

12.14 hrs.

RE EXPUNCTIONS FROM
PROCEEDINGS

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : Sir, you will remember, the other day when I raised the question of expunction of certain comments casting aspersion on the impartiality of the chair, you made certain observations about the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Professor Hiren Mukerjee made some comments. These comments made by you have been reported in the press. I submit that the reporting is not only mischievous but it is certainly extremely misleading. You are reported to have rebuked the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and Professor Hiren Mukerjee. (interruptions) It is necessary, that some matters are taken seriously. Every time there is this childish interference. Sir, we should get your protection. There should be an end to this childishness. . . (interruptions) Perhaps he wants the same treatment which Shri Banerjee gave him once by showing the chappal. . . (interruptions) There has to be some decorum in this House and we should get some protection. You have called me and it is a serious matter that I am raising. So, I do expect hon. Members to show some seriousness in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him address the chair.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I am sure Professor Hiren Mukerjee never meant to cast any aspersion; he did not want to impute any motive of dereliction of duty; neither did he want to cast any aspersion of incompetence. Therefore, the press report is misleading. I would like the record to be put straight. Therefore, I have put it to you in the hope that Professor Hiren Mukerjee would make the position clear. That is why I am not raising a matter of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : What does he want ?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I am quoting from *The Indian Express* of the 5th of August. It says :

"The Speaker today rebuked the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Treasury Benches for letting him down. . ."

MR. SPEAKER : I did not rebuke him.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I am grateful to you that you have said so. It makes it clear that you did not rebuke him. Then the report says :

"Mr. Hiren Mukerjee, veteran CPI member, got up and angrily said that the Leader of the House (the Prime Minister) functioned in absentia, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs 'is a big cipher' and the majority party did not assist the Speaker in the discharge of his functions."

The manner in which this is reported indicates that he was levelling some charge of incompetence or dereliction of duty on the part of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I remember Professor Hiren Mukerjee spoke in strong words that day. All that he wishes was to show his disapproval and displeasure at the party remaining quiet and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs remaining quiet; no more, no less. If that is correct, the position should be clarified. I have no other intention in bringing it up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : What is there to clarify ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : We have to congratulate the press for doing its duty.

MR. SPEAKER : What he means to say is that when he got up the next day I said that anything which should have been said concerning me should have been said at that time when it happened and not later. Somehow it is published in the report in very strong terms, which I have made very clear. The rest of it does not concern me; it concerns Professor Mukerjee.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East) : I do not quite understand it. We speak in Parliament on the spur of the moment, extemporaneously, whenever occasion demands it. I speak whatever is in my mind and what I said would be part of the records. I have no clear recollection of what anybody said, or did not say, including myself. But if my friend wishes from me a certificate of good conduct in regard to the Minister, I can say that I have known him for the last twenty years, he is a pleasant and capable person. That does not deny me the right, as a Member of this House, or the right of any other Member, to make

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

observations in regard to the conduct of a Minister or any of her colleagues or anybody else for that matter.

I do not understand how I have been brought in. I could have understood if Mr. Salve had put it in a way which was understandable and appreciable in the parliamentary sense. But the way in which I have been asked to explain, I say, there is nothing to explain. What I say is, I hope, in conformity with parliamentary practice. You are to decide that sort of thing. If the Minister wants a certificate of good conduct from me, I can say, he is a pleasant and capable man. I am ready to repeat it. I do not want him to take offence at whatever I say.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, the expressions which are far less objectionable have been held to be unparliamentary. I could have raised it in a much different manner. But, as I said, we have great esteem for Prof. Mukerjee. I knew that he had not meant any offence whatsoever to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. But I did not want to raise it in that particular manner. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salve, I think, you are addressing it to me or to Prof. Mukerjee.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am addressing it to you.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you expect me to do?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: In view of what Prof. Mukerjee has said, the record is straight and I have nothing to say.

MR. SPEAKER: If you think that there was some strong word which may have been uttered and if he had accepted your appeal, that would have been very well. But he has just gone to the other side. That is why, in my own case, I kept quiet.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Whatever may be the language employed, he did not want to cast any aspersion on his competence nor did he want to impute any dereliction of duty on his part.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): As a matter of fact, Prof. Mukerjee has reiterated

what he said about Mr. Raj Bahadur. All that he has said now is that he knows him personally and he has given him a good chit which everybody would be prepared to do. But it will not help him to get a job. As far as his performance is concerned, not one cipher, it is two ciphers. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All sorts of things are being said. Where is he? He should be called.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he is in the other House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We should fix some other time for this when he is here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Salve has very conveniently managed to forget one thing. The charge that came from the Opposition against the Government, in the main, was that the Prime Minister functions in absentia. How often do we see the Prime Minister sitting here, what to talk of cipher Ministers? They are like tortoises. They are put upside down by the Prime Minister at 10 O'clock and at 5 O'clock, they are put back on their legs so that they could walk back to their homes. The relationship is that of a master and a servant. In democracy, she is undermining Parliament and not taking any notice of Parliament.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begu-sarai): I rise on a point of order. My point of order is this whenever any such report appears in newspapers which would concern two hon. Members, whether one Member is a Minister or not is not the material point here, and there is an undercurrent of comment or interpretation, would you always allow us to raise issues here in the House? Here is a new procedure that we seem to be laying down.

