

RAJYA SABHA

(1981)

Point of privilege

Alleged misreporting of the proceedings of the House by a newspaper.

Facts of the case and ruling by the Deputy Chairman

On 18th March, 1981, the Deputy Chairman (Shri Shyam Lal Yadav) informed¹ the House as follows:-

"On February 24, 1981, Dr. Bhai Mahavir had given notice of breach of privilege against the Editor of the National Herald for misrepresenting his speech in the Rajya Sabha on February 23, 1981 while initiating the calling attention on that day, under the caption 'Opposition Blocks Proceedings' published on the front page of the paper. As per usual practice, on the Chairman's direction the matter was referred' to the Editor of the newspaper enquiring from him if. he had to say anything in this regard. The Editor in his. letter dated, March 4, 1981 has stated that the item was published in good faith and that his intention was neither to misreport nor to present Dr. Bhai Mahavir in any unfavourable light. The Editor has expressed' regrets for it. As is customary in such cases the Editor was asked to publish a suitable correction in. his paper. Accordingly this has been done on the front page in the issue of the National Herald of March 13, 1981. In view of the correction and expression. of regret for the error, if the House agrees, the matter may be treated as closed.

I would, however once again like to observe that the press should be more careful in, reporting- the proceedings of the House. I would also like to impress upon the press that they should promptly offer their comments on privilege matter referred to them. In, the instant case, I feel that some, delay has taken place,"

1. R.S. Deb., dt. 18.3.1981