

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

that the Home Minister of the West Bengal Government wanted from the D. G. O. F. that all those persons involved in the shooting should be handed over and D.G.O.F. refused to do it and whether this is an attempt to obstruct the normal functioning of law.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : In the first instance, no request as much has been made. But I have seen press reports and I cannot comment purely on that. I presume that after the legal advisers of the Home Minister of West Bengal have examined the provisions of the Army Act, I am sure they will advise him as to what is the procedure to be followed. It is not something on which publicly a demand can be made I should reject or accept that. It is a matter of law governed by statute. If a proper request is made, we will examine it on merits.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, we want a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot say anything about it now on the spot.

12.53 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAIN— ST EDITOR OF "BASUMATI"

MR. SPEAKER : On the 21st March, 1969, Shri Samar Guha had sought to raise a question of privilege in respect of the editorial published in the *Basumati* dated the 18th March, 1969. As decided by the House, the Editor was asked to state what he had to say in the matter.

I have now received a letter dated the 31st March, 1969 from the Editor of the *Basumati* in which he has stated *Inter alia* as follows :—

"From the report of the proceedings of Lok Sabha on the 3rd of March last of reported in several papers, including *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on 4th March, 1969, an impression was created that Shri Samar Guha, M. P., opposed the admission of the short notice question put by Shri Jyotirmoy

Basu regarding the recall of the West Bengal Governor, Shri Dharma Vira... On the basis of that report the editorial in question was published in *Daily Basumati* on the 18th of March, 1969... Having regard to the statement of Shri Samar Guha I find that the said reports on the basis of which the said editorial was written were not correct and I regret that the said editorial was written on an erroneous, though bonafide, impression of the stand taken by Shri Samar Guha, M. P. In any event no personal reflection was meant against Shri Samar Guha."

In view of this, I think the matter may be dropped and the Editor asked to publish the factual position in the next issue of his paper.

I take it that the House agrees.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : He has expressed his regret and he says there is no reflection. He should publish that.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. No discussion on it now.

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED FOR 1967-68

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri L. N. Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1967-68 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-657/69.*]

REVIEW ON THE WORKING OF THE MINERALS AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA, ETC.