

मिल कर मुझे समझा सकेंगे तो मैं जवाब देने की कोशिश करूंगा।

जहाँ तक खान अब्दुल गफ्फार खान के आने का सवाल है उनसे यहाँ आने पर बानचीन होगी कि क्या वह चाहते हैं और क्या हम कर सकते हैं। यह तो यहाँ आ कर बात चाँत के बाद में कोई बात निकल सकती है।

जहाँ तक भारत सरकार की नीति का सवाल है यह कई मर्तबा सदन में कहा जा चुका है और माननीय सदस्य ने सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह ने, जब वह विदेश मंत्री थे, क्या कहा उमका जिक्र किया वह भी सदन की कार्यवाही में लिखा हुआ है। उससे सरकार के हटने का कोई सवाल नहीं है। लेकिन किस तरह और क्या बात होगी यह तो आगे देने की बात है।

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : You are committed to that.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is popularly known as Frontier Gandhi. He is coming to our country after 21 years of the sad demise of Mahatma Gandhi. He is as much a source of inspiration to Indians as Mahatma Gandhi. I would like to know from the Government as to how long he is going to stay and what are the programmes that Government has arranged for him with a view to showing the seeds of Indian nationalisation in every citizen of the country.

I am an Indian and I will not do anything which is not Indian.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : He will be welcome to stay here as long as he likes.

12.16 hours

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—Contd.

Regret by Editor of Indian Express

MR. SPEAKER : This is about the privilege motion about the *Indian Express*. On the 7th August, 1969, Shri Shashi Bhushan had raised a question of privilege in respect of the news report under the caption "Women MPs Pin Down Young

Turk", published in the *Indian Express*, dated the 30th July, 1969, which misrepresented certain remarks made by Shri Shashi Bhushan in the House on the 29th, July, 1969. As decided by the House, the Editor of the *Indian Express* was asked, in the first instance, to state what he had to say in the matter.

I have now received a letter, dated the 8th August, 1969, from the Editor, *Indian Express*, New Delhi, which *inter alia* reads as follows :

"Let me admit at once that our correspondent's report was incorrect in saying that Mr. Shashi Bhushan called Mrs. Sharda Mukherjee a CIA agent. Mr. Shashi Bhushan spoke immediately after Mrs. Sharda Mukherjee, as you will find in your official record. This sequence of events, combined with interruptions, led our correspondent into error.

I say this in explanation of what happened and not in justification of it. I would be grateful if you could convey to the Deputy Speaker our sincere regret for the error."

He did not know I will be the Speaker by this time. I hope this is all right.

In view of this the matter may be treated as closed.

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12.18 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI A. SREDHARAN (Badagara) : On a point of privilege, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You met me in my Chamber. I had a discussion with you. You were very much insistent about raising the matter. But the understanding arrived at was that only one Member would make a reference, nothing beyond that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Congress President, Mr. Nijalingappa, has made certain remarks and also cast aspersions during the course of his address to the Members of Parliament in the Central Hall and he has stated...

SHRI RABI RAY (Puri) : To Congress Members.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : ...during the course of his speech appealing to his Party men...

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah) : On a point of order, Sir. (*Interruptions*).

अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं इस पर आप से व्यवस्था चाहूँगा कि किसी पार्टीका हैड, प्रेसीडेंट या सेक्रेटरी अगर अपनी पार्टी मीटिंग में कुछ कहता है या बोलता है तो क्या उसे यहां ऐज ए मैटर आफ प्रीविलेज उठाने की इजाजत हो सकती है ?

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब आप ने उन माननीय सदस्य को इसे उठाने की इजाजत दी हुई है तब उधर से इस तरह से बीच में प्वाएंट आफ आर्डर नहीं उठाना चाहिए ।

MR. SPEAKER : Let me hear him for a minute. He has told me in my Chamber that he would not take more than a minute or two.

SHRI K. N. TIWARY : That is not the point. The point is whether you will allow any matter discussed in a party meeting, either of the Congress or of any other party, to be raised in the House as a question of privilege.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : This was the report in the papers :

"Earlier, Mr. Nijalingappa in the course of his speech appealing to party-men to ensure the success of Mr. Sanjiva Reddi, described the Central Hall of Parliament where the meeting was held as a 'funny hall'. It was a place where stories were created and circulated. They should not be believed..."

