out the commitment instead of my seeing the record. १

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He can do it in your Chamber.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Can a Member at any time stand up and say you have made a commitment?

MR. SPEAKER: He says that I have made it yesterday. I am asking him to point out the commitment. I do not recollect having made any commitment.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Whether there is a commitment or not, I want to help you in conducting the House. I am not bothered about any commitment. I want to submit to you that the tape-record cannot record the proceedings, the short-hand-writers also cannot take down the proceedings when members speak simultaneously. But we want to see the proceedings of the House next day and want to be enlightened. So I

[Shri A. Bala Pajamor]

suggest to you that because the tape-records cannot do it, let us have some cine camera set up here to take the entire proceedings and show to us.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Their Chief Minister has got all the paraphernalia, cameras and all that. Let them first start it in Tamil Nadu. Afterwards, we can follow.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Mr. Stephen only to point out the commitment and nothing else.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I did not use the word 'commitment' at all.. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, I have permitted him to point out the commitment, only commitment and nothing more.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Let it be corrected. I did not use the word commitment at all. I did not use the word commitment.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you say there is no commitment, then....

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I have got a point to make and you have permitted me. I am not here to say as you say. I am pointing out a particular thing from out of the proceedings. (Interruptions).

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I will beg of the Prime Minister to tell us whether he is going to place the correspondence (Interruptions) on the table of the House.

That concerns not only Shri Charan Singh and Morarji Bhai but it concerns the whole country. It concerns the whole House.**

(Interruptions)

I would therefore, say, on this issue you cannot be partisan to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody thinks that I am partisan to the other.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are willing to co-operate with you.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody says that he is co-operating with me. But I know the type of co-operation I am getting.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The short point is we are using every rule. Under the rules I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it a hundred times.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: But you have not replied.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not required to reply here.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Then what can you do. You must tell us how are you going to dispose of this?

MR. SPEAKER: I have to dispose of.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Can I bring this.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have anything you come to my chamber and discuss the matter with me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am willing to sit with you and the Prime Minister. I am willing to sit with you in your chamber.

(Interruptions).

श्री नाथू सिंह (दोसा): अन्डर रूल 378, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They are also on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

This matter has been discussed sufficiently. If Mr. Sathé comes and discusses the matter in my chamber. I shall certainly discuss with him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vayalar Ravi has some.... (Interruptions)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: No, no. I am in possession of the House. What is this going on? I am in possession of the House on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The point of order is that Constitution is violated. This is the point of order. The Government is being run in violation of the Constitution. The House is being run in violation of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly come to a point of order.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The point of order is in violation of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to that.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am coming.

MR. SPEAKER: It must be a matter before the House.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House and shall raise a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Before that you come to sub clause (2).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Therefore, you gave me permission and I am in possession of the House. I am on this fundamental thing. The fundamental thing is, when the Speaker gives the floor of the House, to a Member does he give permission or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order must be raised in relation to the business before the House.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: You say, there is no business before the House. If that is the interpretation, my point of order arises. In between two businesses, a point of order can be raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Under which rule?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I can give you the rule.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me the rule. It must be only within the rule.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): There is no Point of Order.

MR. SPEAKER: I am hearing him.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The rule is:

"A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment: Provided that the Speaker may permit a Member to raise a point of order during the interval between the termination of one item of business and the commencement of another, if it relates to maintenance of order in, or arrangement of business before the House."

This is the matter I am raising in between two businesses.

Therefore, Sir, a point of order can be raised.

You permitted me to raise the point of order. You please hear me. Then

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

you decide whether the point of order is valid or not. *(Interruptions)* If the Speaker cannot carry out his order on the floor of the House, everything else goes. You gave me the floor. You please hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stephen, I gave you the floor to raise a point of order. A point of order must be in relation to the business of the House. Even in-between, it must relate to the business of the House. Please read it.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: This is the proviso to the other. Rule 376(2) says:—

“A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment.”

Then, there is an exception to this—

“Provided that the Speaker may...”

