

RAJYA SABHA

(1972)

Point of privilege

Eviction of a member from the Parliament House Estate.

Facts of the case and ruling by, the Chairman

On the 28th August, 1972, Shri Sita Ram Singh, a member, who was on a hunger strike within the Parliament House Estate was evicted after 22.00 hours in the night by the Watch and Ward Staff of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, under orders of the Chairman.

2. On the 29th August, 1972, when some members sought to raise¹ the question of eviction of Shri Sita Ram Singh from the Parliament House Estate, the Chairman (Shri G. S. Pathak) observed as follows:-

"I want to make it quite clear that Parliament is not intended for members of Parliament to remain here during the night or to make demonstrations or Bhuk Hartals or for any such activities. There was one member of Lok Sabha and one member of this House. They did not want to leave the Parliament's precincts and the Parliament Estate because they said that they wanted to stay here for the night and they wanted to have some political demonstration or Bhuk Hartal. Now, under my orders, when they refused to leave, they were made to leave. I want to make it clear that this has never happened in the history of Parliament, that anyone was allowed to remain here during the night. This Parliament, the Parliament's precincts and Estate are intended for parliamentary work and members are entitled to remain here when the work is going on. After that they have no right to remain here."

4. When it was stated by some members that Shri Sita Ram Singh was shifted from the Lobby to Gate No. 1 after a compromise with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with the understanding that he would be permitted to remain there and would be allowed to make use of the necessary facilities available there, the Chairman observed:-

"No such compromise was brought to my notice. There cannot be any such compromise even at the instance of the Government."

5. When Shri Sasankasekhar Sanyal, a member, stated that the members had a right to come to Parliament House and to remain there for a reasonable time, the Chairman observed :-

"I am the judge of what is a reasonable time."

The matter was thereafter, closed.

1. R.S. Deb., dt. 29.8.1972
2. Ibid
3. Ibid

4. Ibid