

[Mr. Speaker]

in question, I am really very sorry."

4. In view of the explanation and the expression of regret made by the Editor of *The Bharat Jyoti*, the matter may be closed. I hope the House will agree.

Hon. Members: Yes.

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12.06 hrs.

RE. COMMENTS ON REPORT OF P.A.C. BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLI-CITY, KHADI COMMISSION IN *TIMES OF INDIA AND ECONOMIC TIMES*

Mr. Speaker: I have also to inform the House that my attention was drawn to a letter to the editor under the caption "Khadi Commission" published in the *Times of India*, New Delhi, dated the 26th May, 1965, an article under the caption "Working of Khadi and Village Industries Commission" which appeared in the *Economic Times*, Bombay, dated the 21st May, 1965 and an article under the caption "Public Accounts Committee and the Commission" published in the *Jagriti*, Bombay, dated the 20th May, 1965. The letter to the editor and the articles, written by the Director of Publicity, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, contained comments on the recommendations and observations made by the Public Accounts Committee of Lok Sabha in their 38th Report regarding the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

2. The matter was taken up with the Department of Social Security for suitable action in the light of the ruling given by me on the 19th April, 1965 in the case of Bharat Sewak Samaj. It would be recalled that in that case I had stated that the findings and recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee should not be contested or commented upon in a public statement or in the Press by

any official or spokesman of a body whose working has been examined by the Committee.

3. In reply, the Department of Social Security forwarded a copy of the letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, which stated, *inter alia*:

"The Director of Publicity of the Commission issued a letter to the Press, which appeared in the *Times of India*, Bombay, in the *Economic Times*, Bombay, and also in the *Jagriti*. This letter was written solely as a reply to the comments and criticisms of the Press about the working of the Commission.

... there was neither the intention nor an effort to call into question publicly any of the observations of that august body. The Commission begs to assure the P.A.C. that neither the Director of Publicity nor the Commission did have, has or can have any intention or desire to disrespect the P.A.C.

The Commission as well as the Director of Publicity feel sorry that they have been responsible for creating a feeling of dissatisfaction in the mind of the P.A.C. If there is anything in the article, however, to which exception can be taken, both the Commission and the Director of Publicity feel sorry for it and apologize."

4. The explanation and apology tendered by the Chief Executive Officer of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission may be accepted and the matter closed. I hope the House agrees with me.

Hon. Members: Yes.