

## **RAJYA SABHA (1979)**

### **Point of privilege**

*Reported statement by Prime Minister about abolition of the House*

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

On the 5th March, 1979, Shri Anant Prasad Sharma, a member sought to raise<sup>1</sup> a question privilege against the Prime Minister (Shri Morarji Desai) for making a statement that he was not in favour of continuance of the. Rajya Sabha. While raising the matter, Shri Anant Prasad Sharma stated inter alia, as follows:-

"Sir, on the 15th of January, a news item appeared, datelined Bhopal, wherein the Prime Minister is reported to have made a statement that he is not in favour of the continuance of the Rajya Sabha. I would like to quote:

'The Prime Minister said, we have no majority in Rajya Sabha; when we get majority the party will think about it; there are some members in my party who want to keep the Rajya Sabha, he added.'

...I have already given notice of a privilege motion against the Prime Minister. Was it proper for the Prime Minister to have made this public statement outside Parliament when Rajya Sabha-, and Lok Sabha were both conceived as the Parliament of India? Can the Prime Minister talk about Rajya Sabha like this? Therefore, I have' raised this and I would like to seek your permission ....."

2. The Chairman (Shri B. D. Jatti) while disallowing the question of privilege ruled<sup>2</sup> as follows: --

"...I have disallowed this notice and have informed all Members who had raised this. It is not the practice that when once a thing is disallowed, the same thing is repeated like this...."

3. The matter was, thereafter, closed.

1. R.S. Deb. dt. 5.3.1979,

2. Ibid.