

12.00 hrs.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE RE A  
NEWS ITEMS PUBLISHED IN  
"CURRENT" WEEKLY**

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the 23rd August 1976, Shri Nawal Kishore Sinha sought to raise a question of privilege regarding a news item published in the *Current Weekly*, Bombay, dated the 21st August 1976, casting certain aspersions on him. I had then said that, in the first instance, the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the weekly should be asked to state what he had to say in the matter.

The Editor, Printer and Publisher of the *Current Weekly* has in his letter dated the 25th August 1976, stated as follows:—

"I was extremely pained to learn that Shri N K Sinha, MP, felt hurt about his photograph printed on the front page of *Current*. Mr. Sinha is an outstanding public figure from Bihar and I have the good fortune of knowing him. The hon. Member is justified in raising the issue of privilege".

It was, however, not our intention to defame him. His name is not mentioned anywhere in the story. Wherever we mentioned the name of Mr Nawal Kishore Sinha, Chairman of the Urban Bank, we made it a point to add MLA to distinguish him from the aggrieved hon. Member.

"The publication of Mr. N. K. Sinha's photograph was one of those queer incidents of journalism where a sub-editor uses his discretion late in the night to catch up with printing schedule".

"I submit that great damage has nevertheless been done to Mr. N. K. Sinha, MP. We did not have the slightest intention of involving him and we have no hesitation in expressing our regrets to the hon. Member" .....

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA** (Muzaffarpur): May I be permitted to say a few words? The Editor has very kindly written to me also personally enclosing a copy of the letter from which you are pleased to read out.....

**AN HON MEMBER.** Same letter?

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:** No, no. He has written to me another letter and in that letter also he has mentioned the same thing. He has said that a very queer thing has happened, a ghastly mistake has been made 'by one of my sub-editors. I hold him in high esteem' and such other things. But I expected that in *The Current* of this week, he would perhaps publish this letter.

**AN HON MEMBER:** With his photo.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:** With my old photograph, when I was quite young. He could have done so. That has not been done. I would also like the Editor, who must be a noble man—I have no reason to believe that he is not a noble soul—prints the letter which he has written to you and the letter which he has written to me along with the photograph at the earliest, and also the photograph of that gentleman, the Chairman of the Urban Bank.....

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA** (Dausa): I hope he would not put my photograph there (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:** He is quite young; I am slightly older.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** I hope he would not commit the mistake of putting my photograph there.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:** It will not be difficult for people to distinguish between him and me.

[Shri Kawal Kishore Sinha]

I am prepared to abide by whatever decision, direction or guidance you are pleased to give in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I think in view of this, if the House agrees, we may ask the Editor, Printer and Publisher to publish his regret, the letter which he has written to me and the correction prominently on the front page of the next issue of the Current Weekly. Thereafter, the matter may be treated as closed.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):  
With the photograph.

12.05 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO USQ No 7823 DATED 28-4-75, MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAST GRADE SERVICE RULES, 1975. NOTIFICATION ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on the 28th April, 1975 to Unstarred Question No. 7823 by Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan regarding grant of H.R.A. and C.C.A. to the employees of Government of India Press, Coimbatore and (ii) giving reason for delay in correcting the reply. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11271/76.]

(2) (i) A copy of the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Last Grade Service Rules, 1975 published in Notification No. G.O. Ms. 1916 in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 10th December, 1975, under section 432 of the Madurai

City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11272/76.]

(3) (i) A copy of Notification No. G.O Ms 1197 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 24th September, 1975 making certain amendment to the Tamil Nadu Municipal Service Rules, 1970, under section 304 of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11273/76.]

(4) (i) A copy of the Gujarat Municipalities (President and Vice-President) Election (Amendment) Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. KP-88-76-MUN-3871-4331(76)-DH in Gujarat Government Gazette dated the 26th May, 1976 under sub-section (4) of section 277 of the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1976 read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 12th March, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11274/76].