Therefore, this is the position which is accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order arising out of the business of the House, maintenance of order in, or, arrangement of business before the House.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The most important thing is this: You allowed me the floor. Let me complete. It is within my right to complete my submission. I have an experience in this. Once you allow me, somebody else gets up and says something. I am not going to be cowed down by this. I will have my full say. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is upto me to say whether it is maintainable or not. I cannot allow both of you simultaneously.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: There is no business before the House. If you allow him to speak, everybody can speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear the point of order.

(Interruption)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I don't want to shout that way.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: How can you allow him?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Samar Guha, kindly hear me. You are all senior Members. I seek your assistance in conducting the House. If all of you take upon yourselves the responsibility of deciding the matter, nothing will... *(Interruptions)* I am on my legs. I have permitted Mr. Stephen to raise a point of order. I have pointed out to him the limitation. He says that he does not come within the limitation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You go through the Book.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got the book here.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to make a submission. The matter is very simple. A point of order cannot arise out of no order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After finishing the point of order, if necessary. I shall call you. You are arguing something which is...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: A point of order cannot arise out of nothing. There is no business. It is the practice. Are you going to set up a new precedent?

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot understand this.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: There must be some order. Out of the business a point of order can arise. There is no business. There is nothing in the House. Out of blue how can a point of order arise?

MR. SPEAKER: This is what I am pointing out to him.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Why he makes charges against Government and he is trying to create.... (Interruptions) if you allow that.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not making allegations. I am only wanting to enquire into the charges made by the Minister. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you really help me to conduct the proceedings? This is not the way to help.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to help you. Why you allow anybody to make any accusation when there is no business in the House. How can he raise a point of order? (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE:**

MR. SPEAKER: I am expunging this: I have allowed Mr. Stephen. I am not allowing anybody until he finishes. (Interruptions). I shall see that it does not go into the records.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, the point I am making is this. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. Kindly follow the procedure. I have allowed him to point out the point of order. (Interruptions) After I hear him. If necessary I shall hear you.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: They cannot manage. Nobody listens. The Leader of the House is helpless. What is happening here?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: rose.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, I am merely on the question whether there is any point of order. I can hear you after hearing him. Please take your seat. Mr. Stephen.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Now, Sir, the point is this. It arises out of the

proceedings on the previous day. With your permission, I made certain submissions here on the 17th.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing except what Mr. Stephen says will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Well, Sir, under your permission I made in all responsibility three demands here. One was that the ministers should make a statement. Second was that the Prime Minister must make a statement and third was that the correspondence should come forth. On these three demands you gave this ruling:

"Mr. Stephen has raised the question that the word 'may' in 199 must be read as 'shall'. Under certain circumstances, the word 'may' may have to be read as 'shall'. But so far as the rule is concerned, it has already been interpreted by the previous Speaker, the word 'may' shall not be read as 'shall'. Therefore, I cannot permit any debate on this matter; nor am I compelling the Ministers to make a statement. It is open to the Ministers either to make a statement or not to make a statement."

Now, I rise on a point of order for enforcement of Rule 199.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Speaker I want to know under what rule are you permitting him to raise the point of order. There is no basis. Sir, in future we will not be able to conduct the proceedings of the House. I am willing to cooperate. But my experience is that such a kind of point of order was never allowed in the last few Lok Sabhas. There is no order, nothing. He is not quoting any rule according to which he could raise the point of order.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order can be disallowed after hearing it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am not opposed to it. But he must have a proper time, proper way, proper manner, proper place and according to the proper rule he should raise the point of order. Out of the blue how can he raise a point of order? If you allow him now to raise a point of order, then everybody can raise the point of order under some plea or other. I have a point of order now. Under this plea, I can bring anything. I can bring in politics after flinging my accusation. It will go outside and then you will give your ruling. The mischief is already done. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Guha, you are a senior Member....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Because I am a senior Member, I have been able to see.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order can be disallowed only after hearing it.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am sorry about that statement of yours. You have said that the point of order can be disallowed only after hearing it. You could have said that the point of order could be decided after hearing it. But you have said that the point of order could be disallowed only after hearing it.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not be alarmed of what Mr. Guha had raised. He wanted me not to allow it. Then I said that I could disallow a point of order after hearing it, not before hearing it. You must see the context in which that observation was made.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: May I complete now? Now, with respect to this, your ruling was this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: But how can you allow him to raise a point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: I have decided.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Why have you permitted him to raise this....?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Guha, are you taking over my responsibility?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, yesterday you permitted him to raise the point according to rule 199 but how is that rule 199 applicable today? You allowed him yesterday on a certain basis. Certainly you allowed him to raise this point yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: The difficulty is once you begin, you are unable to end it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am ready to end it. But I would like to put one simple question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called upon you. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If things go out of gear..... *(Interruptions)* I have the right to point it out.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I have not called upon you.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Under which rule you are calling him? Sir, you remember everybody can claim.... *(Interruptions)*.....

