

Parliamentary Affairs. He does not come into the picture at all... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): It is a matter concerning the Delhi Police... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is concerning the Delhi Police... (Interruptions)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, it is absolutely no question of the decision of the Chairman. Please refer it to the Privileges Committee... (Interruptions)...

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सदस्यों की अवमानना हुई है, सदस्यों के अधिकारों का हनन हुआ है... (व्यवधान)

श्री सैयद सिबते रज़ी : पूरी पार्लियामेंट को पुलिस ने प्लेन क्लॉथ के अन्दर घेर रखा है। आज सुबह जब मैं मेन गेट से अन्दर आ रहा था तो उस समय मुझे भी रोका गया। दो मिनट तक मैं खड़ा रहा जब आपके वाच एंड वार्ड के आदमियों ने इन्टरवीन किया तब जाकर इजाजत मिली। यह कहा गया कि यह पूर्ण रूप से प्रशासन के अंडर है, शासन के अंडर है और यह कहना कि शासन इस मामले को देखकर बतर्कितगी बहुत अनुचित बात है। आपको तुरन्त यहीं पर फैसला लेना चाहिये। सदस्यों को न जाने किस कारणवश इस सदन के अन्दर न आने के लिये विवश किया जा रहा है... (व्यवधान) उन्हें एक प्रवृत्ति का शिकार बनाया जा रहा है जिससे डर की भावना पैदा हो। इस लिये हमको सुरक्षा दी जाए और इस बात से आश्वस्त किया जाए कि कल से दिल्ली पुलिस का एक भी आदमी संसद के किसी मेंबर को रोकेगा नहीं, टोकेगा नहीं... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I was prevented. I was taking out my car. I had to go to the Airport to see my child. I was not allowed. When I made enquiry and told them that I was

a Member of Parliament, the Delhi Police said that the Prime Minister was passing that way. So, I could not pass through my own house on Pandara Road.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: This was all started by you people that the Prime Minister is passing and all that. (Interruptions).

Alleged censoring of Doordarshan's "Khula Manch" Programme

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Will you stop that? Let it be stopped once and for all. The question of the privilege of a Member is sacrosanct. It is prima facie a grave breach of privilege of a Member. He has the right, but I would like to draw your attention to what constitutes a very grave contempt of the House unless the Minister explains the matter. Yesterday, unfortunately, when I was not there, with regard to 'Khula manch' the Minister of Information and Broadcasting inter alia said with reference to deletion of certain parts of the interview of the Minister on the television that it was editing and not censoring. This is what he has said. Madam, I want to state categorically that he has said that there is no censoring of the programme—very crucial wording, no censoring of the programme, but some editing is done. I do not know what forensic background he has but I understand that he was an administrative officer in the Government. Do you know the distinction between editing and censoring? If he were to know the distinction between these two editing and censoring, I have no doubt in my mind that he would never have said of editing in contradiction to censoring. You ought to know the authority to suppress and to delete is the heart of the right of censor. You do not admit that you have deleted anything. You do not admit that you have suppressed anything. All that you are trying to say is that it is simplicitor and confine to selection and rearrangement. Is it confined to selection and rearrangement? I

[Shri N. K. P. Salve]

will just take one minute because it is a matter of contempt of the House. I want to refer to the meaning of editing in this Chambers dictionary. He should either say that he does not know the distinction between editing and censoring or admit that he was in error in this. But there is one more grievous error he has committed. He has said, so far as railways were concerned, he allowed all the questions. Categorically this is what he says that so far as the railways were concerned, not a single word relating to railways has been removed. There is an article in Times of India which says inter alia:

"Sources pointed out that though Upendra told both the Houses of Parliament today that everything pertaining to railways has been kept in the programme, two questions, in fact, had been removed relating to railways."

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Vital questions.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is not enough to say 'vital question'. You should have come prepared. See the casual manner in which the Ministers are making statements in both the Houses. I want to submit that unless he explains properly, unless he apologises... (Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Unless he tenders his unqualified apology to the House, I am afraid I will be compelled to move a privilege motion. I do not want to drive him to that. He is a good man otherwise. I do not want to drive him to such desperation, but he ought to have known the distinction between editing and censoring. I am reading the Twentieth Century Chambers Dictionary.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra) Don't censor him now... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Ahluwalia, how do you behave? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): Don't try to object to my speaking. (Interruptions).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, the word "censor" inter alia means an official who examines books, papers, telegrams, letters, films with powers to delete material. The authority to delete is the heart of the censorship right. You have deleted, not re-arranged. Rearranging is the heart of editing. "Editing" from this very dictionary means to prepare for publication, broadcasting, to make up the final version of a motion picture by selecting and rearrangement of the material photographed. Rearrangement is the heart of editing. So it is in the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

I think he will accept this. Therefore, the questions that I want to raise are that he must admit, by saying that he has merely edited and not censored, he has misled the House, may be due to his ignorance of the language or ignorance of the distinction between the two concepts.

