

[Shri B. V. Naik]

priorities of the Central subjects with which we are concerned. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya has totally denied that he agreed to the suggestions made by Shri Raghu Ramaiah. This is also another attempt to mislead the House. Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya is here.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: May I submit, first of all, that this practice not to take up any of these motions until the Finance Bill is passed has been there for most of the years. That is the first point. The intention is to see that more time is allotted for Demands-for-Grants and they are not guilleted. That is the whole principle. This proposal has been put before the leaders of Opposition whom I invited informally as I always do every year. I have got the minutes here. This is one of the items on which all the opposition parties have agreed informally. (*Interruptions*) I believe, these were circulated also; I have to check it up. It was made very clear there.

Apart from that, this matter came up before the Business Advisory Committee. Their report is also there. It is very unfair on the part of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu to take this occasion and go on attacking the Prime Minister and mentioning so many things which are individual items of discussion.

On that also, I have made it very clear time and again that as far as Maruti is concerned, this has been discussed again and again in this House and we are not prepared to find time for this. He has made it a political issue. I am very clear on that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: After December, 1972, there has been no discussion.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: And you are not prepared to find time for

Tulmohan Ram's case. My impression is that you are condoning misconduct and misdemeanour.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Regarding Tulmohan Ram's case, the Hon. Speaker has ruled that it is open to the House to discuss. When it is the most appropriate time in this case, it is for us to decide is my interpretation. It will be advisable to have this discussion only after the criminal proceedings are over.

I submit the report of the Business Advisory Committee for approval of the House. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th March, 1975"

The motion was adopted

13.54 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377
ANNOUNCEMENT OVER AIR ABOUT
SHRI MOHAN DHARIA'S
RESIGNATION

श्री मधु लिमये (बाका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के तहत श्री मोहन धारिया के इस्तीफे का, श्रीर उम का वर्णन आल-इन्डिया रेडियो ने जिन प्रकार में किया, उस का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ।

हमारे संविधान के अनुसार मंत्रियों की नियुक्ति राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री की सलाह पर, करते हैं। आर्टिकल 75(2) में कहा गया है :

"The Minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the President."

इस का मतलब यह है कि यदि मंत्रियों को हटाना है, डिसमिस करना है, तो वह श्री राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री की सलाह पर, करते हैं ।

इस में सवाल यह उत्पन्न होता है कि क्या राष्ट्रपति ने श्री धारिया का इस्तीफा स्वीकार किया, या उन को आर्टिकल 75(2) के तहत डिसमिस किया । श्री इन्द्र गुजराल के अनुसार श्री धारिया को मंत्रि-मंडल से हटाया गया—डिसमिस किया गया, क्योंकि भाल इंडिया रेडियो के दो तीन बुलिटनों में यह कहा गया “मंत्रि-मंडल से हटाये गये श्री धारिया” । मैंने यह भी सुना है कि उसो दिन रात को 8 बजे टेलीविजन पर भी यही कहा गया कि “हटाये गये मंत्री, श्री धारिया,” ने आज यह कहा ।

13.55 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

सबसे पहला औचित्य का यह सवाल है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने जिस तरह का पत्र श्री धारिया को लिखा, क्या वह हमारे संविधान और स्वस्थ परिपाटियों के अनुसार था । उन के पत्र का एक ही हिस्सा मैं पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ :

In the circumstances it is not proper for you to continue in the Council of Ministers. I am informing the President accordingly.

इस का क्या मतलब है कि “थार्ड एम इन-फार्मिग दि प्रेजिडेंट एकाडिंग्ली” ? या तो प्रधान मंत्री श्री मोहन धारिया से कहें कि अब आप पर मेरा विश्वास नहीं है, इस लिए आप इस्तीफा दे दीजिए । और यदि ऐसी चिन्ता श्री धारिया को की जाती तो, जैसा कि उन्होंने स्वयं अपने पत्र में कहा है, वह तत्काल इस्तीफा दे देते । श्री धारिया

ने प्रधान मंत्री को जो पत्र लिखा है, मैं उस से एक वाक्य को उद्धृत करता हूँ :

Had you suggested directly or indirectly that I should resign, my resignation would have come to you immediately without any hesitation.

