

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Mondy, August 6, 1977/Sravana 17,
1899 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST MINISTER OF IN- FORMATION AND BROADCAST- ING AND CHIEF EDITOR, NEWS SERVICES (ENGLISH), AIR

Mr SPEAKER On the 5th August 1977, Shri K P Lunikrishnan gave notice of a question of privilege against (1) the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri L K Advani and (2) the Chief Editor News Services (English) All India Radio on the ground that in the English News Bulletin broadcast by the All India Radio at 9.00 P.M. on the 4th August, 1977 it was said that some of his remarks made in the House on that day were expunged by the Speaker whereas none of his remarks were expunged.

I referred the matter to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for his comments and also called for a copy of the transcript of the said News Bulletin broadcast by the All India Radio.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has with the approval of the Minister, informed me as follows:

In the 9 P.M. English bulletin broadcast on August 4, 1977, the following passage occurs at the end of the news item pertaining to the discussion in the Lok Sabha on the Congress motion seeking to disapprove the conduct of the Home Minister

'During the acrimonious debate, fresh charges were flung by Congress members. Reacting sharply to one of these, Mr Charan Singh challenged the relevance of the charge and offered to resign if it is proved correct. The Speaker agreed with him and expunged the Congress members' remarks. The Prime Minister will speak on the motion tomorrow.'

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There is no doubt that All India Radio had erred in reporting this particular item from the uncorrected copy of the day's proceedings of Lok Sabha. It appears that the hon. Speaker has used the words, 'I may expunge it'. Unfortunately, the AIR Correspondent understood this to be 'I expunge it'. It was incumbent on the AIR Correspondent to have checked with the official Reporters before mentioning any expunging of remarks, but in his anxiety to beat the deadline of the main 8.45 P.M. Hindi and 9 P.M. English News Bulletins, the AIR Correspondent overlooked this important precaution.

The mistake was however, unintentional and is regretted. Suitable instructions are being issued to AIR Correspondents to be more careful with a view to ensuring avoidance of recurrence of such mistakes.

There was however, no question of any wilful misrepresentation by AIR. Under these circumstances it is requested the Privilege Motion may kindly be dropped.

In view of the explanation and the regret expressed, I decline to give my consent under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The matter is treated as closed.

I hope the accredited Correspondents in the Press Gallery, particularly the Correspondents of an official agency like the All India Radio, will be more careful in future. Whenever in doubt, they should check up with the official record of the proceedings of the House.

11.05 hrs.

PAPERS Laid ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AND A STATEMENT

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Delhi Motor Vehicle Third (Amendment) Rules, 1977