

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: What about the honour and rights of a member?

MR. SPEAKER: May I say this? Before Shri Mishra came, a number of observations were made. I added my own and made it clear that I was personally unhappy over it and then went on to make some further observations.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: What about this information which I have sought? Why should they withhold it?

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the other thing is concerned, after all, you have kept me as your Speaker. If I feel the interpretation of a rule is like this, I say it is like this. But the member can say 'no'. Then we can pursue it. But to straightway come on the Chair is a different matter. If I am not acting according to the rules or if I am not acting as the Speaker should do, the only thing for me is to leave.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: No, no; that question does not come.

MR. SPEAKER: If you think that my interpretation is wrong you can put your own. But if you say 'You have always been doing this', in that case, I have no business to sit in the Chair.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has categorically said that he does not mean any disrespect, and the matter should be ended.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to say that Shri Misra is not known to me just because he came to Parliament. I know him since much earlier. I know that he may be temperamental, but he is not a bad fellow. But, in this case, when he is sitting as an hon. Member and I am sitting as Speaker, then we should have the relationship as the Speaker and the Member. If he thinks I am really so bad, well, I do not deserve to be here.

13.11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF U.S. HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE ABOUT DOUBLING OF SUGAR EXPORT QUOTA BY INDIA TO U.S.A.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, under rule 377, to the following matter of public importance.

The Chairman, Mr. W. R. Poage of the US House Agricultural Committee said on 2-3-1974, when the representative of the Indian Sugar Industry, Attorney David Paul Meter, had appeared before the US House Agricultural Committee for the purposes of seeking to double its present quota of sugar to two lakh tonnes,—Mr. Poage told him—"I have not observed any support, any co-operation from the Indian Government during the last ten years." Mr. Poage also chided India "for not buying more American agricultural products except when they can't pay. When they can pay they buy elsewhere." Mr. Poage further said that US involvement in Vietnam was not supported by India and other recipients of US aid programme.

Sir, it is a very serious matter, and almost in all the newspapers of India and of the world this has appeared, and it tantamounts to affect our relationship with the USA. Now, what Mr. Poage, the Chairman, has said is very defamatory and I want that the Minister of Agriculture should make a statement to the House so that our countrymen should understand what is the feeling of the Government of India on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): It is a fact that such a report has appeared

in the press, but I have not till now received any official information from our embassy. I am asking them to give me the correct report, and as soon as that report is available, I shall make a statement before the House.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : कृषि मंत्री अमरीका की शिकायत कर रहे हैं। उनको पता है कि दिल्ली के एक अंग्रेजी दैनिक में यह लिखा था कि एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री में अमरीकी लाबी सक्रिय है। जब हमारे देश वाले आपके बारे में यह कह रहे हैं तो अमरीका को आप क्यों दोष दे रहे हैं ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: What I am saying is this. So far as that report is concerned, it has appeared in the press, but I have not received any official report from our embassy, and I am asking them to give me the correct report. As soon as I receive it, I shall make a statement.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): The report has appeared in the press. Did the US come to an agreement with us on the PL 480 funds on condition that we should support their policy on Vietnam? Is that the co-operation that they want from India? It has appeared in the press, and what has appeared in the press is strongly objectionable for our nation as a whole. The Minister should call for the correct facts, and if what has appeared in the press is true, then we strongly condemn it, and object to their behaviour.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: Therefore, he should wait for the statement. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait till the Minister comes with a statement. Mr. Madhu Limaye. You were absent when I allowed it the other day. I made the position very clear on this

(ii) RESIGNATIONS BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : यह बात सही है कि आपने मेरा नोटिस स्वीकार किया था और मैं ही उस दिन हाजिर नहीं था। आपने तो अपनी भूमिका इसके बारे में स्पष्ट कर दी है। इस वक्त राष्ट्रपति शासन गुजरात में लागू है और गुजरात सरकार के अधिकार केन्द्र सरकार को मिले हुए हैं और विधान सभा के पालियामेंट को मिले हुए हैं। इसलिए गुजरात असम्बल्ली से जो इस्तीफे दिए गए हैं उन के बारे में सही स्थिति क्या है इसका स्पष्टीकरण सरकार को करना चाहिये। आपका चूँकि नाम लिया गया था इसलिए मैंने आपको लिखा है। आपने तो अपनी भूमिका स्पष्ट कर दी है। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार लगभग सत्तर विधायकों ने इस्तीफे दिए हैं। इस्तीफों के बारे में गुजरात विधान सभा की मैं किताब लाया हूँ। इसके बारे में 269 नियम में कहा गया है:

"A member who desires to resign his seat in the Assembly shall intimate in writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker, his intention to resign his seat in the following form and shall not give any reason for his resignation."

हमारे नियम की तरह ही है। भागे इस में कहा गया है :

"The Speaker shall, after he receives that intimation in accordance with sub-rule (1) satisfy himself that the document received by him is genuine and, as soon as may be after he is so satisfied, inform the Assembly that such and such a