MR. SPEAKER: You could bring to the notice of the House the use of any words to which exception is taken. I made it very clear in the beginning that so far as putting the word in regard to me was concerned—that was an observation—it may be put in any shape the papers like. We have no control over it. So far as the use of any word is concerned, any Member can bring it to the notice of the House. But I thought they might have met and there must be some understanding between them which does not seem to be there. It

would have been much better if this had been raised after there was some discussion between the two hon. members.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Such things should not be generally allowed to be raised in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The objection is to use of certain words by an hon. Member. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : On a point of order.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have a submission to make—just half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me first listen to his point of order.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : The observations made by Shri Piloo Mody that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a double cipher or a two-cipher—something like that he said—being unparliamentary may please be expunged, Sir, under rule 380. What is unparliamentary? (*Interruptions*) The rule refers to expunction of words which are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified. (*Interruptions*) There is a list, given here in this book, of words which have been held to be unparliamentary. An expression which says lack of intelligence, an accusation of lack of intelligence, has been held to be unparliamentary. I will quote the Legislative Assembly debate, Vol. III, where in the expression "I cannot give the hon. Member the intelligence to understand" the word 'intelligence' was held to be unparliamentary by the Chair. There is a list given—my friend may read May's *Parliamentary Practice*—of what is unparliamentary, what is undignified, what is indecent. The observations made by Mr. Piloo Mody were undignified, indecent and defamatory and, therefore, they should be expunged.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Can there be any advocacy of the competence of a Minister here? We are bound to say that a particular Minister is incompetent.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : rose—

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait, Mr. Banerjee. I will call you. Mr. Salve, are you asking me to examine whether this is parliamen-

tary or unparliamentary. In your view this is having the same meaning as the one quoted by you . . .

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Yes, Sir. The observations made were undignified, indecent and defamatory.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Those remarks which were reported by the Press were conveniently forgotten by them. The other day you, in a very joking manner, made certain observations in the House, and all of us practically said that nobody had any intention of casting aspersions against you. Now Mr. Salve has raised the question about the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. When every one had forgotten it, Prof. Mukherjee has reminded them by raising the issue. Sir, cipher cannot be multiplied. Unless the word 'cipher' is decodified by the Cipher Department, it will not be known what could be behind this cipher.

MR. SPEAKER : If it is used in a bad sense like the one quoted by him, it should be deleted; if it is in the sense meaning lack of intelligence, it needs to be deleted. After all, Prof. Hiren Mukerjee may say whether he meant like that.

SHRI PILOO MODY : 'Lack of intelligence'—is that also to be deleted?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My submission is that the word 'cipher' is not unparliamentary or derogatory. Many of us, whenever speeches are made, say that it is a cipher. By that we never meant any offence. . . . (*Interruptions*) I would only request you to ask Mr. Salve to close the chapter. Let cipher remain cipher . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Mr. Salve has made, if I may put it that way, what is called in the French, *faux pas*, because it was quite unnecessary to bring it up in this way.

If you are asking me in what sense I used a particular expression last Friday, I would humbly submit to you that it was for you, the Chair, to examine the sense and the effect of the word which I have used, and my submission is that that word was perfectly parliamentary and in the setting in which it was said, in relation to the Prime Minister and to all her colleagues; it was perfectly all right.

MR. SPEAKER : Not in that sense,

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : The point is that I have been waiting all the time and I have been waiting for a cue from the Congress side. They cannot give me that cue and I have been waiting to say that it was an absurdity. As I already said earlier, there was no intention on my part to cast any reflection on a person whom I have known for 20 years, whom I consider a capable and a pleasant man. But I stand by what I said because I always speak what is in my mind at any particular point of time and you are the only arbiter to decide whether I said in an unparliamentary way or not. My submission is that what Mr Salve is talking about, the need to expunge certain words because they are unparliamentary, is moonshine and nonsense.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should drop it here.