ऐसी हालत में पहली बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री ने श्री धारिया को इस तरह का पत्र लिख कर एक बहुत ही अनुचित काम किया है । और औचित्य भंग यह भी है कि वह कहती हैं कि “थार्ड एम इनफार्मिग दि प्रेजिडेंट एकाडिंग्ली” । अब तक सभ्य तरीका यह था, और हम लोग उस पर एक घंटे से चल रहे हैं, कि प्रधान मंत्री ने किसी मंत्री को इस्तीफा देने के लिए कहा और उस मंत्री ने तत्काल इस्तीफा दे दिया । श्री नेहरू के जमाने में श्री केशवदेव मालवीय से कहा गया कि वह इस्तीफा दे दें, और उन्होंने इस्तीफा दे दिया । उस के बाद कई मंत्रियों के इस्तीफे हुए—श्री के०के० भाट्ट का इस्तीफा हुआ, श्री भोला पास्वान शास्त्री का इस्तीफा हुआ—और जिन जिन मंत्रियों से कहा गया कि वे इस्तीफा दे दें, उन्होंने तत्काल इस्तीफा दे दिया ।

लेकिन मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह जो स्वस्थ परिपाटी और परम्परा है कि जिस मंत्री पर प्रधान मंत्री का विश्वास नहीं है, उस को कहा जाता है कि वह इस्तीफा दे दें, और वह इस्तीफा दे देता है, श्री मोहन धारिया के केस में उस का परित्याग किया गया, और उन को जलील और अपमानित करने के लिए जान-बूझ कर यह रवैया अपनाया गया, और उन से यह कहा गया कि मैं राष्ट्रपति को इस्तीफा दे रही हूँ । प्रधान मंत्री इस तरह राष्ट्रपति के बारे में नहीं कह सकती । वह कह सकती थी कि मैं राष्ट्रपति

[श्री मधु लिमये]

को सलाह दे रही हूँ कि श्री मोहन धारिया को डिसमिस किया जाये, लेकिन वह राष्ट्रपति को इस तरह इनकार करने का काम नहीं कर सकती है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने श्री धारिया की इस्तीफा देने का मौका न दे कर, उन से इस्तीफा देने की विनती न कर के, औचित्य-भंग किया है। उन्होंने जानबूझ कर इनको अपमानित किया है। लेकिन अन्त में हुआ क्या? श्री धारिया ने राष्ट्रपति जी के पास अपना इस्तीफा भेज दिया और राष्ट्रपति जी ने उन को डिसमिस नहीं किया है 75(2) के अन्दर क्यों कि ऐसा होता तो राष्ट्रपति भवन से दूसरा कम्युनिके निकलता और राष्ट्रपति जी कहते—ग्राइ हेव विदड्रान माइ प्लेजर। लेकिन राष्ट्रपति जी ने ऐसा नहीं कहा है। उन्होंने कहा है कि श्री मोहन धारिया के इस्तीफे को मैं स्वीकार कर रहा हूँ विद इन्मीडिएट एफेक्ट। इस का मतलब हुआ कि एक माने से राष्ट्रपति जी ने भी प्रधान मंत्री के इस औचित्य भंग को देख कर उन को रिबक किया क्यों कि उन के पत्र के अनुसार उन को डिसमिस करना चाहिए था... (व्यवधान)... आप इतनी जल्दी घंटी क्यों बजा रहे हैं?

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: According to the notice given by Shri Madhu Limaye, under Rule 377, which I find here, it is with regard to the announcement over the All India Radio regarding Shri Mohan Dhararia being dropped from the Council of Ministers I thought that is a limited question. Your own notice says, 'The announcement of the All India Radio' 'But I think you are raising some broader questions of constitutional propriety and other things. I request you to confine yourself to this only. We are dealing with a very very sen-

sitive question. The notice of Shri Madhu Limaye was sent to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Inder Goobles is sitting here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not know; after your statement if he is ready he may come forward with a statement also. But I don't think he is in a position to deal with the other issues that are raised. Therefore I request you to confine to this point.

