

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajagopal Naidu, you will continue on the next day, allotted for Private Members' Business.

We pass on to the next item

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will you permit me to move my Resolution, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know the rules. You know everything. You are teaching many Parliamentarians. Please don't break the rule.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: You can suspend the Rule....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat, Mr. Dinan Bhattacharya. I appeal to you.

Now, we will go to the next item.

RE: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FORMER HOME MINISTER

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Before you go to the next item, I would like to make my submission on a Point of Order.

We have just come to understand that something has been decided about the correspondence between the Prime Minister and the former Home Minister.

I hope you know that there was a lot of discussion in this House. Now information has reached us—it is for you to contradict it if it is wrong. But, it has reached us that several honourable colleagues of ours who are representing various groups are being invited to the Speaker's Committee Room to inspect the correspondence.

Now, I want to know whether it is a fact. If so, want to raise an

objection on two grounds—firstly, have you ever decided this matter in the House; all that I know of is the fact that this was being discussed when the matter was kept pending until the Speaker decided and informed the House. Now, we have not disposed of this matter; nor have we got any finality from the hon. Speaker. I am told in the other House, the hon. Chairman of the House, decided the course of action and they are doing it. Now it is not for us to comment upon what happened in the other House. It will not be right and proper to do that also. But my point is that if something happened in that House and the same thing is being repeated here without the knowledge of the House by the hon. Speaker about the whole position, is it in order? This is my point number one. Secondly, how is it that only some are invited? I do not know why I have not been asked for it. In the other House, some Independents have been invited. In the other House some Independents have also been asked to see it. I have not got any information. All I am saying is, this is a point on which I stand on principle.

No announcement was made. I have no information; I have no intimation. Apart from that, my main point is that the House has not been kept informed about this at all; the House has not been taken into confidence; nor has the Speaker given us any decision. And if something happens without all this in the Speaker's Committee Room, I may sorry; I must raise my voice of protest.

I want your guidance from you.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, may I make a submission? The matter was raised in the House and almost all the Group Leaders were associated with the demand for the papers; the exchange of letters to be placed either on the table of the House or in the manner in which it was thought fit. Now, whatever the decision taken, I

do not want to comment on it. But, since the matter was raised in the House, the Chair should have announced what the decision has been taken in the matter. I do not think that without announcing the decision, the decision should be implemented.

And even at this point of time, I would very much implore it to convey the feelings of this House that that is not done and it must not be done. Whatever the procedure or whatever the decision that has been taken, that decision must be conveyed to the House and then alone that decision should be in the process of implementation.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I want to know whether the papers have been placed in the Chamber of the Speaker and they are being perused. Is it a fact? That must be first known.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Cananore): I would like to make a submission. (Interruptions). In this House we had series of discussions about this matter and the entire Opposition expressed its view that either the letters should be placed on the table of the House or the letters should be shown to the Leaders of various Parties. And it was left to the Speaker for a decision. You may recall that the Speaker himself made an observation that this House is not bound to go by the decision of the other House. Now, to-day, in newspapers, we read the decision of the other House. It might have satisfied the Members there.

But, according to the assurance given by the Speaker that day, in the presence of the Prime Minister, it is the duty of the Speaker/Chair and it is the duty of the Government also to tell the House in regard to this House, how are they going to deal with this matter. Now, we came to know in the Lobby that the Lea-

ders of various parties are told to go to the Speaker's Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not all.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Some people are told to go there at 5-30 P.M. and see the letters. Now, in the other House if you go by that procedure, Shri Mavalankar has every right to protest because he is an Independent. Mr. Om Mehta is an independent and that Independent member has been asked to see the letters. Here he has two objections—one, the House is kept in darkness about the whole business; the assurance given by the Chair and the assurance given by the Government totally stand violated and the right of the Members has been curtailed. Therefore, my suggestion is that you may direct the Government to make a statement about it immediately.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): What was the assurance by Government?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us find out.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: That decision has not come to us. That is the point.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Mr. Chairman, the assurance given to this House that day was that the Speaker has every right to decide, in consultation with the leaders of the House, the modality by which the Government will come to this House with the letter. That is left to the Speaker and the Leaders of the House.

That assurance has not been fulfilled. So my request is that you may direct the Government to make a statement about it immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will convey the points raised by the honorable Members to the Speaker. I have already sent

some offices to him. The matter is with the Speaker. I am not aware of anything that is being done there.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Can we expect that if they have asked the leaders without the knowledge of the House will you please see that it is stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is with the Speaker. Undoubtedly, I am sure what he has told he will do it and abide by his decision.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: By that time it will be too late.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: They are being shown to them without the knowledge of the House. The House has been kept in darkness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the matter is with the Speaker I cannot tell anything now but I have sent one officer.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: This information you may give whether Speaker with other leaders is perusing the letters. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am enquiring.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Sir, probably the decision is best in the circumstances but whatever the decision the Speaker should have conveyed it to the House. We are not quarrelling with the decision but we are only expressing our dissatisfaction that the decision has not been conveyed to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe that the decision has not yet been taken.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is in the process of implementation.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: That means the Chair is also in darkness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you say, I will convey the views of the

hon'ble Members to the Speaker. I believe, the Speaker will not do anything against the wishes of the hon'ble Members. I am sure the Speaker will convey to you everything in time. I have already sent a message.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has come. He may like to say something. (Interruptions).

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: My other suggestion is, if you, the Chair, is kept in darkness about it, let us adjourn and you inform the Speaker about the feelings of the House and we will meet again.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as I understand a question has been raised about the decision of the Speaker on a certain question and, I understand, that you have been pleased to say that you are making enquiries from the hon'ble Speaker. Therefore, you can await the answer from the hon'ble Speaker, and the business of the House can go on in the meanwhile. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. I will convey all these points to the Speaker.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: What is your ruling about the point that the House as well as the Chair have been kept in darkness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the matter is with the Speaker I am not giving any ruling. (Interruptions).