

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st May, 1979/the 31st
Vaisakha, 1901 (Saku)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I have received the following communication dated the 18th May, 1979 from the Speaker, Lok Sabha:—

"Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, M.P. gave notice of a question of privilege regarding an alleged misleading statement made in the Lok Sabha on the 19th January, 1976, by Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, M.P. (now of Rajya Sabha) when he was functioning as Minister of State of the Department of Revenue and Banking, on the subject of voluntary disclosure of income and wealth. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu based this allegation on the observations and recommendations made by Public Accounts Committee in their 123rd Report (Sixth Lok Sabha).

The matter came up in the Lok Sabha on 23rd April and 16th May, 1979, and I enclose herewith the relevant extracts from the Lok Sabha Debates dated 23rd April and 16th May, 1979, for information and necessary action in terms of the procedure laid down in the Report of the Joint Sitting of the Committees of Privileges of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, adopted by both Houses of Parliament."

According to the procedure laid down in the Report of the Joint Sitting of Committees of Privileges of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha adopted by our House on 6th December, 1954, when a question of breach of privilege is raised in any House in which a Member of the other House is involved, the Presiding Officer shall refer the case to the Presiding Officer of the other House. Upon the

415 RS—1.

case being so referred, the Presiding Officer of the other House shall deal with the matter in the same way as if it were a case of breach of privilege of that House or of a Member thereof.

Accordingly, I will examine the matter contained in the Speaker's communication and, if I consider it necessary refer the same to our committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): How can that privilege issue be raised in this House? Shri Pranab Mukherjee is a Member of this House. Similar cases have arisen...

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI (Uttar Pradesh): Listen to the decision of the Chair. (Interruptions) The Chair has already taken notice of it.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: I tried to raise a privilege issue against Shri Ram Jethmalani who belongs to the other House. You gave a ruling. So, you should immediately give your ruling...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have stated that I will examine.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: ...and I request you to consider it as a matter of dignity of this House. You should clearly state here that it pertains to one who is a Member of this House and we should not admit any privilege issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very simple. I will examine in detail and I will also send a letter to the hon. Member concerned to give his comments also. Why unnecessarily discuss it? There is no point at all. Just I have brought it to the notice of the Members of this honourable House that this is the fact which has been brought to my notice as Chairman, and I have brought it to your notice. There is nothing.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Only one point I would like to submit in this connection. You have mentioned while making your observations that it will be treated as if a privilege motion has been brought against a Member of this House. The normal practice when a privilege motion is brought against a Member of the existing House is that he is given an opportunity to explain his stand. Therefore, if it is treated as if a privilege motion has been brought on the floor of this House, opportunity should be given to the Member against whom the privilege motion is brought to explain his stand. And I would like to have that right from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report (1976-77) on the working of the All India State Cooperative Banks, Federation, Bombay and related paper.

D. Report (1977-78) on the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Bombay and related paper.

III. Report and Accounts (1976-77 and 1977-78) of the National Cooperative Land Development Banks Federation Ltd. Bombay and related paper.

IV. Administration Report (1977-78) of the Tea Board, Calcutta and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English

and Hindi) of the following papers:—

I. Fourteenth Annual Report on the working of the All India State Cooperative Banks Federation, Bombay, for the year 1976-77, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4515/78].

H. Fifteenth Annual Report on the working of the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited, Bombay for the year 1977-78, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4516/79].

III. (i) Seventeenth Annual Administration Report and Accounts of the National Co-operative Land Development Banks Federation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1976-77, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Eighteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Cooperative Land Development Banks Federation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1977-78, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4517/79 for (i) and (ii)].

IV. Twenty-fourth Annual Administration Report of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1977-78 (and a Review by Government thereon, together with a statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4514/79].

Notification of the Election Commission of India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): Sir, on behalf of Shri S. D. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of