

RAJYA SABHA

(1981)

Point of privilege

Misreporting of a member's speech by a newspaper

Facts of the case and ruling by the Vice Chairman

On 29th April, 1981, the Vice Chairman, (Shri Arvind Ganesh Kulkarni) informed¹ the House as follows:-

"On March 17, 1981, Shri B. D. Khobragade had referred in the House to a statement made by Shri A. R. Antulay regarding the creation of Vishal Go mantak State. The Hindustan Samachar circulated a report about Shri Khobragade's statement to the effect that Shri Khobragade had stated that Shri Antulay's statements could create tension and a ban should be imposed by Government on making such statements.

Shri B. D. Khobragade gave a notice of breach of privilege against the Hindustan Samachar and Loksatta, a Marathi Daily of Bombay which had carried the news report as circulated by the Hindustan Samachar for distorting and misreporting the speech, of Shri Khobragade. On perusal of Shri Khobragade's statement, it was found, that he had not made any statement attributed to him by the news agency. An explanation of the news agency Hindustan Samachar was accordingly sought in the matter.

The Hindustan Samachar has by a news item as published in the Loksatta on 22nd April, 1981, expressed, regret for the misreporting which as per its explanation occurred owing, to, inadvertence. In view of, the publication of the regret and the disclaimer of any intention on its part to cause embarrassment to Shri B.D. Khobragade, if the House, agrees, the matter may be treated as closed. I do hope and trust that Hindustan Samachar would be more careful in reporting Members' speeches so that such situations are avoided.

I hope the House agrees."

The matter was, thereafter, closed.

1. R.S. Deb., 29-4-1981.