

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.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: That is not the attitude that the Speaker should take.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): Sir, I did not expect it. It was rather ungracious of you to say that some Members wanted the money back. That was not the idea at all. You have already expressed your regret that perhaps by mistake or inadvertence you had requested only one member of the Committee instead of any other; or, you had not done it yourself. You have expressed your regret in regard to this matter and the matter should be left at that. But what you have said in regard to the return of the money is very graceless. I am very sorry that we have to hear it from your lips.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Mukerjee should also realise that the question of collection was referred to. Where was the need to refer to that? (Inter-ruption). This should not continue in this manner. I have already expressed that if it was a mistake, it was mine. Because he was a member of the Committee, he had been taking active interest and in helping me there, it was simply on that account that I asked him. There was nothing else.

Shri Daji: Other members were also there on the Committee.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: The Opposition ought to have been associated with it.

Mr. Speaker: I had been calling the meetings twice or thrice and there were only two Members who were coming to them.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We are always in the House. When it is such an occasion, we would like to be associated.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The choice of Shri Raghunath Singh for presenting the portrait was most happy one.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंजर): क्या घाप तम्बीर के बारे में कहने देंगे ? मैं एक वाक्य कहना चाहता हूँ । इस तम्बीर में राष्ट्रीय झंडा इस ढंग से पृष्ठभूमि में लगाया गया है कि वह जमीन को छू रहा है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री मनुभार्द शाह ।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या घाप इस बारे में कुछ नहीं सुनेंगे ? घाप मेरी बात तो मुन लीजिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने मुन लिया है कि घापको इस बात पर एतराज है कि तम्बीर में झंडा जमीन पर लगा हुआ है ।

श्री मधु लिमये : तो फिर चित्रकार की मार्फत उस में तब्दीली की जाये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह मैं नहीं कर सकता हूँ कि झंडा बदल दिया जाये ।

श्री मधु लिमये : तो क्या लोक सभा के सेंट्रल हाल में राष्ट्रीय झंडे का प्रपमान होता रहेगा ?

12.19 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EXPORT (QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION) ACT

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—

(i) The Export of De-oiled Rice Bran (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1966 published in Notification No. S.O. 969 in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1966.