श्री मधु लिमये अध्यक्ष महोदय, उसके बारे में जब तक कोई फैसला नहीं होता है, क्यों कि कल इंद्र गुजराल यह कह सकते हैं या आज कह सकते हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री जी के पत्र के आधार पर मैंने कहा, प्रधान मंत्री जी के द्वारा औचित्य भंग हुआ या नहीं उस का सवाल उठाना जरूरी हो जात है अब उस का कौन जवाब देगा, प्रधान मंत्री जी देगी या श्री इंद्र गुजराल सरकार की ओर से जबाब देगे यह उनका सवाल है, इस में मैं नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ।

मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि राष्ट्रपति भवन से जो कम्युनिके निकला है उस में इस्तीफे की बात की गई है कि इस्तीफा तत्काल स्वीकार किया जा रहा है। प्रधान मंत्री जी के पत्र से ऐसी ध्वनि निकलती है—ध्वनि में इसलिए कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि इस का भी फार्म उन का गलत है, उन को कहना चाहिए था—ग्राइ हेव विदड्रान माइ प्लेजर—अगर डिसमिस की बात थी..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't raise these things now.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री इंद्र गुजराल कह सकते हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री जी के पत्र के आधार पर हटाये गये मंत्री,

ऐसा एक प्रयोग मैं ने किया, इसलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी ने औचित्य भंग किया है या नहीं, यह सवाल मैं उठा रहा हूँ। आप ही निर्णय दीजिए। आप मुझे बताइए कि राष्ट्रपति भवन से जो कम्युनिके निकला इस इट मंडर आर्टिकल 75 क्लॉज (2) ? इस का जवाब दीजिए। अगर ऐसा होता तो 199 के तहत इसको बंधन देने की छूट न दी जाती। इसलिए मेरा यह कहना है कि जानबूझ कर इन को अपमानित करने के लिए यह इन्द्र गुजराल की कासपिरेसी है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इन के हाथ में—बन्दर के हाथ में जिस तरह से वो हथियार दिए जाते हैं, मैं इन को बन्दर नहीं कह रहा हूँ, गलतफहमी न हो, लेकिन इन के हाथ में यह टेली-विजन और आल इंडिया रेडियो दिए गए हैं और उस का जहाँ ये चाहते हैं दुरुपयोग करते चले जा रहे हैं। इस का फैसला आप दीजिए।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Have you anything to say? Does the Minister have anything to say? This is not the way how the House can be conducted. I request the Members to be more attentive. If you want the Chair to say 'yes' or 'no', then you should also assist me. When Mr Limaye sat down, I had to call the attention of the Minister again and again whether he has got anything to say. This is not the way how we should conduct the House.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE Why don't you hear Shri Dharia?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Under 377, it cannot be enlarged into a debate. I have to go by the rules which you have framed. And we have to go by them. Under Rule 377, a Member is permitted to raise a question and the Minister concerned, if he is ready, can make a reply. But, no other Member can be allowed. In that case it becomes a debate. So, I would request you all not to insist on

that. I know that Mr Dharia's name has been brought in and he is now at the centre of it. If I allow Shri Dharia here, then I would be violating the rules.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, Sir

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA (Poona): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, may I submit to you that I have written to the Speaker? I have raised certain important issues in my letter. I am not going into the broader aspect of it. But, so far as this very motion is concerned, Sir, I have stated in my notice that on 2nd March, 1975, a communique was issued from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. What is your point?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA. My point is that after the communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, All-India Radio and TV, being the agencies under the direct control of the Government, broadcast it accurately. It was the duty to take proper care in broadcasting an accurate and correct news.

Sir, it is on the basis of this communique that the Speaker was pleased to allow me to make a Statement under Rule 199. That statement could be made by the Minister who has resigned and not by a person or minister just dropped from the Council of Ministers. So, it is challenging the ruling given by the Speaker, this is insulting the Speaker, this is insulting the House and this is humiliating the hon. Member of this House. On the 5th March, after making the statement, when I returned home, I was listening to the Hindi news in All-India Radio.

