

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

the Proclamation, dated the 24th March, 1965, issued by the Vice-President, discharging the functions of the President, in relation to the State of Kerala:—

- (i) S.R.O. No. 254/66 published in Kerala Gazette, dated the 12th July, 1966.
- (ii) S.R.O. No. 255/66 published in Kerala Gazette, dated the 12th July, 1966.
- (2) A statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notifications.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6880/66].

13.21 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
NINETY-FOURTH REPORT

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (Shimoga): I beg to present the Ninety-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

13.22 hrs.

RE. STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION AND CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO S.Q. NO. 718 RE. RESEARCH IN GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY

Mr. Speaker: Shri Chagla to make a statement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of order before he makes the statement, because he cannot make it.

I am constrained to raise this issue because there have been habitual offenders in the Treasury Benches in this respect. This is, I think, the third or fourth occasion in this brief session that this is happening. You will be pleased to see from the item in the order paper that the statement

pertains to a supplementary answer given by the Minister on the 8th December 1965—eight months ago. Now, let us have a pause.....

An hon. Member: Does he need a glass of water?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, thanks.

Please see your direction No. 16.

"When a Minister...."—

Shri Chagla is a comparatively new Minister. He may not know the rules. He is a Member of the Rajya Sabha; perhaps the rules in the other place are different—

"When a Minister wishes to correct any inaccuracy...."—

please mark the words; he has not got the book of directions with him. I am sorry. He is asking for a copy from his colleagues—

"in the information which he has given in answer to a question or a supplementary question or in debate...."—

—Unstarred questions are outside the purview of this Direction, that is all—

"the following procedure shall be followed, namely"

—the immediate part following is not relevant; please turn to page 11 of the Directions, sub-direction (iv)—

"The Minister...."

—Please listen carefully with both your ears and all your mind....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

An hon. Member: What is all this?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:....

"....shall ordinarily intimate to Secretary his intention to correct his answer or statement within twenty-four hours thereof"—

I have read very slowly; repeat twenty-four hours thereof—

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Underline!

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

".....provided that the Speaker may, on being satisfied with the reasons given, waive this requirement".

Now, the question arises whether the Minister has given adequate reasons for this inordinate delay, unconscionable delay of 8 months and whether—that is the second ingredient—you are satisfied with the reasons given.

Now, I would make a concrete suggestion to help you and the House. The day before yesterday, my hon. colleague, Shri Tyagi, said he was 'ashamed of it'. I have got the record here. In connection with the Delhi Sales Tax Bill which I blocked for a day, he said:

"The officer in charge in the Ministry must be taken to task. We are ashamed of it".

But the Law Minister—I do not see him here—Shri Pathak....

Mr. Speaker: He should proceed now.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Please relax; have a little patience. It is an important matter. The Law Minister said:

"It is not my Ministry".

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Rai-ganj): Shri Kamath has missed the stage. We appreciate his histrionic talents. But this is not the forum for it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This booklet gives the List of subjects for which Ministries in the Government of India are responsible. I tried to wade through this document as best as I could and I could discover....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Chagla is now making it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Someone must be responsible for these things.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to correct his statement made on 8th December.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But if it is not his Ministry or the Law Ministry....

Mr. Speaker: No, no.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about the explanation for the delay? You must be satisfied with it.

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): I apologise for the delay. I see the answers given either in this House or in the other House the same day and if there is any correction to be made, I make it (*Interruption*).

Some Hon. Members: We cannot hear.

Shri M. C. Chagla: Will Shri Kamath permit me to proceed?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Please speak louder. We cannot hear.

Shri M. C. Chagla: After I have seen them, they go to the specific departments and are checked and if an error is discovered, it is put up to the Minister and the Minister makes a statement. As far as I can see the mistake, I correct it immediately, but being human and fallible and not omniscient, I cannot detect every error. There are lots of details which I might have overlooked. A figure may have been wrong, a date may have been inaccurate. When it goes to the specific department—because there are several departments—the matter is found out. But it is not deliberate. You will see that it is a very minor thing. Shri Kamath has made a mountain of a more hill,

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It has been well said that the greatness of a man lies in the attention he bestows on small things. The Minister does not care for the rules. He should show respect for the rules; otherwise, he should quit.

Shri M. C. Chagla: The wording is:

"The Minister shall ordinarily intimate to Secretary his intention to correct his answer or statement....within twenty-four hours...."

I quite agree. If there is a mistake, it is his duty to Parliament to immediately come and say 'I have made a mistake; I am sorry. I want to correct it'. But you will see when I read the statement, what it deals with. My department drew my attention to it five or six months later. They should be more vigilant and more expeditious. I regret this delay. I agree that as far as possible there should be no delay. But the rule, you will see, says that the Minister shall ordinarily intimate.....

Mr. Speaker: In extraordinary circumstances, delay is possible. It has only to be explained. If the department is making this correction after 8 months, that is rather surprising. The department also should look into it within a reasonable period.

Shri M. C. Chagla: I entirely agree. There has been considerable delay, more than there should have been. I express my regret. You will see from the statement that it is not such an important thing which I could have noticed.

Mr. Speaker: Is he laying it on the Table?....

Shri M. C. Chagla: May I?

I lay on the Table a statement correcting reply given to starred question No. 718 and a supplementary question arising out of it, answered in the Lok Sabha on 8-12-1965 regard-

ing research in Gandhian philosophy. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6881/66].

13.28 hrs.

TERMINATION OF SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

(Shri Kapur Singh)

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Sir, you were good enough to give me this permission to request the House to remit the unexpired portion of the suspension in the motion that was passed against my colleague and member of my Group, Shri Kapur Singh.

The House is aware of the circumstances under which the suspension order was passed. Already more than two weeks have elapsed and we have just more than a week to go before the end of this session. I have been feeling very unhappy about the whole episode, and also about the suspension order that came to be passed against one of my Group Members. Therefore, I appeal to you, the Leader of the House and the Leaders of the other Groups also in this House and the whole House to accede to my request and agree to remit the rest of the suspension period. I give you and the House the assurance that we will try our best, and I will do my best as the Leader of the Group to see that our Members observe and respect the rules and conventions of the House.

The Leader of the House (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): In view of what the Leader of the Swatantra Group Opposition has said and also the letter he has written to you and the assurance he has given to you and the House that the entire Group, of which he is the Leader, will abide by the rules and conventions of the House, I move:

"That the suspension of Sardar Kapur Singh ordered by the House on the 9th August, 1966, be terminated with effect from today".

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): But will the Members of his party obey him?