

## RAJYA SABHA

(1970)

### Point of privilege

*Circulation of copies of Finance Bill before its introduction in Lok Sabha*

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

On the 2nd March, 1970, Shri Godey Murahari, a member stated<sup>1</sup> on a point of order that the Finance Bill was introduced at a sitting of Lok Sabha at 10.00 P.M. on the 28th February, 1970, but copies of it had been circulated to all the members of both Houses and others earlier that day. He contended that the Budget proposals were thus leaked out before the Finance Bill was actually introduced in Lok Sabha.

2. The Chairman (Shri G. S. Pathak) observed that he would ascertain the facts from the Government and then give his ruling.

3. On the 12th March, 1970, the Chairman observed<sup>2</sup> as follows:

"Under Article 112 of the Constitution a statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure of the Government of India in respect of every financial year has to be laid before both Houses of Parliament. Pursuant to this provision a statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure of the Government of India 1970-71 was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on February, 23. This statement does not include the Finance Bill which is not laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha at this stage. The Finance Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha and will be formally laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha only after it is passed by that House. No question of leakage of the Budget is involved as the taxation proposals contained in Part B of the Budget has been known to the members of the Lok Sabha during the Budget Speech and the Budget Papers were distributed after that Speech.

Copies of the Finance Bill, however, form part of the Budget Papers, circulated to the members. The Rajya Sabha members got their Budget Papers distributed at their residences on the night of February, 28. We in the Rajya Sabha are, not concerned with the question of circulation of the Finance Bill before its formal introduction in the Lok Sabha. This is a matter for the Lok Sabha. The facts and circumstances relating to this, it appears, were explained to the Lok Sabha at its special sitting on February 28, when the Bill was formally introduced in that House.

The matter should, therefore, end there."

1. R.S. Deb., dt. 2.3.1970

2. Ibid, dt. 12.3.1970