In my own way I got the interpretation of 'policeman' myself. I have a pleasant interpretation. I am thankful to my friend, Mr Mishra. He gave me this title . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I make my submission? I wanted to tell you that you are using the language of the Police because you were always threatening to name a person who has been here in the Parliament for 23 years . . .

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Kindly go through the records. I have been working under great provocation and yet no word fell from my lips which can be taken as objectionable, but your words were sometimes . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have had the case of a predecessor of mine, Sir Abdur Rahim. He was President of the Central Assembly and he used this word when he said, I am also a 'Police man.' He is saying 'I am the protector'. So, I gave that meaning to that word. I hope it is not a bad thing.

Mr. Mishra, sometimes, in the heat of the moment many things are said and I take that in that spirit. Don't bother about it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : It fell from your lips that you would name me and I am not within my limits and all that, I must say that I am not accustomed

to that kind of expression from the Chair. So, I have also taken that in that way.

MR. SPEAKER : During the Question-Hour, points of order are not raised. Somehow, we drop it now. We take it in that spirit.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : With regard to procedure, shall I not raise a point of order?

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : This is not a substantive matter with regard to the subject matter but with regard to procedure.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, here is the meaning in the dictionary. It will be of interest to you. The word 'cipher'—this is a small pocket dictionary.

MR. SPEAKER : This is too small for that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : May I read it, Sir, for you? It is a fully parliamentary word. It means no disrespect to him. All that he wanted to say is that he was acting in a miniature form on behalf of somebody.

MR. SPEAKER : I am passing on to the next item. I called him for the next item. He shows me the dictionary.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Are we not laying down a new procedure? A Member is being cross-examined to say what exactly he meant by a particular word.

We are laying down a new procedure . . .

MR. SPEAKER : We are following the same old procedure. When a word is objected to, we can ask the Member whether he used that in a bad sense or in a good sense.

श्री शशिमूवण (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं केवल एक सेकेन्ड चाहता हूँ। मैं पेशेस का थोड़ा सा इन्तहान लेना चाहता हूँ। आज मिश्रा जी जब यह कह रहे थे....

MR. SPEAKER : I have already declared the matter closed. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Those who raised the issue are not permitted to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody to say anything.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a very serious procedural point.

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly resume your seat ; this matter stands closed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It was pointed out by the hon. Member here that the *Indian Express* had given a certain version. I want to bring to your notice that on a number of occasions some remarks are made with a sense of humour ; sometimes they are made in a particular mood and it is for the Press, to interpret the mood of the Speaker and also the mood of the Member and the same mood may be interpreted differently. On one occasion when I referred to the West Bengal Chief Minister and his wife and said something with a sense of humour, the Press said, the Speaker frowned upon Prof. Madhu Dandavate's suggestion. It was done with a sense of humour. The same thing is interpreted differently. We should not cast aspersions on the Press.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Shri Raj Bahadur did not understand it at all.

श्री शशिभूषण : अध्यक्ष महोदय.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिए । यह जो आप करते हैं यह अपना झगड़ा किया करिए, लेकिन चेयर के साथ झुगल मत किया करिए ।

Now, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

12.37 hrs.

RE PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS OF SILCHAR MEDICAL COLLEGE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Silchar is a far away place in Assam. I have received numerous telephones and telegrams that the students of the Silchar Medical college have not been well looked after. They have gone on strike since the 24th of July and the medical college and the medical hospital both have gone more or less

defunct. They have pointed out that the present teaching arrangement is such that the condition required when they appear for the examination will not be fulfilled, that is, for their recognition as full-fledged doctors. The total number of beds including that of various departments as at present existing comes to 154, whereas the minimum number of beds required for recognition of medical college by the IMC is 500 beds, for imparting proper training of the students. Now, this is a funny thing. It is unique in this country, and may I say, in the world ? In one hostel, boys and girls are forced to live. These are my points. I request you to direct the Government about this matter. The hon. Minister of Health is here. Let him make a statement that the students' demands will be fulfilled.

MR. SPEAKER : They will look into it. Prof. Mukerjee on the next item.

12.39 hrs.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (VIENNA CONVENTION) BILL—Contd.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East) : You have called me on what, Sir ? Are we to understand that the procedure is somewhat different these days ? Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu referred to something which appears to be totally different . . .

MR. SPEAKER : I called you for the next item ; you were on your legs.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I was confused because you permitted a particular Member to raise a matter without any kind of reference to it in the Order Paper but which referred to something else.

MR. SPEAKER : I always come with one mental attitude but all of them try to confuse me and I will have to stand that too ; some of us must be ready for that, because, no one knows.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu should have been allowed to raise this matter before taking up the Legislative Business. After Legislative Business is taken up, how can he be allowed ?