

RAJYA SABHA

(1982)

Point of privilege

Misreporting of proceedings of the House by a newspaper

Facts of the case and ruling by the Chairman

On 19th February, 1982, the Chairman (Shri M. Hidayatullah) observed' in the House as follows: --

"On December 7, 1981 when some members raised a matter in the House about the fire tragedy at the Himalayan Exhibition in Ahmedabad and demanded a statement from the Home Minister, I had directed that the Home Minister should make a statement in the House on the tragedy cutting across all red-tape or rules and everything else. The Gujarat Samachar of December 8, 1981 published a report to the effect that I had criticised Shri Yogendra Makwana, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, in severe terms. Prof. N. M. Kamble, Shri Gollandaz M. Husain, Shri Ibrahim Kalaniya and Shri Kishore Mehta gave notice of breach of privilege against the Editor, Printer and Publisher of Gujarat Samachar for distorting the proceedings of the House. Under my direction, an explanation of the Editor of the newspaper was sought in the matter.

The Editor of the newspaper by his letter of January 4, 1982, has expressed regret for the distortion which took place On account of some misunderstanding on his part. He has also published the regret in the issue of the paper of January 28, 1982 in the same column where the impugned news item had appeared.

In view of the publication of regret and the disclaimer of any intention on the part of the newspaper to attribute any motive to the Minister, if the House agrees, the matter may be treated as closed. I reiterate that newspapers should report the proceedings accurately so that misunderstandings are avoided."

The matter was, thereafter, closed.

1. R.S. Deb., dt. 19.2.1982