But, Madam, what is more important? What does he mean by saying, as he has started on the floor of the House, that this was meant only for the purpose that the Minister could answer only something related to his Ministry and no more and no less? He said that certain parameters and guidelines were prescribed. If this be true, Madam, how is it that on 11th August two presenters and the officials of the DD and the HTC, Hindustan Television Co., who allowed all these questions, were unaware of these parameters and guidelines? Did you lay down the guidelines after the damage has been done? Or did you lay it down in advance? If they have been laid down in advance, are you taking any action against the officials who allowed a palpable breach of your guidelines?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: (Uttar Pradesh): What about the Minister who is answerable?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: He has to answer, Madam, the question in the House.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Why against the officials? This Minister who is shameless, puts up with this censorship. He should resign and go.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: That particular portion must be telecast next time.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: That is what I am going to ask him. The question is: is it not censoring a Minister to tell him that he has to answer such queries? It is the Minister who should have clamped discipline on himself and said, "Well, ask that of the other Minister. Ask this question on the Mandal Commission of Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan or the Prime Minister or somebody else." But if he chooses to answer certain questions and gives his views on the matter, is it not censoring simpliciter to prevent that part of the programme coming before the view of the nation as a whole? Therefore, I want to submit, number one, if he were to think that editing takes in censoring then, let him say that it was censoring and not editing simpliciter. Otherwise, editing will take in selection and re-arrangement which he has not done and thereby misled the House by saying that is not censoring, number one.

Number two, he says that the parameters and guidelines were laid down. When were they laid down? Were they laid down only after the telecast was completed, after the damage was done? It appears that retrospectively he is laying down the guidelines and parameters. If he has laid down these guidelines, to whom did he lay them down, to the people who were connected with the programme or to the people who were unconnected with the programme?

Finally, Madam, does he stand by his answer he has given here to the House? Even if it is inadvertent, he will have

to apologise to the House when he says that not a single word relating to the railways, has been removed. Now he says that he has to find it out. *Prima facie*, as it is, as a gentleman, he must apologise for he made the statement without seeing the whole thing first. Otherwise, you should be in a position to say that you stand by it. Either you stand by what you have said or, if you say that you will have to check up, I am afraid, you will have to tender an apology. Otherwise—you are a fairly innocent fellow—we will be compelled to move a privilege motion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): Will the Minister assure us that hereafter the Khula Manch will be telecast live? There is no question of editing, censoring. It will be completely live. It will be question-answer session. (Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I support Mr. Pramod Mahajan totally. If it has to be truly Khula Manch, an open forum, let there be no element of editing. (Interruptions) Madam, if they are a victim of inner contradictions let the nation know it. You have pleaded for an open Government. What is wrong in it? With that Mr. Ram Jethmalani opened the debate yesterday, *inter alia*. Mr. Sinha and Mr. Morarka said that it was not the view of the party at all. If you are a party divided among yourselves, let the nation know it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have special mentions, Mr. Salve. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Let him apologise, Madam. Give him a chance to apologise. Madam, he wants to apologise.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I want to assure Mr. Morarka that not one instance will be found when a single Minister, after a Cabinet decision has been taken, notwithstanding whatever differences there may have been, has ever spoken publicly against the Cabinet decision. That is the modicum of discipline that is expected of a Member of Cabinet. But that is a different issue completely. He may answer the questions.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, let the National Commission for Women Bill be taken up.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't know. If the House so agrees, I have no objection. We will take it up.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, we want the reaction of the Minister to Mr. Salve's questions.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: He is apologising.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam,...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Is he getting up to apologise or defend himself?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I Do not know what he is going to say.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Hon. Member, Mr. Salve, specially asked me to stay on because he was raising the issue. That is why I was sitting here. I have heard him. I stand by my statement which I made yesterday in the sense that whatever is not relevant, that particular portion will be edited out. That will be the policy which has already been laid down earlier. The first programme relating to the Finance Minister conformed to that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The policy was framed subsequently. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Then, I would not say anything. If you want me to speak, then, you have to hear carefully, then don't interrupt like that.

