

construction of residences for the Members of Parliament;

(b) the authority which finally examines the proposals for new constructions and alterations to existing residences; and

(c) the functions exercised by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply in regard to—

(i) the sanctioning of new constructions,

(ii) the representations made by the Members of Parliament in this connection?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a), (b) and (c). While it is open to any Member of either House of Parliament or to the House Committees of the Houses of Parliament to make suggestions in this behalf, it is the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry that formulates concrete proposals for the initiation of any specific programme involving construction and has them examined in consultation with the other Ministries concerned. When any such works are sanctioned by the Government of India, it is this Ministry that gets the work executed. The Ministry naturally gives the most careful and earnest consideration to any representations that may be made by Members of Parliament in this connection.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, I have given notice of a motion. Shri N. C. Chatterji, Member of the House of the People, and President of the Hindu Mahasabha, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, and a former Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in his concluding remarks at the 31st session of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha held at Hyderabad on the 10th of May, speaking about the Special Marriage Bill recently passed by our

House, is reported to have characterised the Parliament as a "wonderful Parliament" and the House as follows: —

"The Upper House which was supposed to be a body of elders seemed to be behaving irresponsibly like a pack of urchins."

This news has appeared in all the dailies of this morning. This is highly defamatory and it involves a breach of privilege of the House.

This is a reflection on the proceedings of the House and is a violation of the rights and privileges of the House. This also amounts to an indignity offered to this House. Such acts on the part of responsible persons tend to obstruct the House in the performance of its functions by diminishing the respect due to it.

I request, Sir, that you, as *custodia legis* of the rights and privileges of this House, would take enough steps to investigate into the matter and report to this House.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, in this connection, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to another instance also which was reported in the Press. When clarification was sought as to the position of the Members of the Council of States in the Public Accounts Committee, the Speaker is reported to have said that the Public Accounts Committee is a body of the House of the People alone and the Members from the Council of States were there by sufferance and as associates. Our earlier impression about the Public Accounts Committee was that it was a joint committee of both the Houses. To this, I would like to draw your attention, as well.

MR CHAIRMAN: I see that he has characterised "Parliament" as a "wonderful one", which includes the House of the People. First of all, we have to ascertain if the reports themselves are correct; and then we have to find out what steps we have to take, if the reports are correct.