

RAJYA SABHA

(1972)

Point of privilege

Alleged imputation of motives to a member for his speech in the House.

Facts of the case and ruling by the Chairman

On the 7th April, 1972, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, a member, raised¹ a question of privilege against Shri T. A. Pai, former Chairman of the Syndicate Bank Ltd., for attributing, in a press statement, malice to him for his speech in the House. Shri Bhupesh Gupta also raised a question of privilege against Shri C. S. Satya, Editor, Jwalamukhi, Bangalore, for publishing Shri Pai's statement and accusing Shri Bhupesh Gupta of blackmail in a telegram sent to him.

2. The Chairman (Shri G. S. Pathak) observed² that he would, in the first instance, ask Shri T. A. Pai and Shri C. S. Satya to state what they had to say in the matter.

3. On the 7th August, 1972, the Chairman informed³ the House as follows:-

"I am to inform members that some time back Shri Bhupesh Gupta gave two notices of breach of privilege, one against Shri T. A. Pai, now a member of this House, and another against Shri C. S. Satya, Editor, Jwalamukhi, Bangalore. Shri Gupta also raised the matter in the House and at that time I informed the House that I would first ask Shri Pai and the Editor concerned to let me know what they would like to say in the matter. Shri Pai, in his reply, informed me that, when the news agencies contacted him to know whether he would like to make any statement in view of the observations made by Shri Bhupesh Gupta in the House, that he (viz. Shri Pai) had sold a building belonging to the Syndicate Bank to his brother abusing his official position, he had told them orally that the allegation was entirely false. Shri Pai wrote to me saying that he did not attribute malice personally to Shri Bhupesh Gupta who, Shri Pai was sure, would not have made the statement if he had known the facts. Shri Pai felt that the source which had given Shri Gupta the information acted out of malice not only to harm Shri Pai personally but also to create misunderstanding between him and Shri Gupta. Shri Pai further assured me that he had no intention at any time, to attribute malice to Shri Bhupesh Gupta and he hoped that Shri Bhupesh Gupta would appreciate his feelings. In these circumstances, I decided to take no further action in the matter against Shri Pai.

Shri Satya, Editor, Jwalamukhi, has, in his telegram and letter to me, expressed his unconditional regrets and apologies. He has requested that his apologies may be conveyed to Shri Bhupesh Gupta for whom he has got the highest esteem and respect. He has further assured me that he would be publishing his unconditional regrets and apologies in the next issue of his paper. In view of this, I have decided to close the case against the Editor."

The matter was thereafter, closed.

1. R.S. Deb., at. 7-4-1972.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid. dt. 7-8-1972.