"...Mr. Nijalingappa strongly criticised what he called rumour-mongering by some who said the Government would be toppled after August 16."

According to Direction 124 of the Directions by Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the term 'precincts of the House/Parliament House' includes the Central Hall. So, any aspersion cast on the Central Hall amounts to an aspersion cast on the Parliament itself.

The word 'funny' according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary is 'comical, curious, hard to account for'. So, any description of any part of Parliament as funny or as a place where stories are created and circulated is an aspersion against Parliament. Any aspersion against the Members or against the Parliament is a breach of privilege of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : When the hon. Member met me in my Chamber, this was the conversation that I had, and I repeat the same conversation now. I had no idea of what he was bringing up. But my commonsense view is that the Central Hall happens to be a hall where the Constitution was framed. But this Hall did not know that the Members will be using it as a coffee-room or as a lounge or even as party rooms. If there is a party meeting it is converted into a party room. If there is a meeting for coffee, tea or *lassi* it is converted into a lounge. The hon. Member had never raised any question about the sanctity of the Hall being preserved. Why does he, therefore, raise this point now ?

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : According to the Direction, Central Hall is part of Parliament House.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Kindly bear with me for a second. The Direction by the Speaker reads...

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough. He has made his point already.

SHRI C. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : Party meetings should not be held in the Central Hall. The Congress Party should not be allowed to have their meeting in the Central Hall.

MR. SPEAKER : I would invite the attention of our guests and visitors to avoid such a thing in future. Perhaps, they are so very little aware that that is no party room. I think this would be enough.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : The Congress Party should not be allowed to have their party meeting in the Central Hall.

SHRI J. M. BISWAS (Bankaura) : We have raised a privilege motion under rule 223. We want your decision on that.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member had given me to understand that this would not take more than a minute or two. Now, this is not fair.

12.23 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CALLING OFF THE STRIKE IN JUTE INDUSTRY

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Honourable Members are aware the workers in the jute industry in West Bengal went on an indefinite strike on the 4th August, 1969, to press certain demands. In the statement I made in this House on the 5th August, 1969, I made a reference to the circumstances leading to the strike. In view of the importance of the jute industry to the national economy I also urged on the House to impress on all concerned the urgent need to place national interests above narrow points of view so that production which had been interrupted could be resumed without any loss of time. The representatives of the workers and employers responded to my appeal and agreed to hold discussions with a view to reaching a settlement for calling off the strike.

The negotiations between the representatives of the workers and employers were conducted at New Delhi on 8th and 9th August under the Chairmanship of my colleague, the Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation. The Labour Minister of West Bengal and I also participated in the negotiations which were conducted in a spirit of cordiality, mutual understanding, and co-operation.

The Prime Minister gave interviews to the representatives of Employers and Workers : her talks with them helped to focus attention of all concerned on wider national interests.

As a result, I am glad to inform the House that an agreement has been reached between the representatives of the workers and employers. I expect that this Agreement will be ratified by the concerned Association and Unions, and full production will be resumed from tomorrow.

The terms on which the dispute has been settled are :

1. The question of revision of wage structure will be referred to a suitable machinery to be set up with such composition, terms of reference and time-limits as may be agreed upon by both parties. Permanent posts in the mills will be manned by permanent hands, fixation of the permanent complement will also be referred to the machinery.
2. Pending revision of the wage structure, an interim increase of Rs. 30 per month on the basic wages of the workers will be paid with effect from August 1.
3. There will be no variation in the dearness allowance payable as at the end of July 1969 consequent on any change in the consumer price index of Calcutta; any adjustment of this account will be made after the wage structure has been revised.
4. An ad hoc payment of an amount equal to the interim increase for one month (Rs. 30) will be made to each worker who was on the rolls on August 1. This payment is to be made in the first half of November.
5. Workers will call off the strike and resume work on Tuesday next.

An increase in the wages of the labour employed in this important industry was overdue. I am glad that employers have agreed to an interim increase. I have every confidence that the Committee which will consider the wage structure will bear in mind the legitimate needs of labour and the imperative requirement for our jute manufacturers to be fully competitive in the world markets.

Now that the differences between employers and workers have been amicably settled, I would appeal to both management and labour to bend their energies to improve productivity, augment production and undertake appropriate measure to win back lost markets and consolidate our position in carpet backing and Jute Specialities.

The Jute Industry has an important role to play in the effort to augment our export earnings. The new spirit of cooperation between management and labour will, I