

RAJYA SABHA

(1981)

Point of privilege

Misreporting of proceedings of the House by a newspaper

Facts of the case and ruling by the Deputy Chairman

On 18th August, 1981 the Deputy Chairman (Shri Shyam Lal Yadav) observed' as follows: --

"I have to inform the House that on May 13th, 1981, Shri Yogendra Makwana, Minister of State in the Ministry - of Home Affairs had given a notice of breach of privilege against the Editor of the Assam Tribune, Gauhati, for publishing a distorted version of the proceedings of the House of March 12, 1981, in the issue of the paper of March 13th, 1981, in relation to the supplementaries to Starred Question No. 321 regarding issue of identity cards to voters in the North-Eastern region. In the report of the proceedings of the House the paper had attributed' a statement that 'Such identity cards should be issued to all voters irrespective of whether he is a foreigner or not' to Shri Makwana which he never made. Another statement regarding border pillars between Bangladesh and Meghalaya was made by another member but was attributed by the newspaper to Shri Makwana.

As per usual practice, the Chairman directed that the matter be referred to the Editor of the newspaper enquiring from him if he had to say anything in this regard. The Editor has published a detailed correction under the caption 'Photograph-cum-Identity Cards for Voters: A Clarification, in the issue of the newspaper dated June 20, 1981 and has regretted the impugned news report which contained inaccuracies. The paper has published the correct version of the replies of Shri Makwana to remove any misunderstanding In his letter dated June 20, 1981, the Editor has also stated that he had no intention to distort what Shri Makwana had stated in the I-louse

In view of the correction and expression of regret for the error, if the House agrees, the matter may be treated as closed. Does the House agree?"

The House agreed and the matter was, thereafter closed.

1. R.S. Deb., dt.18.8.1981