

RAJYA SABHA

(1973)

Point of privilege

Alleged misrepresentation of a member's speech in the House by a newspaper

Facts of the case and ruling by the Chairman

On the 27th March, 1973. Shri Gunanand Thakur, a member, sought to raise¹ a question of privilege against the Editor of the Motherland, New Delhi, an English daily, for attributing to him certain remarks as having been made by him in the House, in its issue dated the 24th March, 1973, which Shri Thakur had not made. Shri Thakur stated that by publishing a false report of his speech in the House, the Editor had committed a breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

2. The Deputy-Chairman (Shri G. Murahari) who was then in the Chair, observed² 3 that the matter had already been taken up with the Editor of the newspaper.

3. On the 31st March, 1973, the Chairman (Shri G. S. Pathak) informed³ the House as follows: --

"I have to inform the members that on the 26th March, 1973, Shri Gunanand Thakur, gave a notice of breach of privilege against the Editor of Motherland and its parliamentary correspondent in Rajya Sabha for remarks attributed to Shri Thakur and published in the city edition of that paper of the 24th March, 1973 under the caption 'Safdarjung Bridge and, Maruti Limited'. Shri Thakur contended that the above report was false and totally contrary to what he had stated on the subject in the House on the 23rd March, and thereby it had lowered his dignity and that of the House. Shri Thakur also referred to the matter in the House on 27 March, and at that time the Deputy Chairman informed the House that under my direction, the matter had been taken up with the Editor of 'Motherland' who was asked to let us know what he would like to say in the matter. The Editor of Motherland in his letter has informed me that he has on enquiry found that some other member's remarks were by mistake attributed to Shri Thakur. He has expressed regret for the mix-up and has also published in this morning edition his regrets for the mistake. In view of this, I would treat the matter as closed."

1. R.S. Deb, dt. 27-3-1973 (Original in Hindi).

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid. dt. 31-3-1973.