The first programme conformed to that. If there was something extra in the second programme, it was duly edited. It will continue to be edited in the same manner. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: This is the autonomy for Doordarshan. This is their manifesto, Madam. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, I seek your protection. He is saying that it was confined to railways. He went further and said that not a single word relating to railways was deleted. What have you to say about that?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was a newspaper report. (*Interruptions*) You have brought to my notice. I will explain it. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will find out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: If he has to find it out, Madam, I beg of you, what the matter is, how did he on the floor of the House so categorically reaffirm that not a single word relating to the railways had been removed? For even seeking the permission of the House to go and check up, he will have to apologise for having made the statement without checking it first. In the House, when the Ministers come and make certain statements we expect that they would have done their part of the homework. He had enough time to do his part of the homework. He should have at least said, "Well, I have not checked up in respect of the railways whether every question was allowed or not allowed."

SHRI P. UPENDRA: If there is a factual mistake, it will be corrected. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni. I have allowed him. Mr. Kulkarni, what is the matter? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, retrospectively he wants to correct himself. Were the guidelines retrospective? When did he issue the guidelines? On what date were the guidelines issued?

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
बहुत जरूरी है। गाइडलाइंस क्व जारी
की गई। (व्यवधान) मंत्री जी की जिम्मे-
दारी है (व्यवधान) गाइडलाइंस के बारे
में पहले से जानकारी थी या नहीं
(व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve, it is not in the procedure. I allowed you to make your point. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

देखिये, आप सीनियर मेंबर हैं। वह वहाँ के प्रेसीजर की बात कर रहे हैं वहाँ के दूरदर्शन के प्रेसीजर की बात कर रहे हैं (व्यवधान)

I am talking of the procedure in the House. You have made your point. There is no procedure that the Minister is bound to answer immediately. I don't have that thing in my hand. Just a minute (*Interruptions*). This is the procedure. I am saying, my hands are tied with the rule book. There is no procedure or there is no rule under which I can make the Minister answer immediately. You made your point. He says, he will answer and he will answer. He made an assurance in the House that he will answer. I can protect that. But I cannot make him answer immediately. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I seek your protection on a different point. Having made a statement, now he says, "I will go and check up whether my statement is right or wrong". *Prima facie*, is the House not entitled to an apology of the Minister in this matter?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is over now. Yes, Mr. Kulkarni, what do you want to say? (*Interruptions*). You don't look at them.

REFERENCE TO FIRING ON INDO-PAKISTAN BORDER

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, I am bringing through you, to the notice of the Government a serious matter which I raised during the Question Hour also. I wanted really the Prime Minister to reply and assure not only this House but through this House, the nation about the grave condition which was telecast yesterday in the news and today in the newspapers that in the Kupwara sector in Jammu and Kashmir, an explosive and incendiary ammunition was used against Indian troops. Madam, in this connection, everybody in this country is feeling whether the war has come near between India and Pakistan. Already we have got problems

of law and order and price rise and.... (*Interruption*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I believe the Government is going to make a statement. (*Interruptions*). I have to find out and inform the House in due course.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, let me complete. I want to say this shows the lack of intelligence in the Government machinery which is stationed on the Indo-Pakistan border. Here the statement of the Government says, there are usual skirmishes but this was on a large scale where ammunition which was not up to now used is being used. Naturally, I think, the Government will appreciate this thing, we, the common people, are very much worried of this condition and I would have been really happy but I do not want to mention it again and again, it is only the Prime Minister who can satisfy us. (*Interruption*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish. I will allow you to intervene.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What I wanted to know, Madam, is that some casualties took place... (*Interruptions*).

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): There is nothing to tell. There is nothing to worry. (*Interruption*). There is nothing to panic. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are a General. I am an ordinary citizen. You fought in Bangladesh. (*Interruption*). I am an ordinary person. I want to know more facts because it seems that the Government intelligence machinery on the border does not seem to be up to the mark wherein they could anticipate... (*Interruptions*). Madam, I have drawn through you, the attention of the Government and I demand a full-fledged statement and if Mr. Upendra is going to reply just know, I will just find out.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): Can I make a statement? I think, the Prime Minister will speak at 5 o'clock. (*Interruptions*) ...