In the name of point of order, any accusation can be made.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him to make any accusation. He is merely pointing out certain commitments. I am supposed to have made. He has not made any accusation up till now.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: They are not allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Both the sides are determined not to follow the rules.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Speaker, Sir....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, I have told you already.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR (Jhansi): On a point of order.... (Interruptions).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: See that lady; she is on the panel of chairmen (Interruptions) Now therefore with respect to this I am saying that you gave this ruling. You ruled out one demand of mine....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Under which rule are you allowing to speak?

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): He cannot speak.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If the attempt is to hold up the proceedings, by all means go on. I want to conduct the proceedings.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am rising on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: You are on the panel of Chairmen. He is already on a point of order.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is willing to obey order. I am not going to hear anybody until I finish hearing him.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: He is raising a point of order on your ruling. Under the rules, Speaker's ruling cannot be questioned. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Until I finish hearing him I will not hear anyone else. I must finish hearing him. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not saying there is conspiracy; they are saying. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Inter-session has given you a lot of energy.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is 1 O'clock now.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you all require lunch now. So we adjourn for Lunch till 2 O'clock.

13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE. POINT OF ORDER—Contd.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): I have written to you that I want to raise a point of order; even if it is, after Stephen's I do not mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me express my views. I would appeal to the House to have a quiet proceedings. The House seems to be in a tension and therefore it is necessary that we should bring upon ourselves the utmost restraint in this matter. I do value the advice of all the Members on the manner of conducting the proceedings, but that should be done outside the House and not in the House. In the House, you must allow me to conduct the proceedings. I am sure, Mr. Bagri will agree with me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you after Mr. Stephen.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I was saying that I was making reference to the ruling you gave. Out of the three demands I made viz., (1) the ex-Ministers making a statement, (2) under conventions and under the Constitution the Prime Minister must tell the House and (3) the correspondence which has passed between the Prime

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

Minister and the Home Minister in his official capacity and asking for the resignation must be placed on the Table of the House. With respect to that you gave your ruling that the ex-Ministers cannot be compelled to make a statement, that means, with respect to the other two demands, you have not overruled those demands, which means, according to me, you may agree to disagree—those demands of mine have been accepted by you. Three demands were put forward. One was over-ruled and the others remaining not over-ruled means that those two demands have been accepted by you. Two questions are there. You raised two questions: how it becomes a point of order and secondly as a point of order how it is valid. It becomes a point of order because this is the only time I have got to raise it. My contention is, the statement by the Prime Minister, if at all, must be made now between the question hour and the next item. Conventions will show that whenever the Prime Minister makes a statement, he makes a statement immediately after the question hour. Introduction of ministers takes place immediately after the question hour. If introduction of ministers takes place immediately after the question hour, the announcement of the quitting of the ministers also has got to take place immediately after the question hour. Therefore, I am raising this on the basis that in the order of precedence, the statement by the Prime Minister has to come now. This is the only occasion I can raise it. That is how it becomes a point of order.