केन्द्रीय मंत्री मंडल से हटाया गए श्री महेन्द्र धारिया ने लोक सभा में बयान देते हुए कहा।

I have heard it with my own ears and I have also seen that. The point is that, after I have made my state-

(Shri Mohan Dharia)
ment under 199, it was only after the resignation was accepted by Rashtrapati, even the All-India Radio had the audacity to say, जो हटाए गए What does it mean? I demand a very clear apology from Shri Gujral and from Government. They should not humiliate a Member in this way. I would make it clear that they have disregarded Rashtrapati; they have disrespect for him; they have disrespect for the Speaker and this House. They also humiliated a Member of this House. So, I demand a straightforward apology from the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me assure you and, through you, this hon. House and my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye and Shri Mohan Dharia, that A.I.R. and T.V. neither misled the public opinion nor did they intend in any way lowering the prestige of the hon. Members of this House.

Sir, as is known to you and to the other hon. Members, Shri Dharia is one of my old friends and a very esteemed colleague. The facts of the case are as follows:

At about 1.35 p.m. on March 2, 1975, All India Radio's Newsroom received reports from the news agencies concerning Shri Mohan Dharia. These agencies said that the Minister of State for Works and Housing had been "dropped" (PTI as well as UNI) from the Council of Ministers. Because of the relay of the commentary on the World Cup Hockey match between India and England, the scheduled 2.00 p.m. English and 2.10 p.m. Hindi bulletins were broadcast on that day at 3.00 p.m. and 3.05 p.m. The news was broadcast in these bulletins in the following words:

3.0 p.m. English bulletin of March 2 said:

"Mr. Mohan Dharia has been dropped from the Union Council

of Ministers, according to agencies. Mr. Dharia was Minister of State for Works and Housing."

3.05 p.m. Hindi bulletin of March 2 said:

"समाचार एजेंसियों के अनुसार श्री मोहन धारिया को केन्द्रीय मंत्री परिषद् में मंत्री पद से मुक्त किया गया है। श्री धारिया निर्माण और आवास राज्य मंत्री थे।"

In the 8.00 p.m. T.V. Hindi bulletin the news was broadcast in the following words:

"पता चला है कि श्री मोहन धारिया केन्द्रीय मंत्री मंडल से हटाये जा रहे हैं। समझा जाता है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने उन्हें सूचित किया है कि उन के बयान स्वीकृत नीतियों से मेल नहीं खाते, इस लिये उन के लिये मंत्री मंडल में बने रहना उचित नहीं होगा।"

The Hon'ble Member has asked why All India Radio in its afternoon bulletin in Hindi and 8.00 P.M. T.V. Hindi news, announced that Shri Dharia had been "dismissed or removed from the Council of Ministers", whereas he had resigned and the President had accepted his resignation. This is what Mr. Madhu Limaye said "dismissed or removed."

The fact is that upto the time of the broadcast of these bulletins, no confirmed news of the resignation and its acceptance by the President had been received. Only at about 9.25 p.m., All India Radio newsroom received the confirmed information that the President had accepted Mr. Dharia's resignation. As soon as this news was received, a revised news item was issued and the first available bulletin, namely the 9.45 p.m. T.V. English bulletin, broadcast this news in the following words:

"The President has accepted the resignation of Mr. Mohan Dharia from the Central Council of Ministers. He has been relieved with immediate effect. The announcement came in a press communique issued from Rashtrapati Bhavan tonight. The Prime Minister was

earlier believed to have informed Mr. Dharla that his statements were at variance with accepted policies. As such, Mrs. Gandhi had pointed out that it would not be proper for Mr. Dharla to continue in the Government."

