

(a) the acreage of land on which grapes are grown in and around Bangalore;

(b) whether there is a Grape Growing Cooperative Society in Bangalore, assisting the grape growers in several ways except in marketing;

(c) whether the State and Central Governments have so far issued licences to any industrialists to manufacture wine and if so, the names of those belonging to the State and of those from outside the State; and

(d) whether any wine is already being manufactured out of grapes and if so, how much?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.12 hrs.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

LETTER FROM THE 'STATEMENT' RE. ALLEGED INCORRECT REPORTING OF MEMBER'S SPEECH

**Mr. Speaker:** On the 3rd May, 1966, Sardar Kapur Singh had given a notice of question of privilege regarding publication of an alleged factually incorrect report and comment on his speech in the Lok Sabha on the 27th April, 1966, by the *Statesman*, dated the 28th April, 1966. The matter was referred, under my directions, to the Editor of the *Statesman*, New Delhi, for stating what he had to say in the matter.

I have now received the following reply from the Editor of the *Statesman*:

"Mr. Kapur Singh's letter correcting our story appeared in the Calcutta edition of the *Statesman* on May 3 and in the Delhi edition on May 4.

We hope that Mr. Kapur Singh will be satisfied with the fact that

his letter was published without any avoidable delay, considering that he posted it on the 28th and it had to be sent to Calcutta also. But it remains for me to assure the hon. Speaker that no disrespect was intended either towards the House or Mr. Kapur Singh.

What our news story attempted to bring out was that Members' interest in the Home Minister's statement was less pronounced during the debate than while Mr. Nanda was speaking.

Mr. Kapur Singh confirms in his letter that he used only one sentence at the start of his speech, with reference to Mr. Nanda's statement. The use of the word "altogether" by us was factually incorrect and is regretted. But it will be seen that the sense of Mr. Kapur Singh's speech or any other Member's has not been misrepresented in any way."

I hope that in view of the explanation received from the Editor of the *Statesman*, the House will agree to treat the matter as closed.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana):** Now that you have asked us to close the matter, the matter should be closed and I would raise no further objection to that. Although the letter, as it stands, is not what I would have liked it to be, in view of your recommendations, in view of what the letter says, in view of the fact that we hold the *Statesman* in high esteem, all of us, and also in view of the fact.....

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central):** What is this attempt to flatter the press and try to get publicity? What is this? It is not.....

**Shri Kapur Singh:** I am not trying to flatter the press... (interruptions).

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** They have been given the freedom to say what they like... (Interruptions).

**Shri Kapur Singh:** I want to say that although our relations with the press have been very correct and this House has always adhered scrupulously to the principle that the press should be free from any interference whatsoever, that does not give the press the freedom to do what they sometimes do.... (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker:** This is not needed at this moment. We have taken a decision now and he also says that he does not want to press that. Then that should finish; that should be concluded now. Where is the opportunity for saying all this?

**Shri Kapur Singh:** The press has the freedom to select items of news but the press does not have the freedom to do whatever the press wishes to do with individual Members. The press sometimes is unfair to some of us .... (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker:** That should suffice so far as this matter is concerned. It is closed. We can have some other opportunity for criticizing or applauding the press. That would be a different thing altogether. So far as this is concerned, this matter ought to be considered as closed.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** I want it to go on record that I am not satisfied with this letter.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right.

**Shri D. C. Sharma** (Gurdaspur): Sir, the reporting of the *Statesman* is very fair and objective.

12.16 hrs.

RE: PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty** (Barrackpore): Sir, yesterday when we met in the Central Hall to pay our respects to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for the unveiling of his portrait, we were very surprised to find that in the programme it was said

that Shri Raghunath Singh was to offer the portrait on behalf of Members of Parliament. On such an occasion we would have expected that either you as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Portraits Committee or the Leader of the House or even, I would say, the leading Opposition led by Shri Ranga—one of these three—should have been asked to present it on behalf of Members of Parliament. Why was Shri Raghunath Singh asked to do this? After all, we did not make it a party issue; we made it an issue which was a national issue. We all contributed towards it. Who decided that? When that committee met, there were only four people.

**Mr. Speaker:** The decision was mine. I take full responsibility for that. If anybody is to blame, it is I and nobody else.... (*Interruption*). I am sorry if it has been taken that way, but as he was one of the members of the Statues Committee, he was asked to offer it.... (*Interruption*).

**Shri Daji** (Indore): Shri Mukerjee was senior to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has taken keen interest in that. That was all. There was nothing else in that.

**Shri Kapur Singh** (Ludhiana): Was he chosen because he is from Banaras?

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair** (Quilon): At the time of contributions you wanted the co-operation of the Opposition. Why did you not consult them now? We also paid our contribution.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no question of payment now. The money is there. If Members want that back, it would be given to them.... (*Interruption*).

**Shri Kapur Singh:** It is not a question of money.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has referred to that.