I have asked the Prime Minister to make a statement under the Constitution. The relationship is between this House and the Council of Ministers led by the Prime Minister. If the Council of Ministers is not there, the House does not function at all. We do not know who the Council of Ministers today are. I made the point, this House juridically does not know who the Council of Ministers are and

the Prime Minister is ultimately answerable to this House. When a member demands that the Prime Minister should come and tell us who his Council of Ministers are, the question is whether the Prime Minister must tell us or not. If a minister has quitted, the question is whether he should answer us as to why he has quitted. With whom am I to deal, I do not know. That is being evaded. If the Council of Ministers in the full knowledge of the House does not function, it amounts to a break-down of the Constitution, because the administration does not function. The President can function only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers are answerable to the House. We do not know who the Council of Ministers are. We make the demands, "You tell us who the Council of Ministers are". The Prime Minister does not make the demand. Therefore, the question is one of very fundamental importance. If the ministers have resigned, this House must know how. It has got to be explained. It is in that context that I say, "You will not be able to tell us who the Council of Ministers are and how they have left unless you place on the Table of the House all the letters which are covered by this whole correspondence". Otherwise, we cannot proceed. The House cannot proceed.

Before I close, I want to make one more statement. The position now today before you is, I submit, you cannot interpret the ruling you have given. You can give a ruling. Once given, a ruling is a ruling and it can be interpreted only by the House. The ruling given by you is that ex-Ministers need not make a statement. My interpretation of the ruling that you have ruled that the Prime Minister must make a statement and must produce the letters. This is your ruling. I repeat you have no jurisdiction to interpret the ruling. This House alone has the power to interpret the ruling. Going by the ruling, the Prime Minister has to make a statement and produce the letters before

the House. Otherwise, it must be deemed that the Constitution has broken down, there is no Council of Ministers functioning and the House comes to a standstill. This is the point of order I raise. Therefore, this is a point of order and as a point of order it is sustainable in essence. In both these senses it has got to be approached. I will appeal to you to hold over the functioning of the House until the Prime Minister is called. One word more and I have done. I submit that if the letters are not produced today, I suspect the letters will be tampered with and will be replaced. Therefore, the letters must be produced today. Otherwise, manipulation will take place. They are meeting together and confabulating and new letters may come. That must not happen. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Chandigarh): I would like to know whether you are giving a ruling on that or you would like to hear us.

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving a ruling only. I must dispose of it. On that point of order there is no debate allowed.

Mr. Stephen has raised a point of order contending that my ruling of day before yesterday has allowed his demand for the making of a statement by the Prime Minister and for producing the correspondence that passed between Shri Charan Singh and the Prime Minister. On Monday (17th), I merely permitted Mr. Stephen to make an enquiry or demand under Rule 199.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That is quite outside the scope of that. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 199 merely confines itself to making of a statement by a Minister who has resigned. It does not cover any other thing. If Mr. Stephen had made any other demands excepting those falling within Rule 199, those demands were imper-

missible under Rule 199. Therefore, I confined my order only to the material relevant for the purpose of Rule 199. My order does not deal with it, nor could it deal with his other two demands. Therefore, I do not think that order has given rise to the point of order raised by Mr. Stephen. Further, the contention raised by Mr. Stephen is completely barred by sub-rule (2) of Rule 376. Hence the point raised is overruled. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Sathe on a point of order raised a contention that in the arrangement of business I should have given preference to his various motions which, he says, he has submitted to the Secretary. The matter is under my consideration and therefore, at present no point of order arises. (*Interruptions*).

14.14 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, this is in respect of Direction No. 2 (vi) regarding the question of breach of privilege. I am not going into the subject matter of the question of privilege for which I have given notice under Rule 222.

There is a precedent in this House. Earlier the Speaker had given ruling on a privilege motion moved by hon. Member, Shri Gauri Shankar Rai. It was never even discussed. Straightaway it was sent to the Privileges Committee. But here also this is on the same pattern. In Mr. Shakhder's book, it is clearly stated on page 238:

"It is a breach of privilege and contempt of the House to make speeches, or to print or publish any libels reflecting on the character or proceedings of the House or its committees, or on any Member of the