It would thus be seen that All India Radio did nothing more than carry out its responsibility as a news organisation by giving first the news of Shri Dharla being dropped from the Council of Ministers and then broadcast the fact of his resignation and its acceptance by the President. The Hindi bulletin broadcast at 3.05 P.M. and at 8.00 P.M. on the TV could not have broadcast the news of his resignation being accepted because this was not available to AIR from any source. Sir, AIR News Services Division has to function like other news organisations. Like them, it had to use the word 'dropped' in its news bulletins to convey the developments concerning Shri Dharla. In journalistic parlance, when a Minister resigns at the instance of the Prime Minister, he is considered to have been dropped. This was the word used by the news agencies in their message on March 2. Even after the news of Shri Dharla's resignation being accepted was available to them, the news-papers of March 3 continued to use this phrase. I have with me here, Sir, the issues of that day, that is, March 3, of all the news-papers.

"Times of India—Dharla dismissed
Statesman—Dharla dropped

Hindustan Times—Dharla dismissed
Patriot—Mohan Dharla sacked.

"Indian Express—Dharla dropped
Motherland—PM dropped Dharla

Nav Bharat Times—

मोहन धारिया मंत्री पद से हटाये गये ।

Even as late as March 9, Sir, Shri George Fernandes in his front page editorial of his weekly Prati Paksh used the words *वरिष्ठ* which mean

dismissal. Shri Madhu Limaye's motion claims that AIR used the words "dismissed/removed" in the afternoon and TV Hindi bulletins of March 2. The afternoon bulletin used the words... (Interruptions).

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने यह कहा ही नहीं है, फिर प्राय क्यो बोल रहे हैं । 2 मार्च की तो मैंने चर्चा ही नहीं की है ।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Can the All India Radio give a different impression than given by the Rashtrapati Bhavan communique? Newspapers can do that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Mr. Chatterjee, I have not finished the statement. Like a good lawyer, you must hear the case before you comment. I am not trying to bring in anything. I am trying to tell you how the news media react to the situation. (Interruptions) I never lose my temper I am only raising my voice. Sir, Shri Madhu Limaye's motion has been talking about the use of the words "dismissed/removed" in the afternoon and TV Hindi bulletins of March 2. These words did not mean 'dismissed/removed' as alleged. For 'dismissed' the words used by the radio and the newspapers in Hindi are *वरिष्ठ* and for removed *निकास*

दिया गया । What AIR did was only to convey the news concerning Shri Dharla in a fair and objective manner and only the mildest language was used as opposed to some of the newspapers which used the words like dismissal and sacking. The news of the resignation was also broadcast as soon as the confirmation was available.

AIR, as a news organisation has to bring out the significance of important news developments and use words appropriate to that context. This was done in the mildest possible manner and without showing any disrespect to Shri Dharla. The news of his resignation was prominently broadcast on TV and English bulletins of March 2 and repeated in the

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

morning of March 3. On March 5, when Shri Mohan Dharia made a statement in the Lok Sabha, on his resignation, a summary... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The name of this particular gentleman and the expression of Mr. Bosu should not go on record. I think it is derogatory to the House.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: On March 5, when Shri Mohan Dharia made his statement in the Lok Sabha, on his resignation, a summary containing the important points of his statement was broadcast in all the home bulletins of AIR. In the news item, a reference was also made to the effect that Shri Dharia was dropped from the Council of Ministers for reasons explained earlier in this note.

Here again, AIR was not the only news organisation recalling the fact of Shri Dharia being 'dropped.' The newspapers of March 6 while reporting Shri Dharia's statement in the Lok Sabha on his resignation made reference to 'dropping' from the Council of Ministers, and some even described it as 'dismissal' or 'removal'. The opening sentence in the PTI message of Shri Dharia's statement as published in the newspapers of March 6 was:

"Mr. Mohan Dharia who was dropped by the Prime Minister from the Union Council of Ministers three days ago asserted in the Lok Sabha today that his plea for a national dialogue with Shri Jayaprakash Narayan and opposition parties was not opposed to the accepted policies of the Congress Party."

The rendering of the word 'dropped' into Hindi has already been explained by me earlier.

