

RAJYA SABHA

(1953)

Point of privilege

Publication in newspaper of certain extracts from the uncorrected proceedings of the House

Facts of the case ruling by the Chairman

The Statesman, in its issue of the 1st May, 1953, published certain extracts from the 'uncorrected' verbatim proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

2. Shri Rajagopal Naidu, a member, sent a notice of question of privilege alleging a breach of privilege of the members and officers of the House. Speaking on the motion on 1st May, 1953, he told the House that the Statesman had committed a breach of privilege of the House on the following three counts:--

(i) By publication of extracts from the verbatim 'proceedings of the House' on which the words "Uncorrected--Not for publication" were clearly written.

(ii) By using the words "Official version" regarding the news.

(iii) By using the word "intriguing" in regard to certain remarks of Shri Biswas, the Leader of the House, and thus casting reflection upon the Leader of the House.

Thereupon, the Deputy Chairman said that the matter would be enquired into.

3. On 5th May, 1953, the Chairman intimated to the House that as a result of the enquiry, the Editor of Statesman had regretted the occurrence of the incident, saying that they had not been aware of the breach of privilege involved in the action. Regarding the use of the word "intrigue", he said that it meant 'arousing curiosity or interest' according to the dictionary, and that it did not carry any other implication. The Chairman hoped that in view of the above explanation, the member might not press his motion of privilege, to which Shri Rajagopal Naidu agreed.