

## **RAJYA SABHA**

(1985)

### **Point of privilege**

*Distortion of the proceedings of the House by the A.I.R. and Doordarshan*

### **Facts of the case and ruling by the Chairman**

On 12th August, 1985, the Chairman (Shri R. Venkataraman) observed<sup>1</sup> as follows:--

"Honourable member, on July 29, 1985, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya gave notice of breach of privilege against the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Directors of A.I.R. and Doordarshan for allegedly distorting the proceedings of the House of July 25, 1985 wherein the Prime Minister had referred to the support given by Shri Charan Singh to the Emergency. Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya averred that even though the Prime Minister did not refer to any letter having been written by Shri Charan Singh in support of the Emergency, the A.I.R. and the Doordarshan in their transmissions at 9 and 10 P.M. respectively stated that Shri Charan Singh had also sent a letter supporting the Emergency. This, according to Shri Malaviya, was done with the intention of deliberately misleading the public regarding Shri Charan Singh.

After verification of the facts, the matter was taken up with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Vithal N. Gadgil. Shri Gadgil in his comments admitted that the A.I.R. and the Doordarshan misconstrued the Prime Minister's observations on July 25, 1985 and that Shri Charan Singh's name was inadvertently included amongst those who had written letters to the former Prime Minister supporting the Emergency. Shri Gadgil has, however, disclaimed any intention to lower the prestige of Shri Charan Singh. Shri Gadgil also drew attention to the fact that in the very same English and Hindi news bulletins the media broadcast Shri Charan Singh's denial. In view of this, I think that no further action is necessary. I am sure the House will agree with me that the whole matter should now be closed with the observation that media men should be careful in reporting the proceedings of the House."

1. R.S. Deb., 12.8.1985.