No issue of privilege, therefore, arises. I only say that AIR and TV have discharged their responsibility as news media and used the word 'dropped' as it should be used and is used in journalistic parlance.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA rose—

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will seek some clarification from the Hon. Minister (*Interruptions*) I am not shutting out anybody. But let him clarify the issue. Now this is not a question of privilege at the moment before us. Therefore, the Minister or anybody should not have an illusion on that score. This is under 377 and therefore, a question of privilege does not arise here. I am referring to this because the Minister, at the end of his statement, said that there is no question of privilege. That is why I am drawing his attention and the attention of the House to the fact that a question of privilege is not under discussion. It is 377 with all its implications

Now, because it is a very unusual case, I think I have gone out of my way, which will not be a precedent, of allowing Shri Dharia also to make a statement, because he is involved and I thought the Minister could give a reply and satisfy all concerned.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE. Has he satisfied you?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am going to seek some clarification. I was listening to the Minister as intently as possible and I wanted to get this from him: what actually was said by AIR or TV on the 5th? I think this was the main thing that was made by Shri Limaye and also by Shri Dharia. It is a question of the 5th, not a question of the 2nd. I did not hear what actually was said by AIR or TV on the 5th.

*Not recorded.

The second point which I would like to get clarified is whether AIR or TV depends for its source only on newspapers or news agencies or it has its own sources. These are the two questions.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: That is correct.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the first query is concerned, I shall quote from the bulletin of 9 O'clock on the 5th

"Mr Mohan Dharia who has been dropped from the Union Council of Ministers said today that his plea for a national dialogue with Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan and opposition parties is not against the accepted policies of the Congress party, nor is it aimed against parliamentary democracy. Mr Dharia, who was making a statement in the Lok Sabha on his resignation, maintained that such a dialogue is still all the more necessary in meeting the situation which the nation is facing today. He said he had made all possible efforts to keep the Prime Minister posted with his thinking. Mr Dharia said conciliation and compromise for national objectives is not a crime. It is because of this that he had raised his voice at times even at the risk of being misunderstood"

This was the bulletin of the 5th at 9 O'clock. So far the use of words is concerned, I have said the AIR news room functions like the news rooms of newspapers, and words in journalistic parlance are used. The general approach is that whenever a Minister resigns on the initiative of the Prime Minister, then in journalistic parlance the word 'dropped' is used. But when resignation is given by the Minister himself, then the word 'resigned' is used.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: With your permission, I would say this. I had written a letter to the Speaker. I was

told by the Speaker when I called on him on Monday that my letter dated 7th March would be passed on to Mr. Gujral or to the Government. I do not know whether this letter has gone to him. Simultaneously I had sent a copy of this letter to the Leader of the House. With your permission, I would like to read the letter. It is a very important issue. Kindly allow me.

"Dear Mr. Speaker,

"I had decided not to bother for the vilification campaign persistently carried on by the All India Radio and the Television against me. I was under the impression that the news bulletins may, perhaps have been based on the reports carried by the other news agencies. However, I was constrained to listen to the Hindi news which was broadcast on March 5, 1975 at 2.10 P.M. after I had made my statement under rule 199, as permitted by you on that day.

"I have attached herewith a copy of the official press communique released from Rashtrapati Bhavan through the Press Information Bureau. It is very clear that the President of India was pleased to accept my resignation from the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister on March 2, 1975. Rule 199 provides an opportunity to a member who has resigned the office of Minister to make a personal statement in explanation of his resignation. A Minister who has been removed or dropped from the Council of Ministers is not entitled to have such an opportunity under the Rules. You were very much justified in giving me the opportunity as it was based on the official document issued from the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Even though it is necessary to take proper care in releasing the correct news by the agencies under the direct control of the Government, I can understand some distortions arising out of certain

(Shri Mohan Dharia)

misunderstandings. However, after the release of the official communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan and particularly after your ruling allowing me to make a statement under Rule 199, it was obligatory on the part of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to take utmost care in releasing the correct news to the country about my resignation. Sir, you may be astonished to know that after my statement, in the news bulletin as was broadcast at 2.10 P.M. in Hindi by the All India Radio and the news released by the television at 8.00 P.M. on March 5, 1975, it was again stated:

केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से हटाये गये श्री मोहन धारिया ने लोक सभा में बयान देते हुए बताया कि.....

