

12.50 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. MISREPRESENTATION OF THE SPEECH OF A MEMBER IN LOK SABHA BY THE
HINDUSTAN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I received the following letter dated April 2, 1973, from the Chairman, Rajya Sabha:—

"The speech of Shri Bibhuti Mishra, M.P. in the Lok Sabha on the 30th March, 1973, while moving his resolution for abolition of the Rajya Sabha as reported in the Hindi daily "Hindustan" in its issue of March 31, 1973, under the caption

"राज्य सभा राजनीतिक भ्रष्टाचार का केन्द्र—
विभूति मिश्र"

was the subject matter of some discussion in Rajya Sabha in its sitting held on March 31, 1973. I am forwarding the relevant extracts of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha which also include the observations which I made on the subject in the House for your consideration and for such other action as you may think appropriate. You will no doubt agree with me that both Houses of Parliament and their members should treat the other House with utmost respect and consideration, and the best of relations should prevail between the two Houses and the respective members thereof. I shall be glad if you would kindly inform me about the action you take in the matter."

I replied to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, by my letter of April 5, 1973, as follows:—

"...I have gone through the speech of Shri Bibhuti Mishra as contained in the Lok Sabha cyclostyled Debates of March 30, 1973. I find therefrom that Shri Bibhuti Mishra did not say in his speech what is attributed to him in the aforesaid caption of the news report. I am sending herewith a copy of that day's Debates of Lok Sabha for your perusal.

I fully share ~~my~~ views about the cordial relations between the two Houses of Parliament and their Members.

Obviously that newspaper has given a highly misleading caption. We are taking up the matter with the Editor of the newspaper.

I also appreciate the concern as shown in the speeches of the Hon'ble Members of your House. Please assure them on behalf of Lok Sabha and also myself that we hold them in utmost respect and high regard."

The Editor of the *Hindustan* was also asked to state for my consideration what he had to say in the matter. He has, in his letter dated April 16, 1973, stated as follows:—

"...Shri Bibhuti Mishra, M.P., did not say in his speech in the Lok Sabha that

"राज्य सभा राजनीतिक भ्रष्टाचार का केन्द्र—विभूति मिश्र"

The heading, therefore, in so far as it stated that it was from a speech of Shri Bibhuti Mishra is also incorrect. The mistake however arose this way: Shri S. M. Banerjee, Member, Lok Sabha, who followed Shri Bibhuti Mishra, spoke the words to the effect set out in the caption. The reporter, who covered the proceedings unfortunately, did not make a note that Shri Bibhuti Mishra had ended his speech and what followed in the report that he had taken, was part of the speech of Shri S. M. Banerjee. By reason of this mistake the report which the *Hindustan* got read as if Shri Bibhuti Mishra had spoken the words to the effect set out in the caption and this was the origin of the mistake. Immediately the mistake was discovered, I published a correction in the issue of the Paper *Hindustan* dated April 2, 1973 and I am forwarding herewith a clipping of this portion. I would only add that this correction was published on the front page and in as prominent a position as that occupied by the original report and in as bold a type as that employed in reporting the speech of Shri Bibhuti Mishra in the issue of

[Mr. Speaker]

the 31st March, 1973, it would be seen that the error was bonafide and was due to the reporter treating a part of Shri S. M. Banerjee's speech as coming from Shri Bibhuti Mishra. I greatly regret the error which was unfortunate.

Lastly, I would seek the indulgence of the Hon'ble Speaker to point out that the official report of Shri S. M. Banerjee's speech shows that the words, or words to that effect, were used by him in describing the manner in which some of the Members of the Rajya Sabha have come to occupy their places.

Finally, I will conclude with a request to the Hon'ble Speaker to condone this bonafide error on the part of the Paper."

In view of the explanation given by the Editor and the correction published by him in the newspaper, if the House agrees, the matter may be treated as closed.

I hope the House agrees.

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall also inform the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, accordingly.

May I take this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Members to use necessary restraint and not to do anything or say anything in this House which may bring disharmony between this House and Rajya Sabha.

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEWS AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF BOKARO STEEL LTD., AND HINDUSTAN STEELWORKS CONSTRUCTION LTD., CALCUTTA

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): On behalf of Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section

(1) of section 61A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bokaro Steel Limited, for the year 1971-72;

(ii) Annual Report of the Bokaro Steel Limited, for the year 1971-72 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4836/73].

(2) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1971-72.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1971-72 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4837/73].

COTTON TEXTILES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT ORDER, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cotton Textiles (Control) Amendment Order, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 959 in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1973, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4838/73].

MINERAL CONCESSION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1973

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions), published in Notification No. G.S.R. 58 in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 1973 under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4839/73].