(यही शब्द प्रयोग दुपहर के उर्दू, पंजाबी, अंग्रेजी तथा रात के 8 बजे के टेलिविजन में किया गया)

"Similarly, the English news bulletin broadcast at 9.00 P.M. on March 5, 1975 says:

'Mr. Mohan Dharia, who has been dropped from the Union Council of Ministers, said today that his plea for a national dialogue....

'Mr. Dharia, who was making a statement in the Lok Sabha on his resignation, maintained....

'He said he had made all possible efforts to keep the Prime Minister posted with his thinking. Mr. Dharia said conciliation....'

This is the contradiction because in para one, they say 'dropped' and in para two they say, 'Mr. Dharia was making a statement in the Lok Sabha on his resignation...'

"The contradiction is very relevant from para 1 and 2 of the news bulletin. You will appreciate that this is a mischievous and *mala fide* attempt to distort the decision of the Hon'ble Rashtrapati, to insult and challenge your own ruling and also to malign and humiliate me through the mass media directly under the control of the Government".

"Sir, this *prima facie* appears to me to be a case of serious breach of privilege. As I wanted to ascertain these facts again, I waited for a day. I am not interested in making this matter serious provided the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, or the Government, are prepared to express their regrets on the floor of the House for releasing such incorrect news and to convey the exact and correct news to the House and also to the country through the All India Radio and the television news bulletins. Otherwise, I will have no other option except to take the recourse of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of business in Lok Sabha. I shall be happy to have your advice in the matter."

If the Minister is not prepared to express his regrets for carrying this incorrect news, mischievous news, to the whole of the country, there is no option, and naturally I shall come with my own motion tomorrow to you.

श्री मधु लिंगम : आपने प्रश्न जो पूछा है उसका जवाब नहीं दिया है। दो तारीख को जिस शब्द का इस्तेमाल इन्होंने किया था वह तो ठीक था। लेकिन राष्ट्रपति भवन से कम्युनिके निकलने के बाद ठीक नहीं था। उन्होंने खुलासा किया। लेकिन उनको प्रेसकुली कहना चाहिये था कि गलती हो गई।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under 377 nothing more can be done. What you have submitted you have submitted.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: If you want, we can give fresh notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever the Minister has to say he has said. It is all before the House. If you want to resort to any other course, the rules are there. It is up to you and for the Speaker to decide. Let us take up the next item.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I want a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is over. Nothing more on this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have given notice under 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. (*Interruptions*)

Will you kindly sit down? There is a limit to the motions under 377. One has been allowed, that of Mr. Limaye and I do not see that any other motion has been allowed. That means that yours has not been allowed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU. Whenever anything is disallowed, we are intimated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. I do not know.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra). I want to speak on the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. I will call you later. What do you want, Mr. Banerjee?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): With your permission, I want to raise a very important matter which concerns the Central Government also. I have been writing letters to the hon. Speaker.

There is a textile mill called Swadeshi Cotton Mills in Kanpur. They are manufacturing many articles for defence. This Swadeshi Cotton Mills have declared an illegal lock-out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mody.

14-35 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1975-76—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing this year the annual Budget under a situation which is about as grave as the country has ever faced. We have, through mismanagement of the economy over the last 10 to 15 years brought about untold misery on an innocent population of a rich country destroying not only the fabric of our society, destroying the economy of our country and also our reputation abroad. Sir, all the details I need not go into.

Five diseases have crept into the country. high prices, inflation, corruption, shortages of every description and injustice of every type. This sorry discontent in the country has not been able to find any legitimate avenue of being able to express itself. You take the entire system of our democracy starting from Presidency and ending with, you just now heard, the mass media, you will find that all the institutions of democracy which would make democracy viable in a country have been eroded beyond description.

Take the case of the President himself. I do not think I need to tell you what has happened to the office of the President. But what a situation and position it has been reduced to! We learnt recently that the President had to travel all the way to Assam at the time when the BARPETA election was going on. He did not actually go to BARPETA, but he stopped 15 or 20 miles short of it. Having gone all the way to BARPETA and stopped a few miles short of BARPETA and having called leaders...

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM). On a point of order, Sir. Can he discuss actions of the President?